

# Welcome to Aosdána

The affiliation of creative artists in Ireland

New Members Gathering

Via Zoom

10 December 2020

# An Overview

- Membership
- General Assembly
- Nominations and Election
- Saoi
- Toscaireacht
- Cnuas
- Administration and Projects 2021

# Membership

## Composition

- 250 living artists.
- Must have been resident in Ireland for 5 years and have achieved a very high level of artistic attainment.
- Members may apply via the Registrar at any time for the *Cnuas*.
- 7 members at any one time can be further recognised through the position of *Saoi*.

## Roles

- Nomination and election of new members.
- Attendance at General Assembly. Contribution to Agenda.
- Nomination and election of *Saoi*.
- Nomination and election of *Toscaireacht*. Participation in *Toscaireacht*.

## Reports

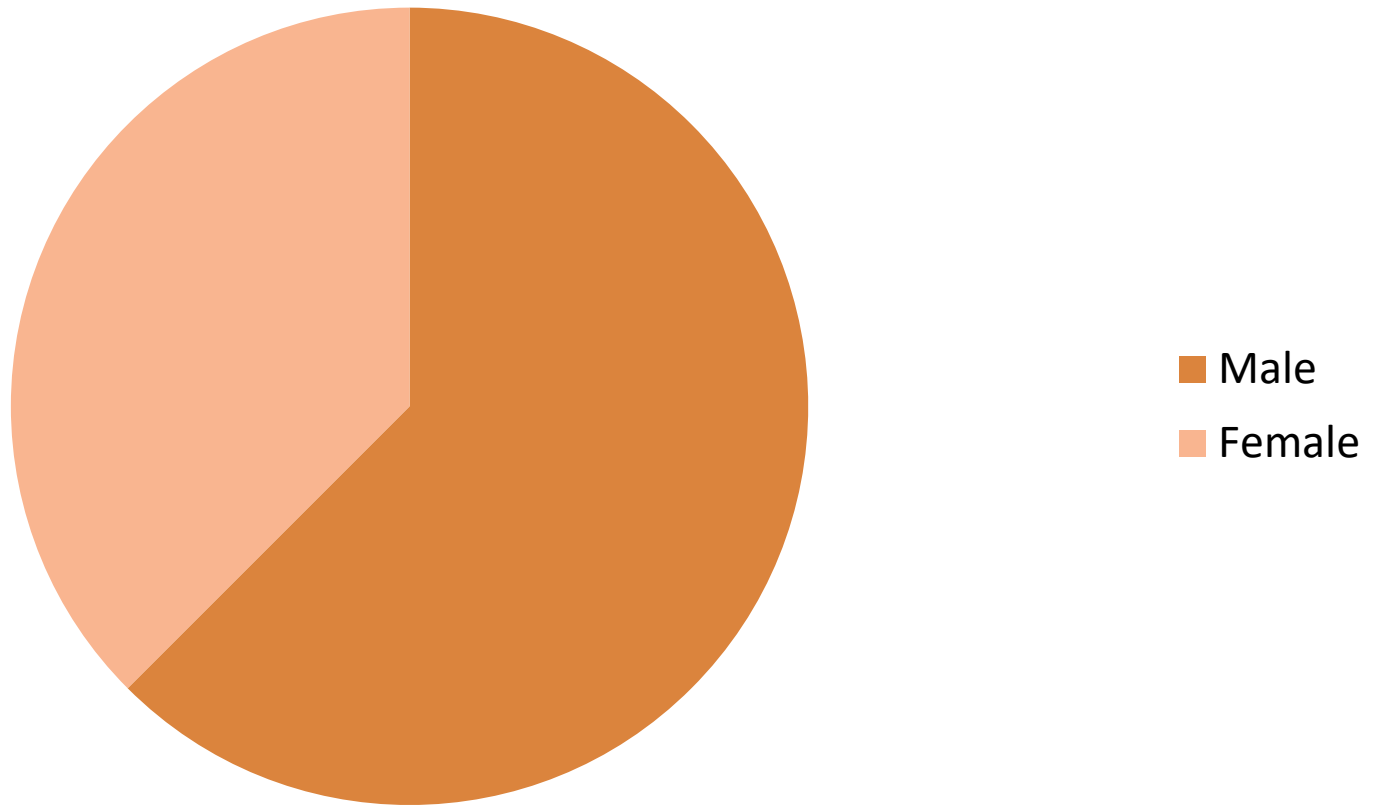
- *Annual Artistic Report Form*.
- Open to all members to complete.
- Requirement for *Cnuas* recipients.
- Enables members to communicate about their work.

## Promotion

- Aosdána web site. <http://aosdana.artscouncil.ie/>
- Aosdana and Social media. <https://twitter.com/Aosdana> <https://www.instagram.com/aosdanairland/>
- '*Dates for your Diaries*'- weekly circular.

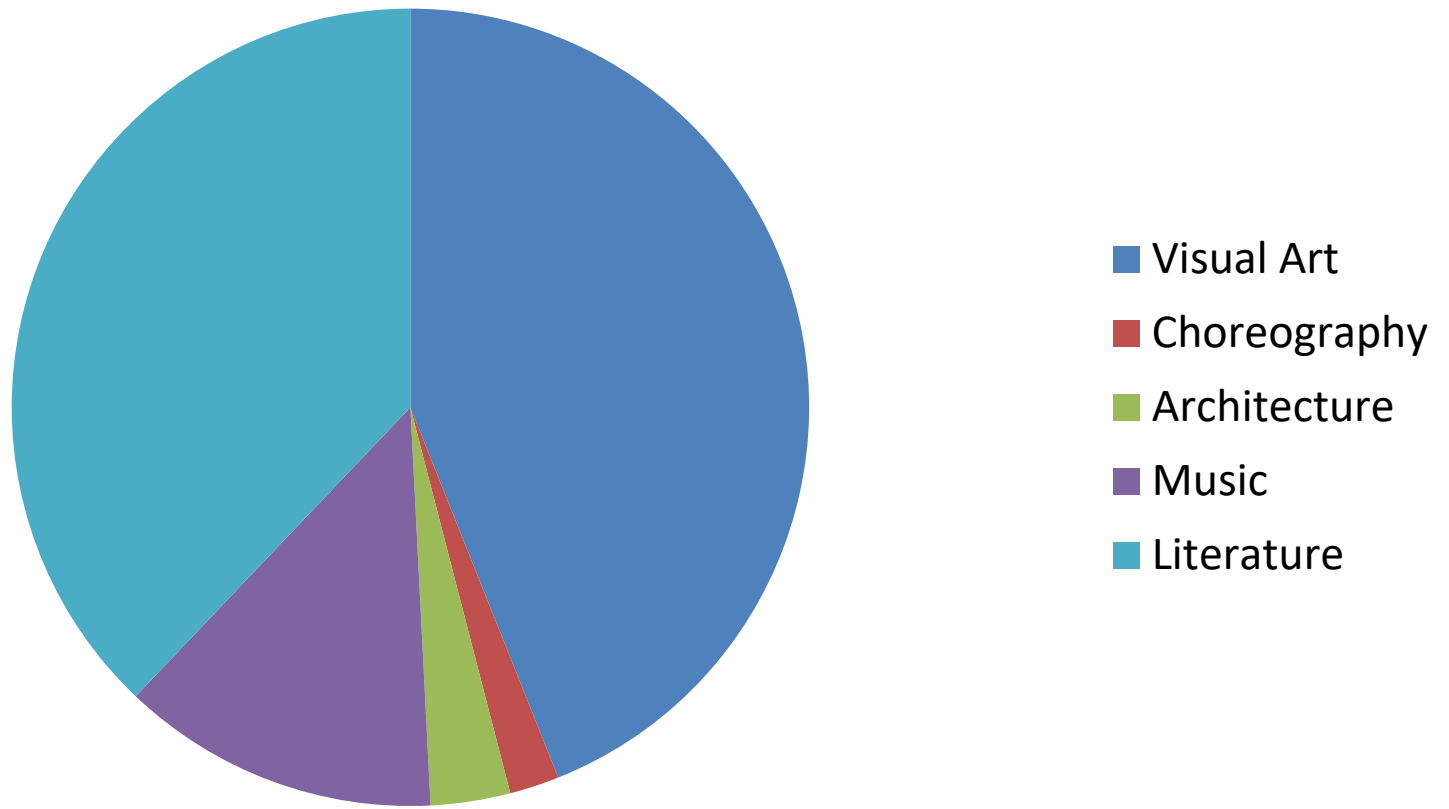
# Current Membership December 2020

Gender



# Current Membership December 2020

Discipline



# General Assembly

Once a year the entire membership meets for a General Assembly.

- To hear the Toscaireacht's Report.
- To elect new members.
- To discuss and agree matters of policy and procedure in Aosdána.
- To discuss issues relevant to the arts and artists in Society.

*The General Assembly is Chaired by the Toscaireacht and administered by the Arts Council.*



# 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.
- 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, Patron of Aosdana 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**



# Toscaireacht

The Toscaireacht is a committee of 10 members (Toscairi) elected for a two year period. The current Toscairi will serve until Jan 2022.

Anne Haverty - literature, Chair of the Toscaireacht

Deirdre Kinahan - literature

Eamon Colman – visual art

Enda Wyley - literature

Geraldine O'Reilly – visual art

Gerard Smyth - literature

Grainne Mulvey - music

Mary O Donnell - literature

Michael Holohan - music

Theo Dorgan – literature

Any member of Aosdána is eligible to serve as a Toscairi. The call for nominations for the next Toscaireacht will take place in Summer 2021. 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 multi-annual and available for Aosdána members living in Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- It is approved by Council at any given plenary, 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. *Cnuas* recipients are not eligible for Arts Council Bursaries.
- Members in receipt of the *Cnuas* must complete an *Annual Artistic Report Form* and supply tax clearance confirmation and Revenue Form 11 or HRMC equivalent each year in order to demonstrate ongoing eligibility.
- The *Cnuas* is currently set at €17,180 per annum and paid in 4 installments of €4,295. The threshold for other income allowable is €25,770.
- 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 who have made an outstanding contribution to the creative arts in Ireland and assist members in devoting their energies fully to their art practice.
- Aosdána is funded through the Arts Council by the Oireachtas.
- The Arts Council handles all of Aosdána's administration and financial arrangements.
- A staff member of the Arts Council acts as Registrar.

## Projects 2021

- Aosdána celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.
- A publication to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be produced. The publication will tell the history of Aosdána as well as show members' work and look to the future.