

# Christina Kubisch

# VOICES OF MEMORY



A riverside sound art installation at the **Irish National War Memorial Gardens**

**Voices of Memory** is a contemporary remembrance of the more than 49,000 Irish people who died in the First World War. In 1923, these names were published in *Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918*. Consisting of eight volumes, these records, beautifully designed and illustrated by Irish artist Harry Clarke, are housed nearby in the Irish National War Memorial Gardens.

Almost the entire list of these names was read by volunteers of different ages and accents from across Ireland. The sound installation is based on the flow of these male and female voices playing over the banks of the river. The names are heard in alphabetical order, and every name, even when repeated, corresponds to a different person. Along with small breaks of silence, the composition includes sounds of underwater recordings made in the Liffey; the rhythm of the passing rowing boats, the hidden natural world of small insects and animals, and the flow of water itself.

Cuimhneachán comhaimseartha atá in Voices of Memory ar na 49,000 Éireannach agus tuilleadh a cailleadh sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda. Foilsíodh na hainmneacha seo in Ireland's Memorial Records 1914-1918 sa bhliain 1923. Tá na taifid seo, atá comhdhéanta d'ocht n-imleabhar, deartha agus maisithe go hálainn ag an ealaíontóir Éireannach, Harry Clarke, agus tá siad á gcoinneáil gar don tsuiteáil i nGairdíní Náisiúnta Cuimhneacháin Cogaidh na hÉireann.

Tá chóir a bheith gach uile ainm ar an liosta léite os ard ag oibríthe deonacha d'aoiseanna éagsúla a bhfuil blasanna éagsúla as fud fad na hÉireann ar a gcuid cainte acu. Sruth guthanna baineanna agus fireanna thar bhruacha na habhann atá i gceist leis an tsuiteáil fuaime. Tá na hainmneacha in ord aibítreach, agus tagraíonn gach ainm acu do dhuine ar leith, fiú nuair a bhíonn athrá i gceist. Tá tréimhsí gairide ciúnais ann mar aon le fuaimeanna a taifeadadh faoin uisce sa Life: rithim na mbád ráimhaíochta agus iad ag dul thar bráid, domhan ceilte na bhfeithidí agus na n-ainmhithe, agus sruth an uisce féin.



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



An Roinn  
Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



OPW  
Office of Public Works





For more information please visit:

[www.goethe.de/irland/voicesofmemory](http://www.goethe.de/irland/voicesofmemory)

This project website offers insights into the sound art installation **Voices of Memory**. It informs about the development of the project over two years, about the different stakeholders, who have been involved, and about the setting of the installation. Furthermore articles on the historical context and on sound art in Dublin can be found there.

There is a separate platform on which relatives of Irish soldiers who died in WWI have the opportunity to commemorate them by writing down their story and by sharing it on the website. The relatives contribute to the process of remembrance and give insights into the often unknown fates of the ten thousands of soldiers, whose names are read out in the sound art installation.