

*Littoral Shift:
A Coastal Terrain in Flux*

An Exhibition of Artwork
by Geraldine Leahy

Rush Library 4th-14th April 2022

Many thanks to the staff of Rush Library
who facilitated this exhibition

Website: www.gleahyart.com

Instagram: [@gleahyart](https://www.instagram.com/gleahyart)

Artist Statement:

My practice involves the observation of traces and imprints in the coastline, the marks of both natural processes and human interventions. I explore impermanence and mutability by investigating residual marks in the environment following severe weather events. My paintings seek out the unexpected in the landscape—incongruous objects and situations that are the result of natural processes and human actions. A discarded bicycle gear interrupts the natural beauty of the place. Unravelling fibres of rope possess strangely organic characteristics. Plastic strands, deadly to marine life, ironically generate diaphanous forms that float elusively in the water.

My approach involves working with layered processes that reflect the mutability and temporality of a fragile environment. Perception of local memory, embedded and submerged, resurfaces and is exposed in personal belongings as the terrain disintegrates and subsides. Fragments of crockery and broken bottles jut out of the sand. Walking is interrupted by tilting fence posts, collapsed dunes and scattered fragments of corroded metal. Coils of wire, flex cable, netting and splintered wooden planks lie in the sand. These items linger on the beach, traces and imprints of the processes of a changing climate.

As I walk the coastline I become aware of the entanglements of the natural and the manmade - the pernicious inseparability of materials such as plastic and seaweed, wire and grass. I explore the incongruity of manmade materials which assume the appearance of organic forms throughout the painting process. These forms mutate into evocations of the entanglement of mankind and the natural world.



1. *Mutation*

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

65x45.5cm

Plastic debris found on the beach has assumed organic characteristics during the monoprinting and painting process and is an evocation of the entanglement of mankind and the natural world.



2. Expired

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

76.2x50.8cm

Monoprinted plastic strands found on the beach have assumed the appearance of dead or dying fish, signifying the dangers of plastic to marine life.



3. Frayed Rope

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

76.2x50.8cm

A piece of frayed rope found on the beach possesses strangely organic characteristics following the monoprinting process.



4. *Birdstick*

Acrylic and gouache on canvas board

76.2x50.8cm

This painting was inspired by a stick found on the beach, one end of which resembled a bird's head. *Birdstick* now lies embedded in the shoreline, a victim of a changing climate.



5. *Ghost Plastic*

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

76.2x50.8cm (unframed)

Reminiscent of ghost nets, *Ghost Plastic* represents the plastic that has been abandoned or lost at sea, creating havoc for marine life.



6. *Entanglements*

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

55.8x45.7cm

Natural and manmade materials have become entangled and difficult to tell apart.

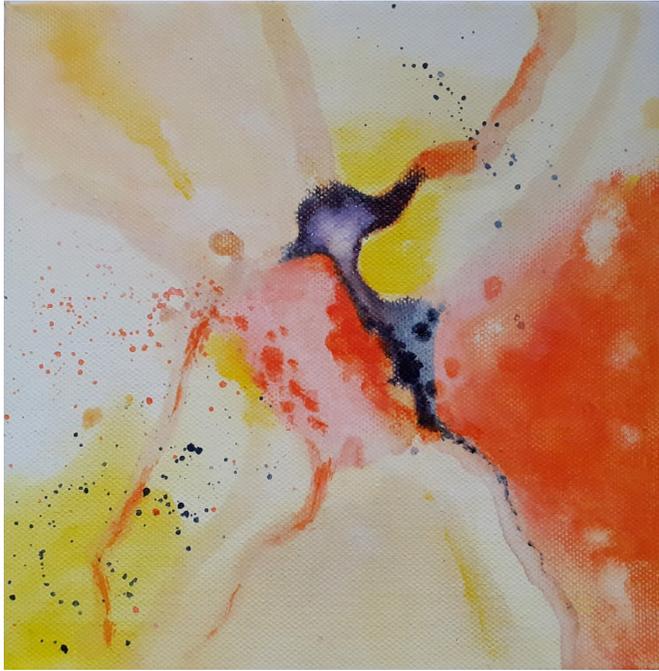


7. Toxic Entanglements

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on canvas board

40.6x30.5cm

Dune grasses and plastic strands from the beach were monoprinted onto a board and have become entangled, the toxic nature of manmade materials affecting the natural ones.



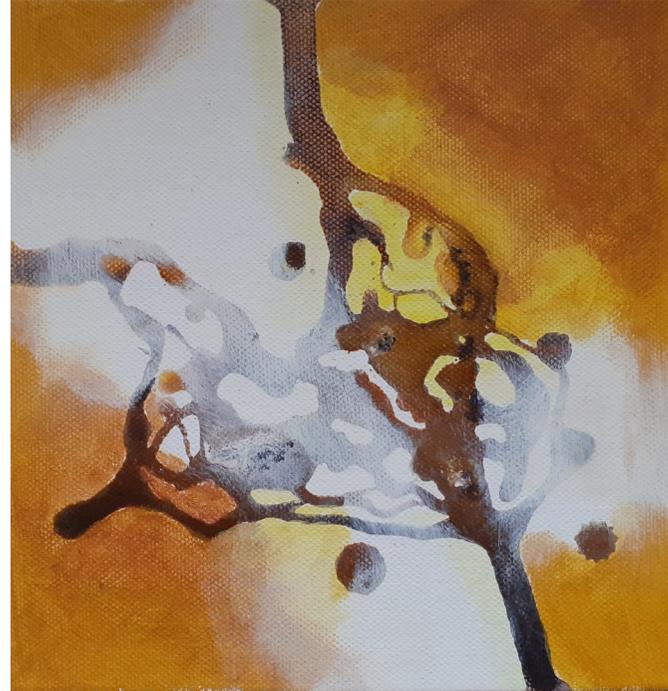
8. *Natural or Synthetic? 1*

9. *Natural or Synthetic? 2*

Acrylic inks, acrylic and gouache on deep canvases

20.32x20.32cm

Acrylic inks flowed and merged on the canvas revealing forms which could be either natural or manmade.



10. *Corroded Metal*

11. *Metal Entanglement*

Acrylic inks, acrylic and gouache on deep canvases

20.32x20.32cm

Acrylic inks flowed and merged on the canvas to form images of corroded metal fragments found on the beach.



12. *Corroded Metal 2*

13. *Corroded Metal 3*

Acrylic inks, acrylic and gouache on deep canvases

20.32x20.32cm

Acrylic inks flowed and merged into corroded metal objects based on fragments found on the beach.



14. *Rope*

15. *Plastics*

Acrylic inks, monoprint, acrylic and gouache on deep canvases

20.32x20.32cm

Rope contains a monoprinted fragment of rope found on the beach. *Plastics* began as a monoprint of plastic strands to which acrylic inks, acrylic and gouache were added.



16. *Corroded Yellow Wire*

17. *Found Wire*

Acrylic inks, acrylic and gouache on deep canvases

20.32x20.32cm

Acrylic inks flowed and merged to form pieces of wire, based on fragments found on the beach.



18. *Flow*

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on paper

42x29.5cm (unframed)

Monoprinted debris from the beach was covered with acrylic and gouache and then partially washed away, referencing coastal erosion. Sand was added to brown pigment and allowed to flow diagonally across the page.



19. *Plastic, Swimming*

Monoprint, acrylic and gouache on paper

36.5x29cm (unframed)

Plastic strands, both monoprinted and painted, appear to swim in the depths of the water.



20. *Spectral Presence*

Monoprint and acrylic on paper

52x38cm (unframed)

Plastic strands found on the beach assume a ghostly appearance when monprinted.



21. *In the Depths*

Monoprint and acrylic on paper

38.7x28cm (unframed)

A monoprinted clump of dislodged dune grass has acquired a sense of agency as it appears to swim in murky depths.



22. Hexagon Shift

Monoprint and acrylic on paper

38.9x30cm (unframed)

The coastal defence structures known as ‘seabees’, represented here by monoprinted hexagons are in motion as the terrain shifts due to coastal erosion.



23. *Hexagon Landscape*

Monoprint and acrylic on paper

40.5x28cm (unframed)

A lone 'seabee' defence structure remains in a coastal landscape formed by monoprinted dune grasses.



24. *Spiral Path*

Monoprint and acrylic on paper

42x29.5cm (unframed)

Monoprinted dune grasses present an aerial view of coastal paths.

Solo Exhibition

Painting Degree Pathway

The Open College of the Arts

*The distance learning partner of
The University for the Creative Arts*



Website: www.gleahyart.com
Instagram: [@gleahyart](https://www.instagram.com/gleahyart)