

FAQs for IEA's Celtic Convergence Retreat at Mulranny Arts

As of August 31, 2023 - note that we will update as we get more questions!

What is the schedule for the retreat?

View the most current, **detailed version of the Celtic Convergence Retreat Schedule** on the homepage of the IEA website: <https://www.international-encaustic-artists.org/>

Here is a brief overview of the schedule:

Our Welcoming Reception is on Oct 12 at the Mulranny Park hotel from 5 pm to 7 pm.

Daily start and end times on Oct 13, 14, and 15 are 9:30am to 4:45 pm

On Oct 16, you may choose between an outing (departure time TBA) or Open Studio (details below.)

For those who are departing by train to Dublin on Oct 17, bus pickup times are 8 am for the 9:45 am train to Dublin and 12pm for the 1:10 pm train to Dublin.

How do I get to Mulranny?

Mulranny Arts staff have provided a very helpful document with guidance and links about how best to get to Mulranny. [Arriving in Ireland](#) is available on our website.

***Be sure to **email (info@mulrannyarts.com)** or text **(087 920 8829)** Mulranny Arts **at least 2 days prior to your arrival** with your train arrival times so that Mulranny can make arrangements to transport you from Westport to your accommodations.

Will it be possible to see all of the demos and presentations?

Yes! We have 11 internationally acclaimed artists who will do demonstrations and presentations. To afford all attendees the opportunity to participate in each artist's session, we have asked our presenters to present twice. Sessions will be held in two buildings and we've outlined two "pathways" that will allow you to see each presentation with minimal movement between the two locations.

You can view the most current version of the [Demonstration & Presentation schedule](#) on our website.

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Will there be time during the retreat to work in the studios and what materials will be available?

Open studio times are from 10 am to 2 pm or 2pm - 6pm on Monday, Oct 16 at the MAC studio. (You will have the choice between an outing to Achill Island or remaining at Mulranny for Open Studio.)

Mulranny is equipped with electric palettes, heat guns and torches that you may use. Thanks to our very generous sponsors, R&F Handmade Paints and Enakaustikos, you'll have access to some paints and encaustic medium although we recommend that you bring your own paints, tools, brushes and substrate....and of course a smock or painting clothes. There is a well-stocked onsite shop if you would like to buy additional paints or tools.

How can I participate in the Art Exchange?

One of the most popular components of IEA retreats is an Art Exchange! All retreat participants are invited to bring a small work of wax-media art (encaustic or oils and wax) which will be displayed for the first few days of the retreat. Then, each person who contributed work will receive one of the other works on a lottery basis. Who knows what treasure you will go home with?!

How will we interact with the Ephemeral Exhibition?

The exhibit will be on display throughout the retreat (and for a few weeks afterwards, as well.)

We're delighted to host an Artist Reception and Juror Talk on Saturday, October 14 after our Demos & Presentations wrap-up. We'll have light refreshments and spouses and partners are welcome.

What are the plans for breakfast?

We will provide the following complementary items in each rented house and everyone will be able to help themselves to: *Tea, coffee, milk, homemade brown bread, Irish butter, marmalade, cereals, eggs and fruit* (Mulranny is requesting breakfasts by 8 am to give everyone time to get to the retreat meeting spaces by 9:30 am.)

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If you are looking for a heartier breakfast, there are 2 restaurants in the village with good breakfasts that you can purchase.

What about lunch and dinner on workshop and retreat days?

Lunch is provided for all workshop and retreat days **except on Oct 16** which is the tour or open studio day.

Those going on the tour will be taken to the Beehive Cafe on Achill Island which is served individually from a counter (cost is on your own.)

For those who stay at Mulranny for Open Studio, you are welcome to make your own sandwiches in the kitchen.

We will have a welcome dinner on Friday, Oct 13 for attendees (and spouses/partners if attendee has purchased the add-on accommodations package.)

Other dinners are on your own. We are pleased to announce a special optional evening out on Sunday Oct 15 at Nevin's Pub! An evening of dinner, good company, music, and dancing for €75 per person (which you will have the opportunity to book and purchase at the retreat.). It promises to be a lovely celebration of our time together!

Is there a laundry service?

There is no laundry service as such, but Mulranny does have a couple of washing machines at the retreat facilities. There is a charge of €5 cash for a wash and dry and Mulranny staff will help you with that.

Will there be hair dryers in our rooms?

There will be at least one hairdryer in each housing unit.

I am flying into Dublin and taking the train. How will I get back to the airport after the retreat?

There will be 2 return times with bus collection from Mulranny to Westport train station. The trains depart Westport at 9:45 am and 1:10 pm (departures from Mulranny are 8:00 am and noon.)

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The 9:45 train gives you more time in Dublin as it gets in at 1 pm and the 1:10 pm gets in at 4:30pm. (There is an earlier and a later train than these two, if necessary, but you would need to make your own taxi arrangements for those.)

We recommend that you book your train ticket online <https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/> as soon as possible and that you consider paying for a flexible ticket in case they need to shift things around. (It only costs a couple of euros more.)

At the station, get on the train as soon as possible once they announce the platform (about 20 minutes before departure) as luggage can be awkward sometimes with so many people. Each carriage has a section on one side or the other for suitcases and overhead space for carry-on bags. It can get crowded with large groups, but always seems to work out. (Once seats are booked your name or number goes above the seat and you can ask people sitting in your seat to move if necessary.)