

# Citizen Saoránach Avali'neeja



Terry Maughan.  
Pearsa Club CLG na  
Bliana, Béal Átha na  
Muice. 2016.  
Grianghraf © MTSG.

Terry Maughan.  
Swinford GAA Club Person  
of the Year. 2016.  
Photo © MTSG.

Deartháireacha Keenan.  
Féile Náisiúnta Ealaóna na  
dTaisteachaithe.  
Baile Átha Cliath, 1995.

Keenan brothers.  
National Travellers Arts  
Festival. Dublin, 1995.  
Photo © Derek Speirs.

## Saoránach

Tá Taisteachaithe na hÉireann, 'Mincéirs' ar an mionlach eitneach dúchasach is mó in Éirinn. Comhpháirtíocht is ea an taispeántas seo idir an Músaem Náisiúnta agus Lónra Shláinte Taisteachaithe Réigiúnach an Iarthair. Lónra Taisteachaithe mná ar Oibrithe Cúram Sláinte Poiblí iad atá ag obair laistigh den phobal.

Déantar saol na dTaisteachaithe a chomóradh anseo le nithe a léiríonn Ceol agus amhránaíocht, cúram capall agus an saol polaitiúil.

Ba é Tuaim, Co. na Gaillimhe an chéad chomhairle baile le Taisteachaithe, **Martin Ward**, a thoghadh mar mhéara, in 2003. Léiríonn an píosa ealaíne gloine 'Bosca Gutha' an saol ar láithreán stad agus 'a bheith gan ghuth'. Arna chruthú ag **Denise Donovan** mar chuid de cheardlann agus taispeántas gloine na dTaisteachaithe Mná i Luimneach.

Bhí a lán de theaghlaigh Taisteachaithe ag trádáil agus ag déileáil i gcapaill, i rith a saoil. Bíonn an mór-aonach bliantúil capall san iarthar ar siúl i mBéal Átha na Sluaighe, Gaillimh. Ba mhaith le go leor daoine go leanfá leis na haontaí agus go mbeadh deiseanna ann don óige leanúint le capaill a choinneáil agus breathnú ar dhul i mbun rásaíochta sulaí.

Labhraíonn na sean-Taisteachaithe ag caint faoi nuair a bhíodh siad ag insint scéalta, ag ceol amhrán agus ag seinm ceoil thart ar thinte campa agus ag aontaí sa seannam.

## Citizen

Irish Travellers, Mincéirs, are a large indigenous ethnic minority in Ireland. This exhibition is a partnership between the National Museum and the Western Regional Traveller Health Network- a network of Traveller Health Care Workers working within the community. This Citizen exhibition celebrates music & song, horse care and political life.

Tuam, Co Galway became the first town council to elect a Traveller as mayor. **Martin Ward** was elected in 2003. **Denise Donovan** created the glass piece, **Voice Box**, as part of a Traveller Women's glass workshop and exhibition in Limerick. It represents the artist life on a halting site and the feeling of not being heard. Many Traveller families have been trading and dealing in horses, all their lives. The largest annual horse fair in the west is at Ballinasloe, Galway. Many would like to see fairs survive with opportunities for young people to keep horses and explore sulky racing.

Older Travellers often reminisce about telling stories, singing songs and playing music around camp fires and at fairs.

