



Photo: Gerard McCarthy

German MEP and disability rights activist delighted with lightning-fast portrait at Cork Supported Studios

A German MEP and disability campaigner sat for a lightning-fast portrait while paying a visit to Crawford Supported Studios in Cork city on Tuesday.

German Green Party MEP Katrin Langensiepen was visiting Cork with her Irish counterpart, MEP Grace O'Sullivan, on a fact-finding mission about disability resources in Ireland when Crawford Supported Studios artist Yvonne Condon delighted the pair by offering to paint portraits of each.

Crawford Supported Studios is a group of disabled artists who are supported in their arts practice by Crawford Art Gallery and MTU Crawford College of Art and Design. Several artworks by Supported Studios artists are now in the National Collection.

MEP Katrin Langensiepen praised the aura of calm and concentration when she dropped by the artists' regular Tuesday studio for a visit and said that collectives like the Supported Studios "show that smaller projects and individual supports are an important part of how an inclusive society can be."

"These artists have a real choice and a real chance to paint. The fact that it is in the centre of Cork also adds to how inclusive it is."

Artists David Connolly, Tom O'Sullivan, Yvonne Condon, Íde Ní Shuilleabhán and Nicola Moran were all on hand to demonstrate their art techniques and then Yvonne offered portraits to the visiting MEPs.

Ms Langensiepen has been on a fact-finding mission to Cork, Dublin and Belfast arranged by Grace O'Sullivan MEP, to get an overview of inclusivity in Ireland and to visit projects that uphold the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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