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Direct Provision Diary

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Abstract

I started taking photographs of Direct Provision in 2007 while I was confined – as an asylum seeker – living in The Old Convent Direct Provision Centre in Ballyhaunis. The photographs that I took then, and after I received a permission to stay in Ireland in 2009, are devoid of people. There are no bodies of asylum seekers in Asylum Archive. What you can see are the ghosts, the ephemera, traces, remnants of lives once lived in Direct Provision.

If we look at the history of the Irish State and the previous carceral sites, including Magdalene Laundries, Industrial Schools, Mother and Baby Homes and Lunatic Asylums, there is very little visual information. I wanted to document Direct Provision so we never forget the most appalling and inhumane way we treat asylum seekers who came to Ireland to seek protection.

Keywords: Asylum seekers; Political refugees; Visual Arts. Essay; Direct Provision; Republic of Ireland



Atlantic View Direct Provision Centre, Tramore



Balseskin Reception Direct Provision Centre, Dublin



Beechlawn Direct Provision Centre, Wicklow



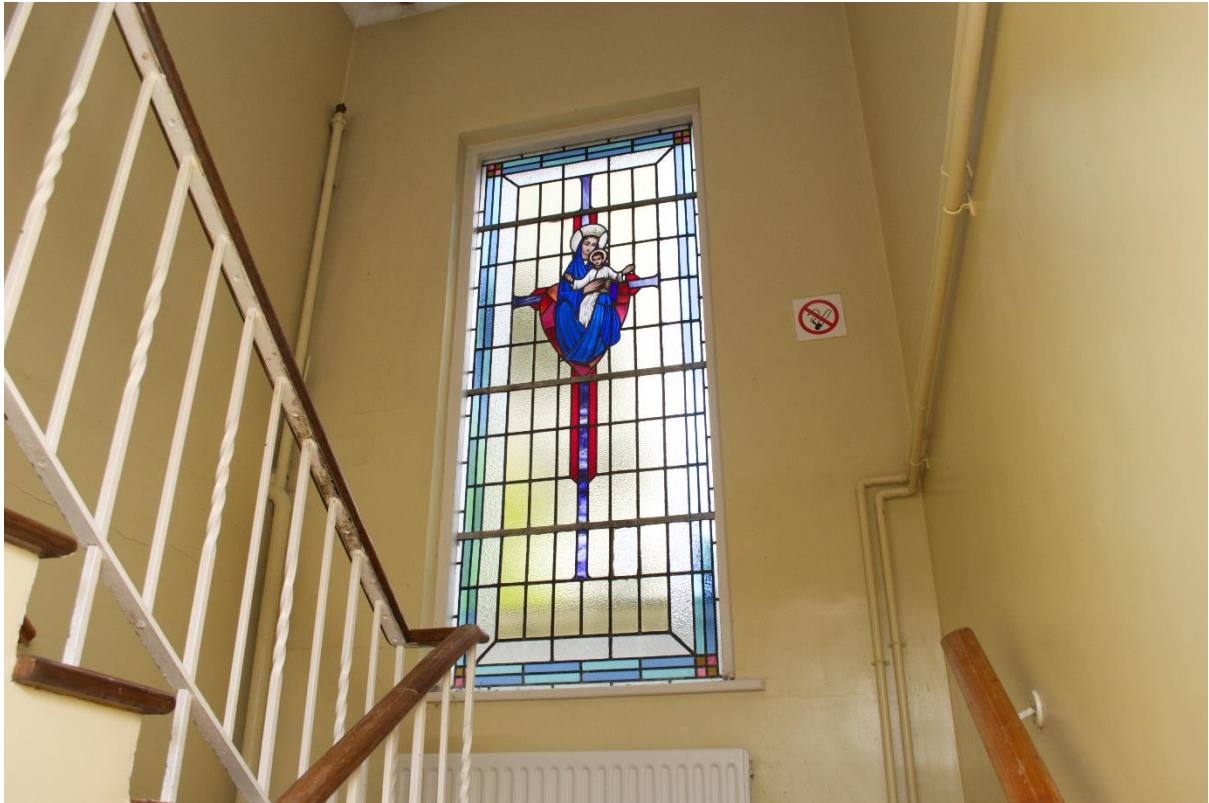
Drishane Castle Direct Provision Centre, Cork



Globe House Direct Provision Centre, Sligo



Kilmacud House Direct Provision Centre, Dublin



Kilmacud House Direct Provision Centre, Dublin



Lissywollen Accommodation Direct Provision Centre, Athlone



Mount Trenchard Direct Provision Centre, Foynes



The Old Convent Direct Provision Centre, Ballyhaunis



The Old Convent Direct Provision Centre, Ballyhaunis



The Old Convent Direct Provision Centre, Ballyhaunis

Vukašin Nedeljković

Vukašin Nedeljković holds a Masters in Visual Arts Practice from Dun Laoghaire Institute of Arts, Design and Technology. He is a PhD candidate at Dublin Institute of Technology. He has exhibited both nationally and internationally. His recent contributions include Reiterating Asylum Archive: documenting direct provision in Ireland, 2018 and Asylum Archive: an Archive of Asylum and Direct Provision in Ireland, 2016, 2017. He was recently awarded an Arts and Activism bursary from the Arts Council and has also recently published Asylum Archive publication.

Vukašin Nedeljković initiated the multidisciplinary project Asylum Archive. Asylum Archive is a platform open for dialogue and discussion inclusive to individuals who have experienced a sense of sociological/geographical ‘displacement’, social trauma and violence. It is an act of solidarity to bring a different perspective on the life of people who came to Ireland to seek protection. Asylum Archive’s objective is to collaborate with asylum seekers, artists, academics and activists, amongst others, with a view to creating an interactive documentary cross-platform online resource, critically foregrounding accounts of exile, displacement, trauma and memory.

For more information, visit: asylumarchive.com

Or contact the artist: asylumarchive@gmail.com