

New Umbilical Cord

“New Umbilical” is a new body of work developed based on the concept of Leia’s initial video piece “Umbilical Cord”, commissioned by CFCP as part of their 3rd Space Initiative. The group exhibition (visual artist Leia Mocan & Barbara O’Meara & audio artist: Robert David) was organized at Gallery X, Dublin 2022

This new work explores an invisible cord linking individual artists through their art. This is also a connection between the two cultures: Romanian and Irish. From a conceptual perspective, this body of work explores the metamorphosis of the artists’ self-shifting identities and the all-consuming creation process. A eulogy of transformation marking the continuous migration of self through the means of video production, interleaved with spoken word poems and performance

The artists Leia and Barbara collaborated over nine months to create a physical textile piece using recycled material, hand-sewn to represent an umbilical connection. The stitching together of the cord, using only one needle passed between both artists in synchronised movements, was filmed as a performance piece. The poetry, spoken in their language (Eng subtitles), was inspired by the theme of ‘New Umbilical’ and was specifically written and performed by each artist for this project.

The custom-made soundtrack created by the audio artist Robert David incorporates the music of both the traditional Romanian Instrument, the pan flute, and the Irish Celtic Drum played by Barbara to represent each artist’s individual background and culture. The result is a meaningful collaborative piece which connects the two artists, their creative processes, documenting their journey to bring this video installation piece ‘New Umbilical’ to a broader audience.

Video work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTwmwQGDsJU>