

Press Release – For release on or after March 27, 2025

The Model's School of Generational Storytelling in Care Homes throughout Sligo

The Model celebrated the launch of *The School of Generational Storytelling*, a major community-based art project, with a special event on Wednesday, 26th March. This event celebrated the culmination of a yearlong artist-in-residence programme, where two artists Eamon O'Kane and Chelsea Canavan were placed in six care homes throughout county Sligo. During this time residents participated in hands-on creative workshops designed to spark memories, encourage self-expression, and foster intergenerational connections through storytelling, visual art, and music. A key aspect of the project was to collaborate closely with care home staff to tailor activities to residents' interests and cognitive abilities, ensuring a meaningful and inclusive experience.

The Model recognises the therapeutic potential of creative engagement, particularly for residents who may struggle with verbal or emotional expression. The collaborative approach at the heart of the project created a bridge for communication and connection.

A significant outcome of the initiative is a set of bespoke creative toolkits, developed in partnership with The Model and the care homes. These toolkits, were unveiled at The Model at the celebratory event and gifted to each of the care homes involved – Bailey's Nursing Home in Ballymote, Nazareth House, St. John's Community Hospital and Mowlam Nursing Home in Sligo town; and Sonas Ard Na Gréine in Enniscrone. The toolkits contain carefully curated objects and creative materials inspired by the year-long collaboration. Activities coordinators and visiting family members will now have access to these engaging resources, which can be adapted to individual residents' needs.

The Model's Director, Emer McGarry, highlights the potential for expanding this initiative to additional care homes in the future. Designed to stimulate cognitive activity and enhance well-being, they will serve as a valuable resource for both care staff and visiting families. Furthermore, a special lending library of creative materials is currently in development and will be available later this year.

The importance of tailoring creative activities to each resident's unique cognitive and emotional state was key to the project's success. The Model invites the public to experience some of the residents' artwork and explore the original toolkit, which will be on display at The Model from 27th March to 3rd May.

ENDS

Press Information

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: majamoser@themodel.ie

For images, please see www.themodel.ie/media