



A joint initiative for second level by CIT Arts Office and CIT ACCESS Office, with artists **Leanne McDonagh**, to support young artists in developing and presenting their work.

The CIT Access Service together with the CIT Arts Office have organised a new Art initiative for Linked Schools. The initiative is an art competition where aspiring young artists from Access Linked Schools are invited to submit an art piece themed 'My Education, My Future'. The initiative aims to allow students in linked second level schools an opportunity to explore their future aspirations through Art. The programme encourages budding artists to express their creativity and have their creations exhibited in a professional dedicated art space.

The participating schools will exhibit their work in the James Barry Exhibition Centre at Cork Institute of Technology from the 8th-29th April 2014. The student artists will be invited with their families, friends, teachers and principals to a formal Exhibition launch on Tuesday, 8th April. CIT Registrar & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Barry O'Connor will formally open the exhibition and artist Leanne Mc Donnagh who has been supporting this project in the schools will give an opening address.

Deirdre Creedon, Access Officer, stated that "this new initiative has allowed the Access Linked Schools Programme engage with students at second level who have artistic talents and give them an opportunity to focus on their futures. Having the work displayed in CIT will provide a platform to showcase the students' creative work.

It is very appropriate that we have the official launch of the programme during Cork's 11th Lifelong Learning Festival which takes place April 7th – 13th. "Schools involved in this project are:

- Ursulines Secondary School
- St. Aidan's Community College
- Carrignafoy Community College, Cobh
- St. Brogan's College, Bandon
- Deerpark CBS

"CIT Arts Office is delighted to facilitate this art exhibition which offers these young artists a professional platform to present their work in a gallery setting. The James Barry Exhibition Centre is CIT's dedicated visual arts space and the 2014 Semester 2 programme is an eclectic and inspiring selection of events. All are welcome to visit." Sarah C. Morey, CIT Arts Officer.

