**We caught up with Fingal curator Cleo Fagan to talk about the Waves programme.**

1. *Can you tell about Waves and its connection with the 1916 Easter Rising commemorations?*

**CF:** ‘As an event the commemoration of the Easter Rising of 1916 touches on ideas of zeitgeist, group dynamics, nationalism and the visual or material language of political ideologies or social movements, amongst many other things. Each of the artists involved in Waves has devised a set of fascinating workshops out of the rich context of the commemorations. A common element to all is that they link history and the everyday, and celebrate contemporary and historical culture.

A second element to the programme involves a series of commissions - a short documentary on the workshop programme by videographer Jenny Brady, as well as a text by writer Sue Rainsford and a poster publication by designers Distinctive Repetition. These latter two are to be created in response to the programme's themes and aimed at a teenage audience. ’

1. *Why did you choose to work with artists Sean Lynch, Clodagh Emoe, Ruth Lyons and Eoghan Ryan for this project?*

**CF:**‘I was drawn to Sean Lynch for this project because of his inventive, curious and often humorous approach to communicating offbeat historical narratives through artworks and exhibitions, as in ‘A Blow by Blow Account of Stonecarving in Oxford’ when Lynch revealed and examined the relevance of the censored work of the daring O’Shea stonecarvers in 1850s Oxford. I felt he would engage with the historical context of the 1916 commemorations in a similarly uncommon and questioning way.’

**CF:** ‘Clodagh Emoe’s art practice often involves looking at what happens during events or gatherings - investigating philosophically and practically the possibilities of the collective. In her 2009 work ‘Mystical Anarchism’ she organised a series of events – one being the coming together of 100 people at midnight in Glendalough forest to listen to a talk by philosopher Simon Critchley. Given the context of the Easter Rising commemorations, I approached Clodagh in the knowledge that she would bring an insightful and powerful perspective with which to guide the students in their collaborative work, in a way that links to the actions of groups and collectives throughout history.’

**CF:** ‘Ruth Lyons – straight out of college - co-founded and built from scratch ‘The Good Hatchery’: an on-going multifaceted project that includes an artist-residency and exhibition programme, with its own space in county Offaly. I find Ruth’s work to be similarly pioneering and adventurous in its reach into the dark corners of humanity’s existence on earth (dark in its focus on our subterranean geological world rather than psychologically dark). Her work subtly raises questions on humanity’s precarious love affair with energy consumption. I feel that as an artist she is a good choice to be part of a programme that links to the commemoration of the actions of a group of people that took the brave move to challenge and question an accepted norm, in this case the authority of the British state, albeit in a direct, brutal way.’

**CF:** ‘I saw Eoghan’s moving image work ‘This Fecund Lump’ at the Plastik Moving Image Festival in the IFI Dublin in 2015. I found it really compelling, artful and visually distinct. In this work I recognised themes such as contemporary male indentity, the body and the relationship between leisure and notions of happiness; as being as particularly apt for a teenage or youth audience. For Waves he has devised a couple of exciting workshops that creatively explore how sub/pop-culture and fashion have re-inscribed venerated historical, political slogans and subjects.’

1. *What excites you most about the project?*

**CF:** I am really excited to see how the students respond to the workshops, and the outcome of the commissions. Personally, I think that the teenage years can be an exciting time in people's lives, when they often are beginning to have a natural intellectual or creative curiosity and are open to complex ideas, given the right conditions.

***Waves* began in Hartstown Community School and Fingal Community College in March and will run until May 2016.**

**For more information contact Julie Clarke, Youth & Education Officer, Fingal County Council Arts Office,** [**Julie.clarke@fingal.ie**](mailto:Julie.clarke@fingal.ie)[**www.fingalarts.ie**](http://www.fingalarts.ie)