

Welcome to Aosdána

The affiliation of creative artists in Ireland

New Members Gathering

Arts Council Offices

28th June 2019

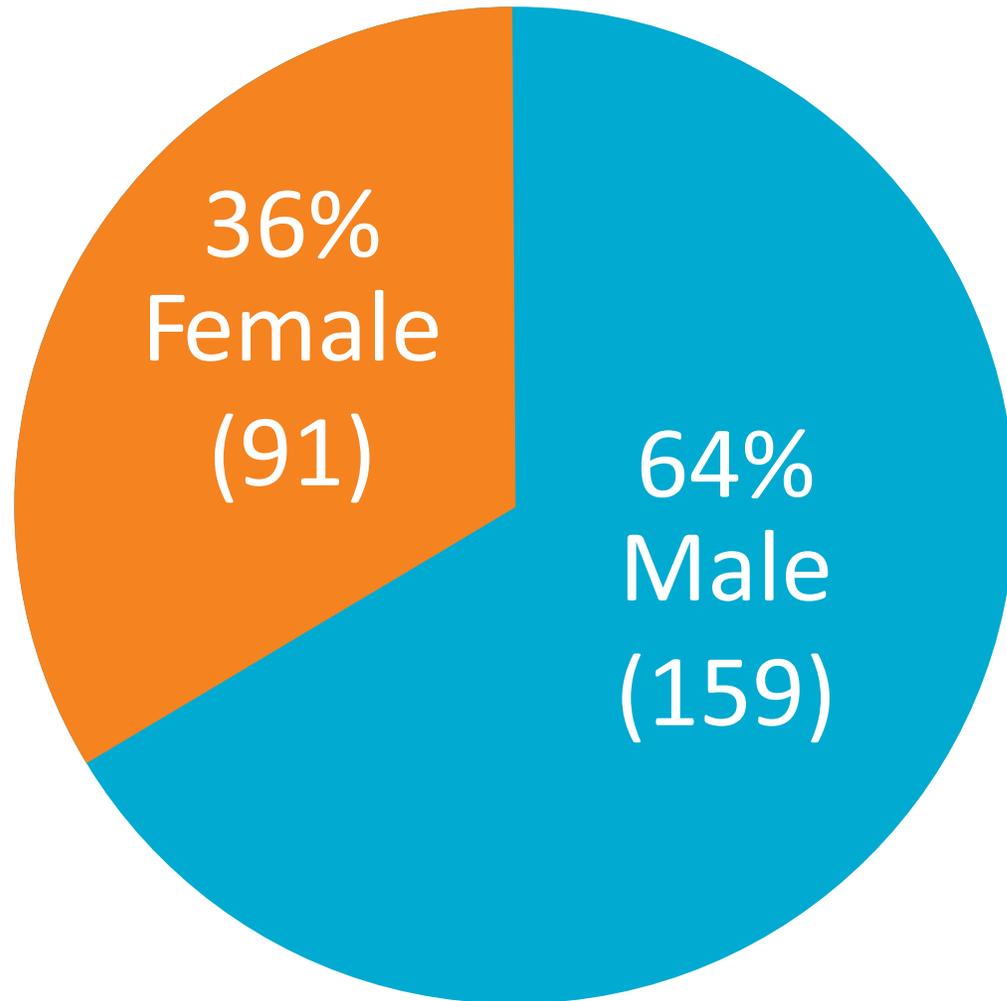
An Overview

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Membership

- 250 living artists who have produced a distinguished body of work.
- Must have been resident in Ireland for 5 years and have produced a body of work that is original and creative.
- Members are responsible for nominations and election of new members.
- Members can be further recognised for outstanding achievement by the position of Saoi.
- Members may apply for the *Cnuas*, a multi-annual bursary.
- Members are responsible for their own biography in English and Irish and photo on the Aosdána web site.
- Members are responsible for contributing news of events/works for a weekly circular to Aosdána members entitled '*Dates for your Diaries*' and for the Aosdána twitter feed.
- The *Annual Artistic Report Form*, open to all members to complete, is an additional way members can communicate about their work and thereby enable the Arts Council to acknowledge, celebrate and advocate for the work of Aosdána members and their impact on a wider public.

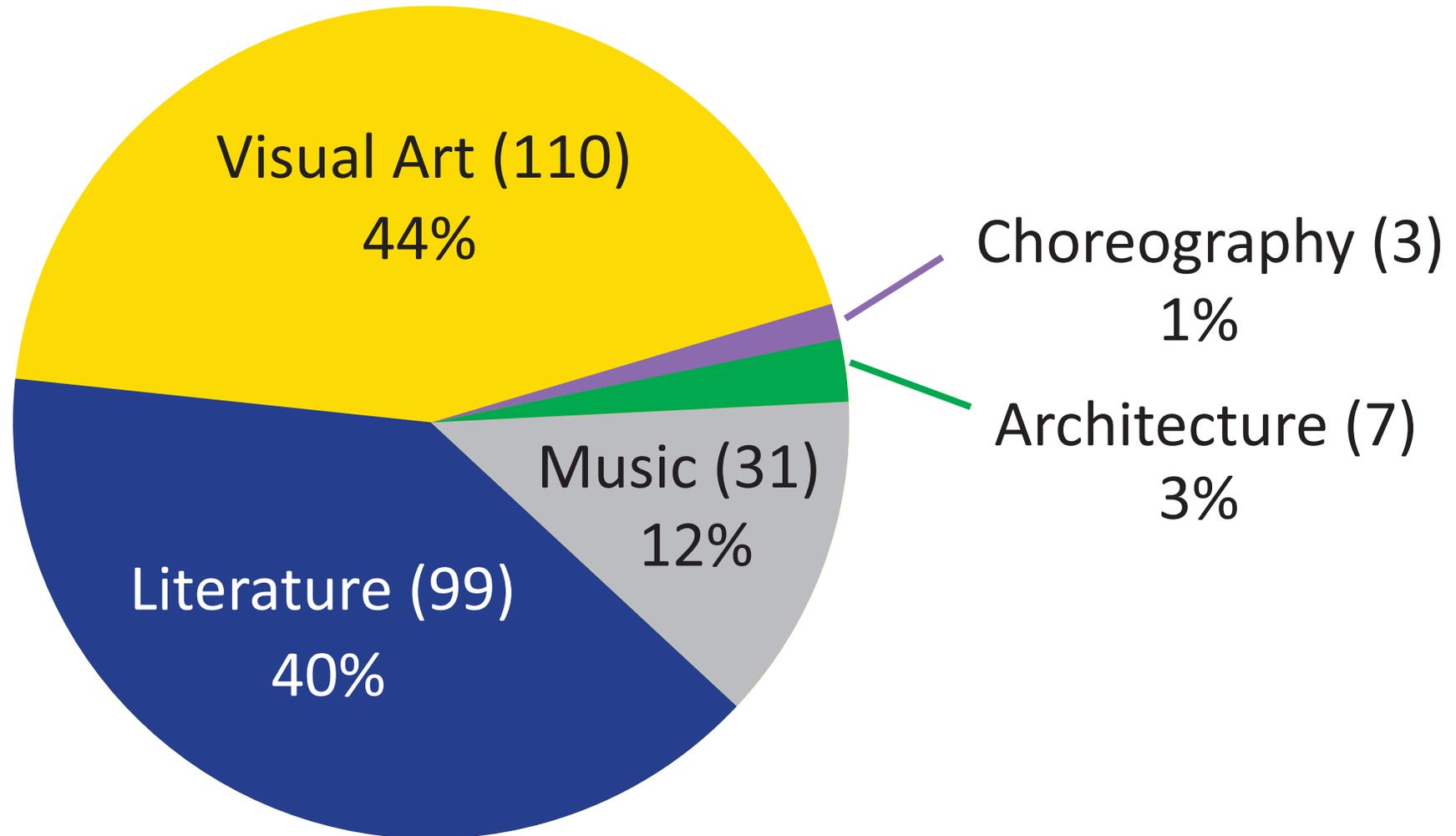
Current Membership - June 2019



Total:
250 Members

- Male
- Female

Current Membership (June 2019) Art Forms



General Assembly

- Each year the entire membership meets in General Assembly to elect new members, agree matters of policy and procedure, review the activities of Aosdána and discuss issues relevant to the arts and artists in Society.
- The General Assembly is regulated by Standing Orders and Chaired by the Toscaireacht.
- It generally takes place over one day in April. This year the G.A. was in U.C.C. and took place across 2 days, 4/5 April 2019.



Nominations and Election

- Membership of Aosdána is by peer nomination and election.
- Members have a responsibility to familiarise themselves with the work of candidates for election and to participate actively in all stages of the process.
- **Stage 1** - Any member can nominate an artist for membership. The call for nominations is in the Autumn and administered by the Registrar.
- **Stage 2** - Once nominations are complete and are approved by the Toscaireacht, as being according to rule, all members receive a ballot in their discipline by post or email. A candidate must achieve 50% + 1 of the quota to go forward to the General Assembly.
- **Stage 3** - All members receive information on candidates in advance of the General Assembly. A postal ballot can be arranged. Otherwise members cast their ballot on the day. The candidates with the greatest number of votes get elected in accordance with the number of spaces available up to the membership limit of 250.

Saoithe

- Any member can nominate another member for the honour of Saoi. A nomination must be assented to by 15 additional members. Election occurs by ballot of all members. To be elected, a candidate must achieve 50% + 1 of the total membership.
- No more than 7 members can hold the honour at any one time.
- The President of Ireland confers the symbol of Saoi, the gold Torc.
- There are currently 6 Saoithe.



Seoirse Bodley, composer
George Morrison, film-maker
Edna O'Brien, writer
Camille Souter, visual artist
Imogen Stuart, visual artist
Roger Doyle, composer
(elected Saoi in Feb 2019 and awaiting conferral)

Toscaireacht



The Toscaireacht is a committee of 10 members (Toscairi) elected for a two year period. The current Toscairi will serve until Jan 2020.

Anne Haverty is Chair of the Toscaireacht. Any member of Aosdána is eligible to serve as a Toscairi. The call for nominations for the next Toscaireacht will take place in Autumn 2019.

Meetings of the Toscaireacht are administered by the Registrar and all minutes of meetings are published on the Aosdána web site.

Cnuas

- The *Cnuas* is a multi-annual bursary restricted to Aosdána members to allow them concentrate their time and energy on the full-time pursuit of their art.
- It is granted for a 5 year term (20 quarterly payments) to members who meet certain conditions.
- Members apply for the *Cnuas* via an application form. Once a 5 year term comes to an end, a member may re-apply.
- Members in receipt of the *Cnuas* must complete an *Annual Artistic Report Form* and supply tax clearance confirmation and Revenue Form 11 each year in order to demonstrate ongoing eligibility. Members not in receipt of the *Cnuas* can also complete an *Annual Artistic Report Form* to communicate about their work however this is optional.
- The *Cnuas* is currently set at €17,180 per annum and paid in 4 installments of €4,295
- Aosdána members in receipt of the *Cnuas* are not eligible to apply for other Arts Council Bursaries.
- The Registrar administers the *Cnuas* and handles all details in relation to it. Names of members in receipt of the *Cnuas* are published on the Aosdána web site and in the Arts Council Annual Report.

Administration

- Aosdána was established in 1981, to honour artists whose work has made an outstanding contribution to the arts in Ireland and to assist members in devoting their energies fully to their art practice.
- Aosdána is funded by the State through the Arts Council.
- The Arts Council handles all of Aosdána's administration and financial arrangements and accounts for its operation to the Oireachtas.
- A staff member of the Arts Council acts as Registrar.
- Details on Aosdána can be found on the Aosdána web site. The web site is the primary source of information on Aosdána, on individual members and means by which to promote their work.
- **www.aosdana.artscouncil.ie**
- **www.twitter.com/aosdana**