

TRAVELLER CULTURE & PRIDE

Thriving against all Odds

A TRAVELLER PRIDE EXHIBITION BY
CORK TRAVELLER WOMEN'S NETWORK

In Collaboration with Triskel Arts Centre

23RD JULY (4PM) - 27TH AUGUST

triskel



IRISH TRAVELLERS

are an indigenous ethnic minority who have been part of Irish society for centuries. Travellers have a long nomadic history, a unique culture, traditions and language.

Traveller Pride is a national annual programme of events **celebrating Traveller identity, culture and heritage and showcasing the many positives within the community.**

The images and other items in this exhibition were curated Traveller women as symbols of pride in our community and culture.

Exhibition images were selected by Traveller women from the Cork Traveller Women's Network cultural archive – which is a collection of photographs and other items celebrating Traveller culture and activism dating from the 1970s onwards.

THE EXHIBITION

includes modern and historical work, such as Traveller Maureen Ward's distinctive handstitched button t-shirt (2020), inspired by Traveller stitching heritage, a Traveller beady pocket by Mahon Traveller Women's group created in 2019, alongside a black and white photograph, by American Anthropologist George and Sharon Gmelch of a beady pocket worn by a Traveller woman in 1971. (A beady pocket was a small handmade bags decorated with beads and buttons, worn around the waist by Traveller women in the past and used much like a modern handbag is used today).

Other images in the exhibition were taken by a range of photographers and artists who have collaborated by Cork Traveller Women's Network over the years.

Travellers have resisted assimilation by the Irish state for decades. Travellers live with racism and stigma. **This exhibition is a proud celebration and statement that Traveller culture is alive and strong, despite this.** It focuses on strong positive images, celebrating of Traveller identity and activism, telling a story of a vibrant and evolving culture. A modern Traveller culture with creativity in our roots.

The exhibition also honours the legacy of Mary O Sullivan, Margaret O'Reilly & Katie O Donoghue (RIP) founders of Cork Traveller Women's Network, Traveller women who were so proud of their culture, worked tirelessly for the community's rights and supported inspired others to follow in their footsteps. We are standing on the shoulders of giants and carrying your work with us.

CORK TRAVELLER WOMEN'S NETWORK

is a Traveller led community development project working for Traveller rights. We have worked strategically with the Triskel since 2017 as a joint response to the national recognition of Travellers as an indigenous ethnic group. This work supports increasing access to the arts for the Traveller community on multiple levels and also gives a platform to Traveller voices through the arts.