

Frances Crowe Tapestry Artist



COUNTRY AND CITY/IES

County Roscommon, Ireland

FIELD OF WORK

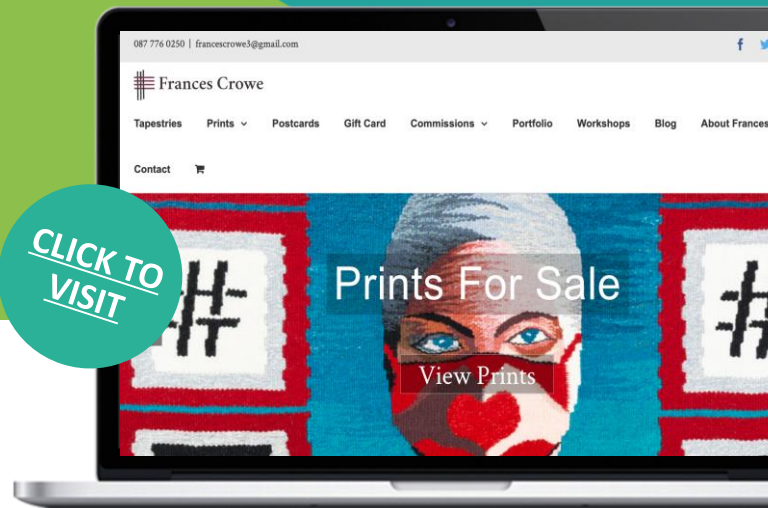
Art + workshops, raising awareness about displaced people from Syria, settling in Ireland and Irish Famine victims who were forced from their homes in 1847

THE ACTION IS ADDRESSED TO (BENEFICIARIES)

I identified a group of women in the refugee centre in Ballaghaderreen County Roscommon, who were interested in handicrafts, such as knitting and crochet, and I set up a class to teach them how to weave. Initially there were over 20 ladies signed up to take the class, but the number varied every week as many of them had other appointments at the designated time. Some were unable to attend due to not having any babysitting services and husbands were unwilling to help, so my class became one of mixed numbers, ages, and I often accepted and worked with young children along with their mothers.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY

During my research for the design concept, I was invited to work with a group of women in the refugee centre where I learned of their stories, many of which I incorporated into my work. There was a need to create, to learn new skills, to meet, to talk, to relax, to mingle, and to meet local artists and craft workers. The participants visited the centre, selected a room, a day, a time, a group of learners, an experienced teacher, had a contact with a local artist, and learned new skills. Each learner was provided with their own tapestry frame loom, a selection of yarns to weave with, a scissor, sewing thread and needles. Many of them worked tirelessly on their own projects and made beautiful bags, purses, table mats and wall hangings, which were displayed in the centre for all to see. Long-lasting friendships were made and the awareness about refugees and their needs was raised in the public through art that is produced.



MAIN GOALS

- Raising awareness about the needs of refugees and providing meaningful bonds for refugees, women, through art

IMPACTS OF THE ACTIVITY

- Improving inclusion and integration through making bonds
- Raising awareness on inclusion

COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

The Leitrim design centre in Carrick on Shannon, The department of Justice

SUSTAINABILITY (ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY)

The project ended after 3 months and it has not been redone. The artwork is present and this topic is a source of inspiration, and it is all shared on the web site and social media, so through all those activities, awareness about refugees is being raised in the specific way that art enables.

TRANSFERABILITY

Any other art form or creative activity could both:

- Be inspired by the needs of refugees and raise awareness about them
- Facilitate socialising through workshops for the benefit of the refugees