




# Little Houses

**museum**  
National Museum of Ireland  
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

**STONEYBATTER  
YOUTH SERVICE**

city of dublin youth service board  
**CDYSB**  
comhairle  
le leas óige

**CDETB**  
An Bord Oideachais agus Oikina Chathair Bheola Átha Cliath  
City of Dublin Education and Training Board



*“The beauty of the Little Houses project is that there is no right or wrong. This project is highlighting the positive things in young people’s lives during the Covid pandemic. The young people are using art to express themselves by creating their own room. It’s about their dreams, what makes them happy or sad, or what did they miss the most during lockdown. All the rooms are so different and at the same time they do have certain things in common. It was so interesting for me as a youth worker to see what they made as everyone more or less received the same art materials. So much creativity and talented young people we have here in Stoneybatter.”*

*Johanna Visser, Youth Worker,  
Stoneybatter Youth Service*





*"I was thinking that there were many different ways that the lockdown has affected us all. What is confusing and disorganised from one perspective is easily understandable and comforting from another point of view. I think everyone is missing hugs though!"*

**Conor Casby**

**The Mendicity Workshop**





## **An exhibition of artworks created through a collaborative partnership between the Stoneybatter Youth Service and the National Museum.**

'Little Houses' provides a platform and a space in the Museum for young people from the community close to Collins Barracks.

The artworks on display are a visual record of their experiences of the pandemic and its impact on the community, and wider society.

The Youth Service invited young people to create artworks depicting spaces or places that were meaningful to them during this extraordinary time, and provided each young person with a bag of art materials and a wooden board, crafted by members of the Mendicity Institution's Workshop, whose service users have experienced homelessness.

The youth workers asked the young people a set of questions to think about before starting to decorate their board, including:

- What do I miss? (friends, family, sport, hobbies, travelling, anything else?)


- What are my dreams?
- While acknowledging that this is a very challenging time for young people, what are the positive things that have happened during lockdown?
- Have a proper look in your room. What do you see?

Artist Maria McKinney was engaged as guest curator for the exhibition. She worked with a group of the young people on the exhibition concept, arranging the artworks together, taking inspiration from housing typical to Stoneybatter such as small cottages, terraced two-up, two-down housing, apartment blocks and flats. By mixing the spaces together in this way, the young participants have become "neighbours" of other young people they might not have met before.

The Irish Architecture Foundation collaborated with the project partners in an investigation, with the young people, of the themes reflected in the 'Little Houses' exhibition, including questions about what "home" means to us.








*“For me, the journey of being involved with Little Houses began in the middle of the pandemic when we dropped off the materials to peoples’ homes. It felt as though we were reaching out to them but without really knowing how they were coping. I do remember that most were happy to see a friendly face on the doorstep. When the little rooms began to filter back, I felt very emotional. Some went to great lengths to express themselves, and some kept it simple. You could read a lot into the images and let your imagination run wild. This is what I have always loved about art over the years that I have been a youth worker. I enjoyed exploring the concept of house and home with other professionals and the young people. It was interesting to look at feelings, practices and relationships in the context of spaces that are familiar. In our homes we experienced a range of emotions and feelings. Some people felt fragile, some felt sheltered. Hopefully, most people felt that home was somewhere where they experienced a sense of belonging.”*

*Billy McCrea, Youth Worker,  
Stoneybatter Youth Service*





*"I made my house with my family. At first I didn't want to do it, I was never in the mood. Then my sister Alisha started it and we all got stuck in and really enjoyed it. The bits I did were the mask, the bike, my Dad's car and Alisha did the guitar which I am learning. I also put my friends in it, they are important to me. My Mam also helped a lot. My Dad did the basketball. It was fun."*

**LJ Fennell Tonoco**



*"Lockdown made time stand still, and everything really boring, but TV shows and movies keep it going."*

**Asia Procopia**



*"This little house I made in quarantine. It was full of things I did during it. During quarantine I started playing Pubg and all the tiny figures I made were from when I was bored in quarantine. There is a lot of things about school because we had to do everything online."*

**Ivy Yan**





*“Lockdown made time stand still, and everything really boring, but TV shows and movies keep it going.”*








*"This is about my auntie and uncle who got Covid and ended up in hospital. They were husband and wife. My uncle died from it in hospital and my aunt was still in hospital also with Covid when her husband died. She never got to say goodbye or even see him. Either did we, it was so hard and hurtful for everyone so I just wanted to show people the realness of Covid and what it does to families."*

**Paige McCloskey**

*"The title is friendship house. In the pandemic you can do a lot of things at home. You can work from home, you can do online school and talk to friends, teachers and family on zoom. This is how I feel about when I am in the pandemic: I feel happy but sad that you can't see your family (if they live in a different country) and that you can't go anywhere and it wasn't always happy and exciting most of the days because we are in lockdown and can't do anything."*

**Sandra Rusti**





*“Each artwork is the individual expression of a young person living in the Stoneybatter area. Some created in miniature what they missed most about being separated from friends and family or the recreational activities they could no longer take part in. Others took an opportunity to make their ideal place to escape to, or use the new recurring mask motif and two metre rule that have now become habitual.*

*Three of these individual expressions are then brought closely together to create a Little House. These houses then form into a street-like row or vertically into an apartment block, a couple float detached from all the others. While these architectural arrangements echo the housing found in Stoneybatter, the groupings also act as metaphors for another aspect of lockdown - how it isolated some people while simultaneously instigating new communities just on the other side of a wall.*

*Housemates and families were forced to spend time together, cheek by jowl with maybe no access to an outdoor area. Working, studying, eating and relaxing all in just one or two rooms, while others had access to entire houses with large gardens. Whether being alone for a long period of time or constantly surrounded by other people, feeling isolated during this time was a common experience. Creatively expressing their experiences through the transformation of everyday materials into mini versions of themselves and their spaces, these young people encourage the viewer to reflect and help articulate our own experience of lockdown.”*

*Maria McKinney, guest curator and facilitator*





*"The lower section of my board shows me swimming as I have really missed it during lockdown. The window represents my own bedroom window as I liked looking out at the birds and the trees from there."*





*"My board is a bit bonkers! The lower section of my board shows me swimming as I have really missed it during lockdown. The window represents my own bedroom window as I liked looking out at the birds and the trees from there. I loved the tactile feeling of the polystyrene packing peanuts so I drew emoji faces on them to show all the emotions I felt during lockdown. The big glitter ball at the top shows 'COVID' looming down on me."*

**Maisie Smith**



*"I enjoyed starting my project but never got to finish it. I was happy to do it but lots of things happened so I couldn't finish it. I found lockdown had some good and bad times. I spent some good times with my family which was nice."*

**Harlow Kearney**



**Freya Hanlon**







*"My room is about how I miss my friends and teacher. The pictures on the wall are my friends and teacher. The person in the room is me."*

**Connla Halpin**



*"The Friesian flag in a golden frame shining in a Friesian landscape. We were all looking forward to go and to meet Lilly, my first great niece. But then Covid19 came and changed all our plans. Not being able to travel but to stay at home in Dublin instead..."*

*Stay at home, was all we heard, so we did."*

**Johanna Visser**



*"I love how creative and imaginative all the other boards turned out and I was delighted when I was invited to create my own. In the corner of my board you can find a chair with a black hat placed on the seat and a table with a photograph and rose next to it. This chair and hat belonged to my Grandfather. When he and my grandmother passed away in August 2020, the community paid their respects by leaving these on the street in his favourite spot to sit."*

**Caragh May O'Mahony**







*“Stay at home, was all we heard, so we did.”*







*“In my imagination I can create whole worlds full of people. I put some of them in my little spaces project.”*







*"The first side of my board is like a bedroom with posters of singers and a desk. The other side of the board is the door from the bedroom and a corridor and stairs going downstairs. I did it because I don't have my own bedroom. I share with my sister LOL and that is how I would want my bedroom to be like if we had more things! I would like a bedroom so I can have space to do art. I always want to see the sunset in my window, to make me smile."*

**Michaela Zervaki**



**Sandra Jonck**



*"During the lockdown I spent a lot of time in my bedroom. There was nothing much to do other than go on the internet or watch TV and use my imagination. In my imagination I can create whole worlds full of people. I put some of them in my little spaces project."*

**Calvin Gallagher**



*“The artworks on display in the exhibition were created in isolation of friends and peers. In the same way, we had to plan the exhibition remotely. Despite the distance, and the challenges the last year and a half has posed for each and every one of us, it is incredible to see this exhibition come together. Every person involved in this exhibition brought their creativity, imagination and individuality to the ‘board’, perfectly capturing a moment in time. This unique insight into everyday life, during a significant period in our history, is a highly valuable resource to have in a museum, as each artwork is a unique record of emotion, experiences and events.”*

*Caragh May O’Mahony, National Museum of Ireland*











*"My board is a really easy design. I wanted it to look comfortable and simple. I hope you like it – Home Sweet Home"*

**Xinmin Chen**



*Spacey Looking Wall!*

*"This is Zoe the cat, Peep the dog, Gloo the fish and I am asleep in the bed. We decided to go to space so that we could stay away from Covid. We made a lovely new home there. I love space. If Covid comes back I want to go to space to live and bring my family with me."*

**Cassie Keogh Hendrick**



**Allie Purcell**



*"This is Zoe the cat, Peep the dog, Gloo the fish and I am asleep in the bed. We decided to go to space so that we could stay away from Covid. We made a lovely new home there. I love space. If Covid comes back I want to go to space to live and bring my family with me."*





*"The lockdown reduced all of our habitats to a strangely small circle. It was we'd been handed a magnifying glass and told we must find everything we might possibly need, in the minutiae of our immediate locality, to find the universal in the particular. The young people in Little Houses showed us what they found, in a creative and genuine way that is characteristic of people of their age, but also of the special community in which they live. As someone who also lives in the Dublin 7 community, it was a privilege to be part of the project and process. If you were going to be locked down anywhere, this was the place to be."*

*Luke McManus, Film-maker*











*"My life in lockdown is quite boring. I think it would be good to be a dog in a nice home during Covid times."*







**Rumaysah Axmed**



*"My board is about the Coronavirus, so two people are separated from each other to show that they are socially distancing, they are wearing masks to show that they are following restrictions, also on the board I wrote guidelines the government tells us to do so the two people I made are following two guidelines: The first guideline is that they are wearing masks and the second one is that they are socially distancing. So my board talks about real life."*

**Heidii Nyaba**



*"My life in lockdown is quite boring. I think it would be good to be a dog in a nice home during Covid times. You could go for walks in your 5k and stare out the window at Stoneybatter without a care in the world. I would like a new dog to keep me company."*

**Julie James**





*"My board is a very much a true representation of my life during lockdown. I spent a lot of time on my hobbies, which includes knitting. I watched countless box sets on TV and my partner baked me so many cakes! One of things I missed most was my family. They are represented by my two grandchildren the only way I could see them, through the window."*

**Tanya McEntagart**



*"Hi I'm Hazel and this is my favourite part of my bedroom. During Covid, I couldn't see my friends, but I had fun playing with them online and doing Zooms. I was also lucky to have my cats Fluffy and Fluffball for company."*

**Hazel Birmingham**



*"It's my bedroom and bunk bed. I'm lying in bed dreaming about myself playing football. I usually go to Boh's football training every Saturday morning but I couldn't during lockdown. I really missed it. The little white thing is my favourite teddy 'Sheepy'."*

**Frank McKenna**







*“One of things I missed most was my family. They are represented by my two grandchildren the only way I could see them, through the window.”*







*"I chose nature on my board because during lockdown I missed getting outside as much as I used to do."*





*"I chose nature on my board because during lockdown I missed getting outside as much as I used to do. I loved going to the Phoenix Park, I live very close to it. I love to go for walks, visit the Zoo and play in the playground so my board reflects my love for it. Thank you."*

**Angelina Keogh**



*'Cooped Up, Locked Down.'*

*"This board is inspired by my lockdown experience of reading Harry Potter books on my bed. Reading helped me feel more relaxed, even if it was just for a few minutes. I enjoyed making the Hogwarts decorations on the back of the board. I hope you like it and see the meaning in this piece."*

**Katie Smith**



**Daisy Brady**







*"My board is about how I got to see my friends for the first time after lockdown. The three of us met outside the school gates and the sign on the door said 'No Entry' means that Coronavirus is not allowed in our school and my door is green because our room is room 17. That is the end of my short story. Thank you..."*

**Latoya Marumo**



*"I did my board at home by myself and enjoyed it very much. There is a window looking out at the world. I missed school and my friends."*

**William Gajkowski**



*"I chose to do that board because I wanted to do something bright and colourful to show that we can all have hope during these times and when we all come together we can lift each other up and be positive."*

**Aaliyah Scully**





***"I missed school and my friends."***







*"In my board I wanted to express what I have been feeling during last year's lockdown. Isolated, scared, lost, alone, depressed and without a clear sight for my future. Losing myself and a year of my youth."*







**Isabella Kavanagh**



*"I wanted to express what I have been feeling... Isolated, scared, lost, alone, depressed and without a clear sight for my future. Losing myself and a year of my youth...only seeing what's from my window and 5km. Forgetting the smiles of people and only seeing only their worried eyes. Missing the warm hugs and friendly handshakes and forgetting the smell of fresh air through a 3 layer surgical mask...I want all of this to be over soon and to come back to our normal lives, without having to book an appointment to Penneys and doing church mass online. I feel like I'm not in control of my own life."*


**Irina Pamareu**



**Eimhin Crilly**







*"In my board I wanted to express what I have been feeling during last year's lockdown. Isolated, scared, lost, alone, depressed and without a clear sight for my future. Losing myself and a year of my youth. From the whole world only seeing what's from my window and 5km. Forgetting the smiles of people and only seeing only their worried eyes. Missing the warm hugs and friendly handshakes and forgetting the smell of fresh air through a 3 layer surgical mask. My hands being burned and dry from the constant hand sanitizer. The saddest is the birthdays spent all alone with family without ice-skating, entertainment and zoos. Even the sunsets and sunrises have turned a different colour. I miss St. Patrick's parade. I want all of this to be over soon and to come back to our normal lives, without having to book an appointment to Penneys and doing church mass online. I feel like I'm not in control of my own life."*

*Irina Pamareu*





*"I made my house with my family,  
we all really enjoyed it."*

**Rianna Arman**

*"I found working on the house  
very relaxing. I also played many  
games during lockdown."*

**Viktor Simon**







*"Looking out our window  
daydreaming about when  
I can see my friends again."*





*"These are all the things that kept me company in lockdown. My mammy and our books, going on nature walks on sunny days, keeping busy with art. Looking out our window daydreaming about when I can see my friends again."*

**Isabel Moran**



*"This room is about my Birthday. I was lucky to have a Birthday in lockdown where the rules the rules were relaxed (in August). My Granny and Grandad are in it with me . "*

**Twyla Kavanagh**



**Aisa Rozkaine**





*"Lost Childhood"*

**Octavian Pamareu Fidorova**



**Brianna Kearney**



*"There once lived a girl named Jasmine. She lived a normal life UNTIL THE APOCALYPSE HIT !!! or that's what everyone thought when covid came. After everyone locked themselves away there was basically no one was outside. My room was a mess and I gave up on exercise completely- Hope you got that from the cobwebs on the weights. I do hope you like my board. Thanks Mendicity!"*

**Jasmine Lee Stott**



*“There once lived a girl named Jasmine. She lived a normal life UNTIL THE APOCALYPSE HIT !!! ”*







*"I spent a lot of time on the SOFA with my family. Sometimes I had nothing to do so this was the scene. We stayed in too much together, but we all got on well. We went on a lot of walks together but I really missed my friends."*







*Colourful wall and red window!*

*"This is me with Lily and Max. We went to Mars to escape Covid, you can see Mars outside the window. We brought our pet bunny Bo with us and we were all safe there. I love Mars. If Covid comes back I want to go to Mars to live and bring my family with me."*

**Mya Keogh Hendrick**



*"My piece is my living room it represents what I did during lockdown. I spent a lot of time on the SOFA with my family. Sometimes I had nothing to do so this was the scene. We stayed in too much together, but we all got on well. We went on a lot of walks together but I really missed my friends."*

**Marta Stefan**



*"My sister helped me to make a baby seat. We have a nephew called Yanis who is only one and a half years old. Yanis comes to stay with us a lot and that is why I made the seat for him. I hope you like it."*

**Manase Stefan**





**Kayla Rose Whelan**



**Brianna Kearney**



*"It was fun to make this board with lots of stuff to use. I tried making other things but they didn't work so I made a bedroom. I decorated the walls and floors and my sister Bonnie had lots of furniture from her doll house so I glued some of the furniture in and I added a few things in and then I had done. It was great to do."*

**Lucy Lawlor Strickland**



***"It was fun to make this board with lots of stuff to use."***



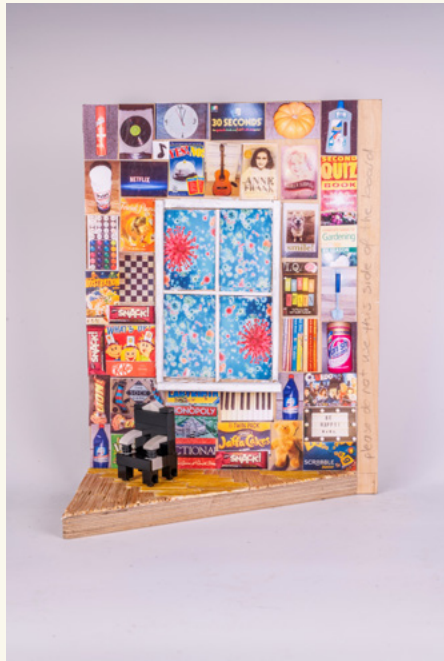




*"My little house hopefully shows the time I have had living indoors during Covid 19. On the wall are images that expressed my feelings, hopes and fears of being trapped at home."*







*"My little house hopefully shows the time I have had living indoors during Covid 19. On the wall are images that expressed my feelings, hopes and fears of being trapped at home. There are smells, activities, and the relationship I have had with books, cleaning, food, music, to mention a few. I enjoyed doing my board as it helped me gather my thoughts and gave me something to do. I also shared it with my sister Hannah who took some of the photos and that was nice. The dark chair shows how hard the last year has been for me. I feel sorry for those who have no garden or much in their homes."*

**Lydia McCrea**



**Samer Mohammed**



*"I can't wait for my Grandpa Joe to come to my house. We are going to have So much Fun!"*

**Nora Beirne Gordon**





*"During lockdown I could not go to the beach which I love to do when I visit my grandparents in Galway. When it was lifted in the summer I went camping at the beach with my parents. I also visited my grandparents and got to go buggy boarding with my Mammy. I hope to see my grandparents soon and visit the beach, even if it's not sunny."*

**Cooper Sherman**



*"My house is titled 'Derelict' and says 'Vibrant and cheerful on the outside but slowly deteriorating on the inside'. We try our hardest to portray to others that we are making the best of it, but inside the textiles are fraying, the walls are crumbling and the lights are going out. Mental health is so important and we must not forget to check on our neighbours, our family and friends."*

**Tracy Cummins**



*"Happy and cheerful on the outside and inside, just like my personality"*

**Tristan Barks**




*"I hope to see my  
grandparents soon and  
visit the beach, even  
if it's not sunny."*







Salwa Maxamed & Kauthar Maxamed



*“From the start of Lockdown, the Museum actively collected to reflect the impact of the pandemic on our lives. The ‘Little Houses’ exhibition provides us with a rich and important record of young people’s responses to this extraordinary time, which can be added to this collection. The artworks, which explore the theme of “home” and the spaces where young people lived during lockdown, also resonate and connect with the Museum as a former Barracks and home for soldiers and also with many of the exhibitions and artefacts in the Museum’s collections.”*

*Helen Beaumont  
National Museum of Ireland*



**The idea for 'Little Houses' came from Johanna Visser, of Stoneybatter Youth Service, who had been inspired by Dutch organisation Stoereloer's 'Miniatuurhuis' in the Netherlands.**



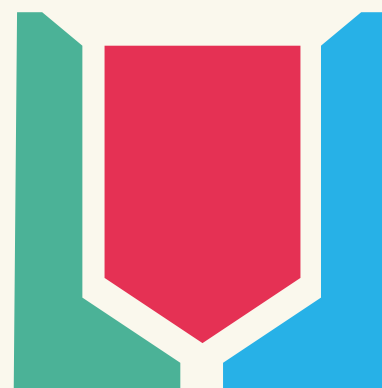
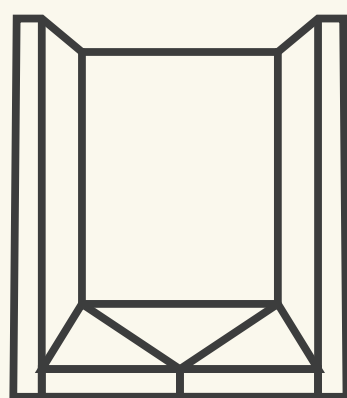
Stoereloer is a collective organisation of professional artists based in Leeuwarden, The Netherlands. The artists created the name Stoereloer, the meaning of which is similar to 'cool' or 'powerful'.

Their organisational remit is to provide art projects and workshops for intergenerational groups and through this work to bring about creative change. Stoereloer's approach is participative, working with groups in collaborative ways, engaging through co-creation and discovery.

When The Netherlands went into Lockdown in March 2020, Stoereloer conceived of a project to connect and engage the communities they work with, and called this 'Miniatuurhuis'. They provided their communities with bags of art materials and invited people to create "a room of your dreams".

Central to the 'Miniatuurhuis' concept was the bringing together of three to make one 'house'. In this way, each artist is connected to others that they might not have previously met in their community.

***"You will be surprised to find out who your neighbour will be inside the house. This is a unique way to bring people together through art from all different backgrounds when we spend so much time in lockdown during the Covid 19 pandemic."***



## About the logo

Vermillion Design created the logo for this exhibition by exploring the structural shape of the Little Houses. This led to the discovery of a letter L and a house shape, which were refined and combined with some of the vibrant colours in the Little Houses artworks to create the logo for this exhibition!





## Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to the 'Little Houses' project

### **Stoneybatter Youth Service**

Jennifer Kavanagh, Billy McCrea,  
Tanya McEntagart, Johanna Visser

### **Aosóg**

Geraldine Nugent

Conor Casby, Schools  
Completion Programme

### **St. Gabriel's NS**

Suzanne Comerford, Principal  
Mike Donnelly, HSCL Teacher

### **The Mendicity Workshop**

Andrzej Mazur

### **Irish Architecture Foundation**

Blaithín Quinn, Muhammad Achour

### **National Museum of Ireland**

Helen Beaumont, Diarmuid Bolger,  
Patrick Boyle, Lorraine Comer,  
Grace Dignam, Jade Dillon, Aisling  
Dunne, Martin Dwan, Neil Hand, Rory  
Loughnane, Karena Morton, Nicola  
Murphy, John Murray, Caragh May  
O'Mahony, Brendan Torsney, Alex Ward,  
Derek Williams, Gavin Woodruff

Maria McKinney, guest curator  
Luke McManus, exhibition videographer  
Andrew Sheridan, exhibition photographer  
Vermillion Design, graphic, exhibition  
and web design

Office of Public Works for assistance  
in exhibition installation





### **All the artists who contributed artworks to the exhibition:**

Rianna Arman, Rumaysah Axmed, Tristan Barks, Nora Beirne Gordon, Hazel Birmingham, Daisy Brady, Conor Casby, Xinmin Chen, Eimhín Crilly, Tracy Cummins, William Gajkowski, Calvin Gallagher, Connla Halpin, Freya Hanlon, Julie James, Sandra Jonck, Isabella Kavanagh, Nina Kavanagh, Twyla Kavanagh, Brianna Kearney, Harlow Kearney, Angelina Keogh, Cassie Keogh Hendrick, Mya Keogh Hendrick, Lucy Lawlor Strickland, Jasmine Lee Stott, Latoya Marumo, Kauther Maxamed, Salwa Maxamed, Paige McCloskey, Lydia McCrea, Tanya McEntagart, Frank McKenna, Mendicity craftsmen, Samer Mohammed, Isabel Moran, Heidii Nyaba, Caragh May O'Mahony, Irina Pamareu, Octavian Pamareu Fidorova, Asia Procopia, Allie Purcell, Aisa Rozkaine, Sandra Rusti, Aaliyah Scully, Cooper Sherman, Viktor Simon, Katie Smith, Maisie Smith, Manese Stefan, Marta Stefan, LJ Fennell Tonoco, Johanna Visser, Kayla Rose Whelan, Ivy Yan, Michaela Zervaki


### **The young people who participated in our workshop with the Irish Architecture Foundation:**

Ethan Higgins, Sandra Jonck, Hayden Maslouski, Lucy Lawlor Strickland, Jasmine Lee Stott, Heidii Ngaba, Irina Pampareu, Latoyah Marumo, Ivy Yan

### **Our advisory group of young people from the Stoneybatter Youth Service and those who participated in the short film about the project:**

LJ Fennel, Connla Halpin, Twyla Kavanagh, Jasmine Lee Stott, Heidii Ngaba, Irina Pampareu, Octavian Pampareu, Latoyah Marumo, Ivy Yan





For information about the National Museum of Ireland go to **[www.museum.ie](http://www.museum.ie)**

For information about community engagement programmes and resources at the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History contact Helen Beaumont **[hbeaumont@museum.ie](mailto:hbeaumont@museum.ie)**

For general information about programmes and resources for schools, young people and other audiences contact **[bookings@museum.ie](mailto:bookings@museum.ie)**



***“Lockdown made time stand still”***