

*Soul-Place: Anam Áite**Connecting Home, Spirit and Heritage
Through Painting*

This research investigates anam áite (the Irish concept of “soul-place”) through a painting-based, practice-led inquiry grounded in phenomenology, materiality, and the affective dimensions of place. It asks how contemporary painting can evoke the spirit of place and engage environmental, ancestral, and emotional resonances. Situated between Aotearoa New Zealand and Ireland, the research positions painting as a means of articulating lived relationships to land, memory, and heritage.

The inquiry is materially driven and process-based, foregrounding the agency of matter and the reciprocal relationship between artist, medium, and method. Cold wax medium is central for its capacity to hold uncertainty, flux, and transformation. Wax, pigment, and surface operate beyond intention: they crack, absorb, resist, and reconfigure. These material behaviours generate their own methodologies, shaping the work through collaboration rather than control. This approach aligns with phenomenological and new materialist perspectives, where matter is understood as an active participant in meaning-making.

The resulting artworks function as durational artefacts that hold traces of ecological, ancestral, and perceptual time. Through material transformation, painting becomes an attentive practice of worlding in which spirit, matter, and memory converge to evoke the complexity of place.

-Janet Mazenier, March 2026

Foyer

Silfra, 2025, 2730 × 1730mm, oil, mixed media, beeswax medium on canvas

Gallery Two

Ephemeral Song, 2026, 22000 × 2240mm, oil, mixed media, beeswax medium on canvas

