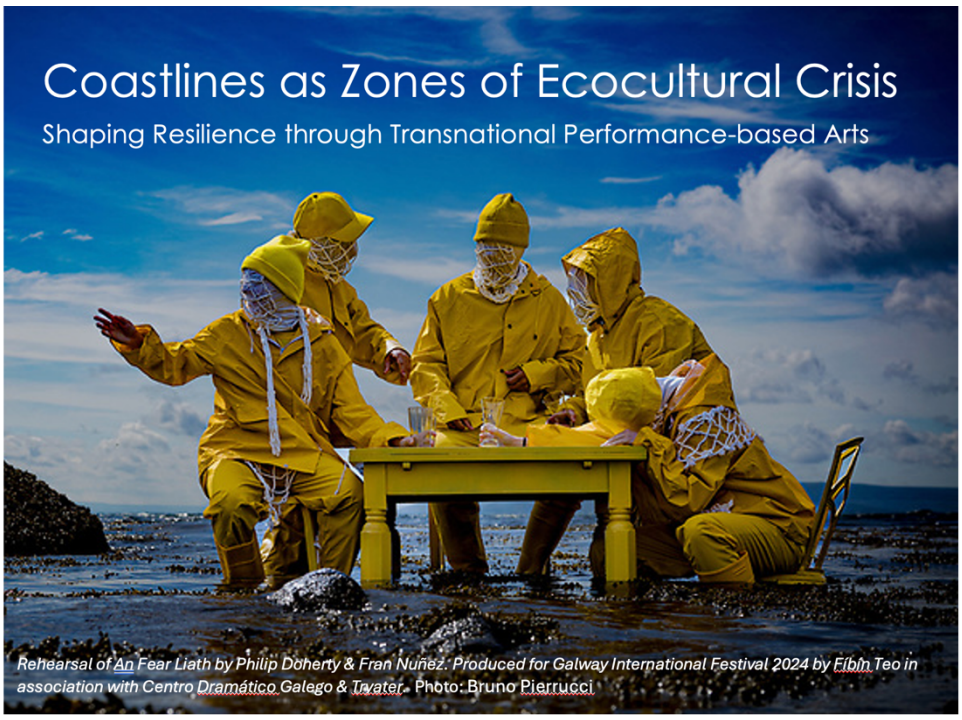
CoastARTS

Creative research connecting coastlines across places and time

United Kingdom
Ireland
Portugal
Spain
Norway
and beyond ...

https://coastarts.net



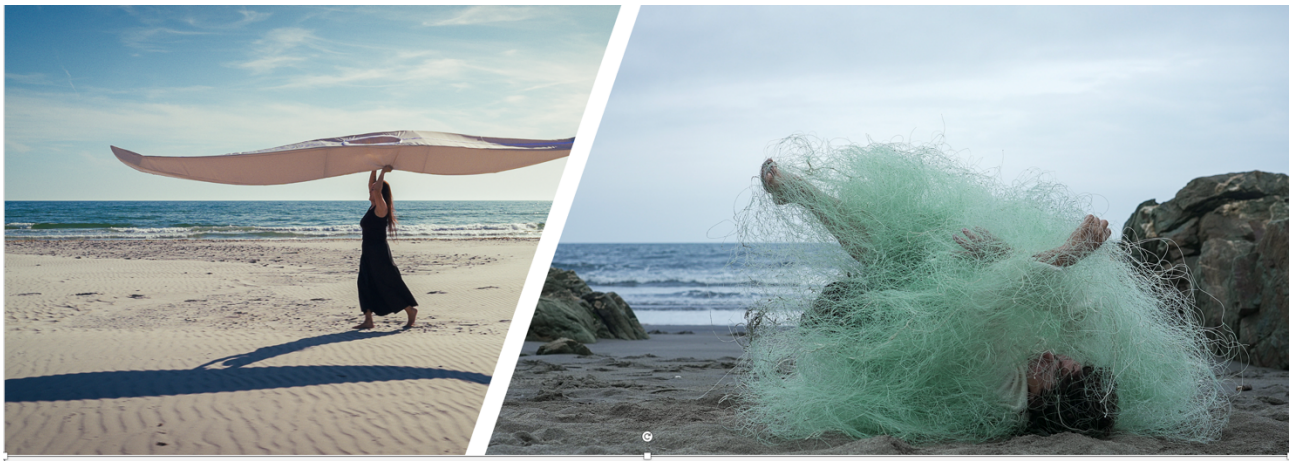

CoastARTS investigates the intersection of ecological and cultural crises in coastal areas of Western Europe and its former colonies. By combining performing arts practice with research, the project explores how past and present environmental threats shape human and multispecies communities. Our main objectives are to recover and share neglected ecological knowledge, to analyse how crisis is understood in a cross-section of sites and communities, and to foster collaborative and adaptive responses to planetary change.

In year one, CoastARTS focused on expanding the consortium, developing complementary methods, gathering archival and observational data, and building relationships with collaborators and local communities to enable creative, multiphase studies of coastal crises. The second year has seen intensive development and documentation of practice-led research, along with preliminary reflections on findings, and the delivery of numerous knowledge exchange activities. Four postdoctoral researchers have joined the project since inception, expanding the core team to 15, and we have also added associate partners in Norway. CoastARTS is on track to deliver a rich programme of creative research, the essential basis for our coauthored book on methods, and has launched an open-access digital archive at the University of Oviedo and a project website to disseminate aspects of this work.

Researchers in each country have devised complementary creative projects. The Norway team ran five multi-day workshops in collaboration with artists and teachers, using arts-based methods to investigate schoolchildren's engagement in coastal bird conservation. CoastARTS Spain co-developed research on multispecies intertidal sediments working with artist-in-residence Teresa Hernández (from Puerto Rico), and also completed fieldwork for a devised performance on plastics pollution along the Andalucian coast. The UK team worked with artist-in-residence Jessie Kleemann (from Greenland) and also Gentle Furies Theatre to devise separate performances using mythic storytelling to explore climate-related crises. CoastARTS Ireland produced a four-part podcast series interviewing theatre-makers on environmental change and also completed groundwork for a community-engaged performance investigating vernacular knowledge of coastal ecologies. The Portugal team conducted extensive interviews with communities experiencing severe coastal erosion and will use this data in a participatory arts project addressing risk perception and resilience strategies.

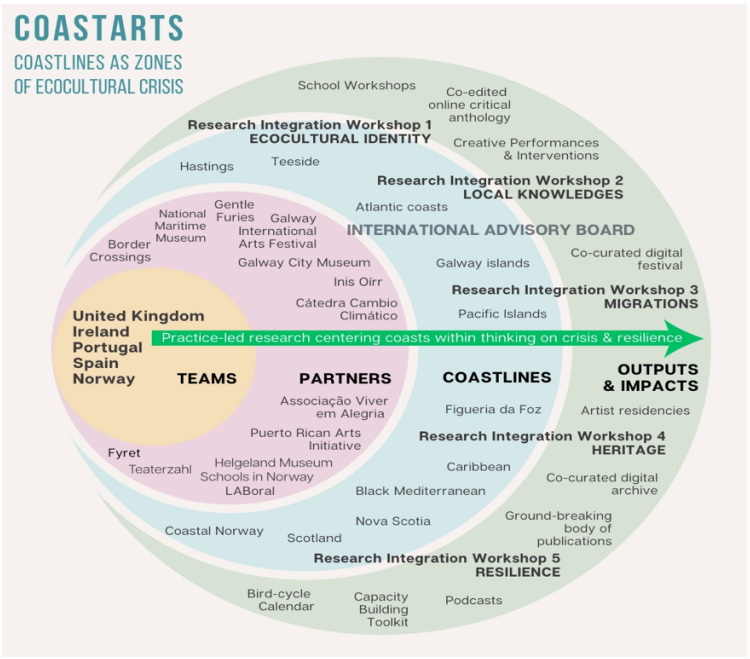
To date, CoastARTS has convened three multi-day Research Integration Workshops, each fostering thematic and methodological connections and including project partner contributions. RIW1 (Bødo and Røst, Norway) focused on ecocultural identity in the context of threats to coastal bird populations; RIW2 (London) explored the concept of localities in relation to urban estuarine environments; and RIW3 (Coimbra) investigated memory and cultural heritage in the face of coastal erosion.

Podcasts, videos and blogs from the research have been disseminated through the project website and will contribute to a co-edited digital anthology. Scientific outputs to date include 16 conference presentations, while public-facing events co-hosted with cultural sector partners have so far engaged over 1500 participants in arts-based activities addressing coast-related environmental crises. The potential long-term impact of CoastARTS research lies in connecting environmental knowledge with local cultural practices, broadening participation in conversations about ecological change, and demonstrating how the arts contribute to more inclusive forms of environmental dialogue and care.



1. Jessie Kleemann performs *The Flying Kayak* at Wadden Tide festival. 2. Teresa Hernández brings *Las bravatas trasatlánticas* to the Cantabrian Coast.
3. CoastARTS Norway's creative fieldwork with schoolchildren at Rotvoll shoreline. 4. World Ocean Day workshops at London's Maritime Museum.






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