

IPAH SUMMER INTENSIVE 2010



Kira O'Reilly

is a performance artist based in the UK.

She graduated from Cardiff School of Art in 1998. She has participated in a number of performance art festivals throughout the UK and Europe, including at the Bonington Gallery, Nottingham Trent University 1998, the National Review of Live Art, in Glasgow (1998, 2001, 2003), at Arnolfini in Bristol, at Home in London and at several European festivals including Break 21 Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2002 and the ANTI Contemporary Art Festival 2003, Kuopio, Finland. She has also performed in China at the Dadao performance art festival, Beijing, organised by Shu Yang 2006.

In 2003 and 2004, she undertook a residency with SymbioticA, a bio-art project based in the department of Human Anatomy, University of Western Australia. She has received several major commissions and in 2001 was invited to produce work for Span2 international performance art residency in London. Her work often involves the cutting of her skin, and recent pieces have also involved animals, including leeches and pigs. She was the focus of a major controversy in the British press, angering British animal rights activists by performing a durational piece with a dead pig, at the Newlyn Art Gallery in Penzance, southwest England. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kira_O%27Reilly)

Kira O'Reilly about her work:

"My work stems from a visual art background and whilst it has it's own disciplinary rigour it is also playfully undisciplined, allowing an entirely curious interdisciplinarity.

My teaching is a sharing of my own making practices, in which I aim to establish collaborative and shared experimental processes by which we open up our sensory body and develop and find other experiential and material bodies. My teaching also aims to engage and be changed by you, those that chose to participate, I intend to make myself available to your input and make room for my own astonishment.

During this course I will emphasis body conditioning, including some teaching of a Tibetan yoga practice called sku-mNyé as a means to open the sensory body, working with body, mind and stamina.

Often my processes are responsive, to a situation, a site, a moment, the heartbeat or crux of a situation. We will explore and prepare to sensitise our own responsiveness and we will consider how to develop it in a number of ways, allowing environment, architectures, materials and textures to combine in a blurring of boundaries to extend possibilities of our making and also how that relates to an audience, viewer, community."