

‘THROUGH OUR EYES’

BACKGROUND TO ‘THROUGH OUR EYES’

The ‘**Through Our Eyes**’ project is being launched as a follow on from the 8 week TUS Connect & Engage programme, [Connect & Engage Flyer](#). We encourage students to make the most out of their university experience and to continue to *connect and engage* with all that TUS has to offer including wider holistic development opportunities outside their course of study. This ethos is informed by the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 which states that *“the emphasis has switched from over-specialisation towards deeper and broader disciplinary foundations, with learning objectives that explicitly seek to nurture in students the creativity, enthusiasm and skills required for continual engagement with learning”*.

The ‘**Through Our Eyes**’ initiative supports the shared TUS commitment to developing a student learning experience which facilitates the development of Graduate Attributes that will contribute to the development of the **whole person**. This approach seeks to widen the learning experience rather than being narrowly focused on employability and the development of knowledge and generic skills which are discipline specific as described in the ‘Putting the Learner First: TUS Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2022-2025’. Under the Graduate Attribute of **Creativity, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills** we espouse that *‘TUS graduates will be curious, enquiry-led problem solvers, able to apply critical thinking to devise creative, innovative and effective solutions to real-world challenges’*.

The TUS Graduate Attribute Framework 2022-25 is available to [VIEW HERE](#)

CREATIVITY AND MENTAL HEALTH

The positive mental health benefits of engaging in creativity and its role in helping us perceive the world and each other in new and different ways is well documented. ‘Through Our Eyes’ exhibit participants and visitors alike will benefit from engaging with the **examples of how our students respond through creativity** which will contribute positively to the TUS community experience and to our culture of inclusivity, diversity and student-centred learning.

SELECTION PANEL

- **Sarah La Cumbre** is the TUS Midlands Student Resource Centre Manager and is also a part-time student studying for an MA in Art Psyche and the Creative Imagination at LSAD. Sarah graduated from Athlone RTC with a Higher Cert in Visual Communications (Graphic Design) and went on to complete a BA in Applied Psychology from UCD and an MA in Occupational Psychology from UCC. Sarah has worked in her current role with AIT/TUS for the past 16 years and prior to that worked in UCD, the National College of Ireland, and in consulting and organisational development. Sarah is passionate about TUS students. She is dedicated to removing barriers toward helping students realise their full potential and enriching their holistic development through connecting and engaging with the wider college experience and their own creative imagination.

- **John Benton** is a lecturer of final year students in Graphic Design at TUS Midlands. In 1999 he completed his Master's through Visual Communications in the National College of Art and Design. Shortly afterwards he took up a full time Lecturing role in Athlone Institute of Technology. To date he's been specializing in various areas of Graphic Design with a particular interest in typography and digital media.
- **Dr Susan Halvey** is a lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies at Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS Midwest. A graduate of Fine Art, Painting, she qualified as an art and design teacher in 1996, whereupon she taught in Valladolid, Spain. In 2000 she completed a Master's in History of Art 20th Century at Goldsmiths College, University of London. Returning to Ireland in 2000, Susan taught in a broad range of educational sectors before taking up the role of Lecturer in Critical and Contextual Studies at LSAD, where she has worked for over than twenty years.
- **Samar Nezamabad** is a Limerick-born artist studying Fine Art Painting in Limerick School of Art and Design TUS. Samar is the current Chairperson of the LSAD Exhibition Society. In recent years, she has become focused on providing opportunities for emerging artists to be brought into the public eye. Her efforts have culminated in *Never Seen Before* (2022), an open call for students curated with the Exhibition Society and exhibited in the LSAD Church Gallery, and *A Place Like Home* (2022), a showcase of Year 3 LSAD students co-directed and curated with James Skerritt and exhibited in the People's Museum of Limerick. Her work was also exhibited in the above shows, as well as *The Limerick Show* (2022) in Ormston House, *Maximalism* (2022) in spacecraft studios, and *Painting Through The Lens* (2021) in the Belltable.
- **Heather Mc Elhenny** is a final year student with the Graphic and Digital Design – BA (Hons) course at TUS Midlands. Originally from South Africa, Heather moved to Germany with her family and is living in Ireland while she studies at TUS. Heather's creative work is constantly pushing the boundaries on typography and illustration. She likes to illustrate characters and their environments and hopes to bring these characters and environments to life in the near future. Heather is excited to be part of the 'Through Our Eyes' project.