

Interactive Museum of Languages for Young Audiences

James O'Driscoll Gallery

2 April to 4 May

The Interactive Museum of Languages for Young Audiences (IMYLA) is an exhibition for children at Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre. It encourages children's self-expression and creativity, drawing on ancient and living languages to reflect on the diversity of languages in our environment.

The interactive artworks are inspired by linguistic artifacts, signs, pictographs and alphabets and each is accompanied by a range of activities for children between the ages of 5 and 12. These are designed to spark children's interest in other languages and cultures, and to encourage children to talk about their own languages.

The **Kanji Scroll** shows some of the symbols that make up the Kanji alphabet, the adopted logographic Chinese characters that are used in the Japanese writing system. The scroll is the starting point for children to learn about calligraphy and brush strokes.

The **Storytelling Well** is an interactive video experience. Through the use of the interactive tablets, a video story gets activated. The well and the tree are engraved in different languages too, making it a fun exploratory tool.

The **Mirror of Memory** is a surface created for children to play with alphabets from different parts of the world. The surface reflects the image and acts as a magnetic board that children can use to play with letters. The mirror also holds a number of engraved tablets that contain stories of the cultures from which they originate. Each tablet comes with a sensor that, placed against the **Storytelling Well**, activates a story.

The **Interactive Tablets** carry inscriptions of words, poems and ancient symbolism. A tracker is attached to each tablet and has the function of activating a story from the **Storytelling Well**.

Arabic, 6 minutes

Ukrainian, 4 minutes

Hungarian, 4 minutes

Chinese, 3 minutes

Polish, 3 minutes

Kurdish, 4 minutes

Bembe, 6 minutes

German, 4 minutes

Hindi, 2 minutes

Italian, 3 minutes

Irish, 4 minutes

Māori, 3 minutes

Brazilian Portuguese, 4 minutes

The **Incal - Knotted language of the Incas** represents the ancient languages that were not using alphabets but rather expressed meaning through repetitive patterns. The Inca's knotted language was one of these. By engaging with this sculpture, children can create patterns and think of ways in which we can share messages without using words or letters.

The **Colour Jigsaw** and the **Braille Jigsaw** are tools to explore the language of colour and the patterns of the Braille writing system.

The exhibition is accompanied by a programme of workshops, gallery tours and discussions for children, families and schools including:-

Teacher's Event with Tomasz Madajczak, Dr Francesca La Morgia and Kate McElroy.

Wednesday 6 April at 5.00pm

Free, booking on [Eventbrite](#)

This discussion is designed for teachers and is linked to the primary language curriculum, showing teachers practical ways in which to use children's languages and creativity to improve their intercultural practices.

Easter Storytelling Sculpture Camp with Tomasz Madajczak and Mark Ball.

Tuesday 19 April to Saturday 23 April from 11am to 3.30pm each day

Free, booking on [Eventbrite](#)

The Camp takes place over four days and explores visual art, storytelling and multilingual stories for children (9 to 12 years) who speak more than one language at home.

For further information on these, and other Interactive Museum Events see www.westcorkartscentre.com and keep an eye on our social media.

Museum of Languages for Young Audiences was initiated and developed in 2021 by **Mother Tongues**, a social enterprise working to promote multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in Ireland, under the creative direction of West Cork-based visual artist Tomasz Madajczak.

IMLYA was commissioned by South Dublin County Council Arts Office as part of Cruinniú na nÓg 2021, and was co-funded by Languages Connect.

The exhibition at Uillinn is supported by the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon.

The Easter Storytelling Sculpture Camp is supported by an Arts Council Agility Award.

