



Dublin
Simon
Community

SCRAPPY BUT HAPPY 12

A priceless limited edition
expressed in words and pictures
by people accessing Dublin Simon
Community services.



Inside Front Cover (Hardback)

A special message

*As I step aside as CEO of Dublin Simon Community to embark on a new chapter, I am reminded of the huge impact of **Scrappy but Happy**. From conceptualising this 12 years ago I remain continually astounded at the creativity, resilience, and talent of those accessing our services. **Scrappy but Happy** serves as a platform for clients to show off their talents and imagination, proving they are so much more than the label society tries to place on them. The desire to create and express oneself is universal and Scrappy but Happy is a tool that gives clients a unique opportunity for self-expression. The capacity of our clients to share their stories, experiences and talent through their artwork is inspiring.*

*Throughout my involvement and sponsorship of **Scrappy but Happy** I have come into contact with very many clients and staff who have shaped the **Scrappy but Happy** experience and I would like to especially acknowledge: Majella Darcy for initially spearheading the project. Eimear O'Neill, Ailbhe Creane, Karen Peakin, Anna West, Monique Rossouw, Katie Sheehan and Sharon Keogh for coordinating the production of the book over the years. All the staff, volunteers and facilitators who were part of the Client Development team over the years and contributed to the production and launch*

of the book; Áine Lavelle, Aisling Molloy, Alan Daly, Alba Corpus, Alea Stokes, Ana Martinez, Angela Shepherd, Anna Mateu, Anna Wallace, Christina Beattie, Christina Mooney, Ciara Cadden, Ciara Murphy, Claire O'Sullivan, Cormac Browne, David Stone, Denise Roche, Elizabeth Lebedova, Emer Slocket, Emma Cooray, Emma McGarry, Fiona Mulrine, Grace Vaughey, Gráinne Dunne, Grainne O'Carroll, Gráinne Weldon, Ines Silva, Janis Porikis, Jenny Papassotiriou, John O'Malley, JT Treanor, Juan Urbina, Karol O' Loughlin, Kim Coffey, Louise Gambrill, Lucy Ryan, Lynsey Browne, Maeve Devoy, Maria Carey, Maria Pulido, Marianne Dignam, Martin Baker, Mary Kervick, Mary Lally, Niamh Lacy, Niamh Smith, Nico McNamee, Nora Kilcullen, Rachel Gallagher, Róisín Keane, Sandra Popovaitė and Valerie Sirr.

Most importantly I would like to thank all the clients who have contributed to this book over the years. Thank you for sharing your creative talents with us.

Sam

Artist: J.



“ Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire,
you will what you imagine, and at last, you create what you will. ”

George Bernard Shaw (1856 -1950)

Dublin Simon Community is delighted to launch the 12th Edition of **Scrappy but Happy**. Since 2011, **Scrappy but Happy** has been a space for those who access our homeless and housing services to showcase their amazing talent by sharing their artworks and creative writing pieces.

At Dublin Simon Community, we understand the important role meaningful activities can play in providing structure, purpose, intellectual stimulation, self-esteem, socialisation and independence in the lives of people accessing our services. The Client Development team's purpose is to provide education, training, employment and personal development services to clients within our services. The team facilitates meaningful activities in two areas, personal development and creative arts. This year we were delighted to be able to resume in person delivery of our meaningful activity programme after almost two years of online activity due to COVID -19.

The creative and arts meaningful activities range from art, creative writing, poetry and crafts. Further classes in literacy tuition, computer and employability skills training are also offered. By adopting a holistic approach to development, the team aim to support participants' individual needs and enable them to achieve their goals.

We would also like to thank the staff and volunteers who coordinate and facilitate these classes: Ines Silva, Harrison Rokhlin, Maria Pulido, Nora Kilcullen, Niamh Lacy, Eamonn McLoughlin, Mary Kervick, Emer Slocket, Maeve Devoy, Ciara Murphy and Monique Rossouw.

Most importantly, to all the incredibly talented participants who have contributed artwork and creative writing to this book a very special thank you. Thank you for your openness in sharing your creativity and talents without you this book would not exist.

*Dublin Simon Community
November 2022*



Artist: Ian

Hand of Hope

When skies are cloudy with dimming light
On rocky shores, take my hand
I will lift you high when waters rise
And calm the seas and brighten skies

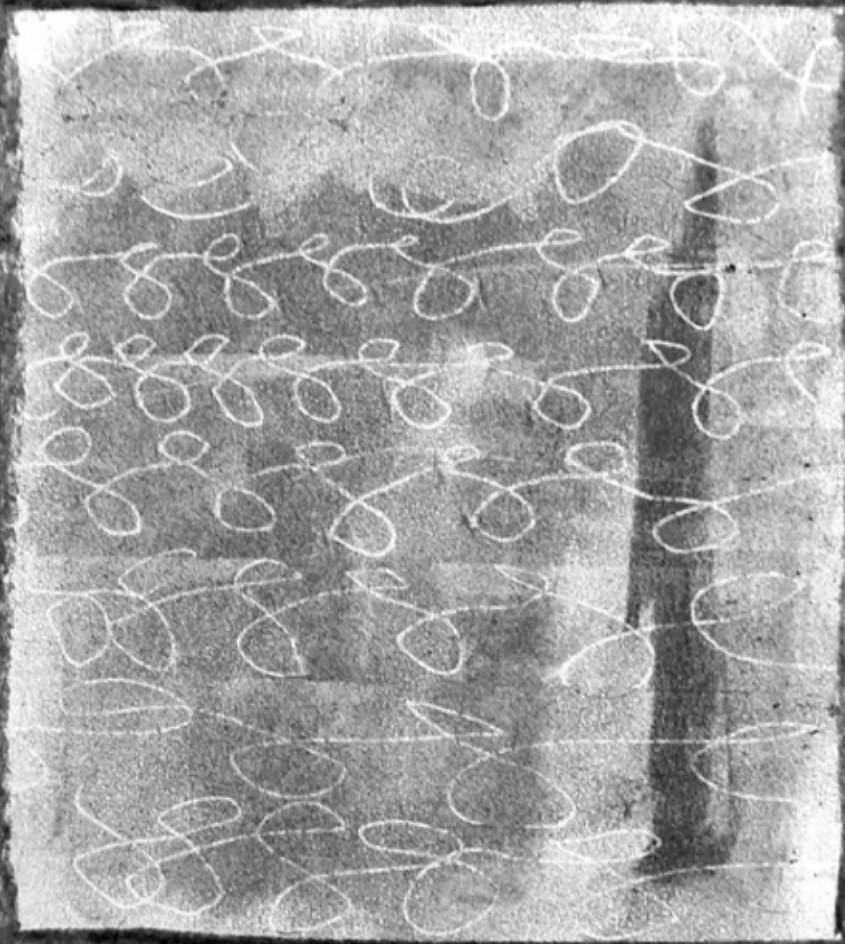
I am your friend
To guide you through the brambles of life
Heal your wounds and give you vision
Stiffen your sail on starry nights

I will hug you when you see no hope
Lend an ear when you are all alone
Kiss you as the dawn breaks
And anchor you to a sandy, sunny shore

Thomas MacM



Artist: Anonymous



Artist: Jerry



Artist: JR



Artist: Ronan

The Riverbank Arklow

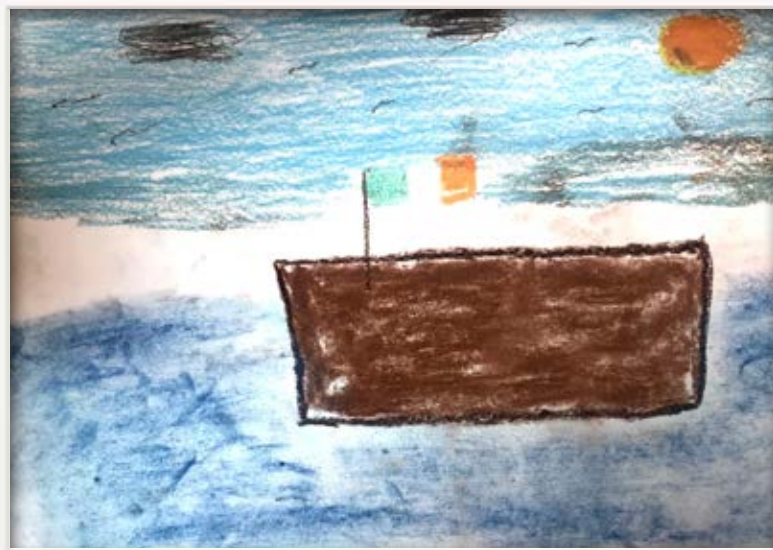
INSPIRED BY THE POEM 'MOON RIVER'

I spent many happy days
A childhood spent,
With puppet masters,
Sugar like caster was there plug
An empty can explained the man
A mask he needed to pass his day.

A happy place,
A dangerous place.
It changed from day to day.
The moon that shone upon the place
Attracted lots of strays,
I learnt so much from that time
I stopped myself from myself

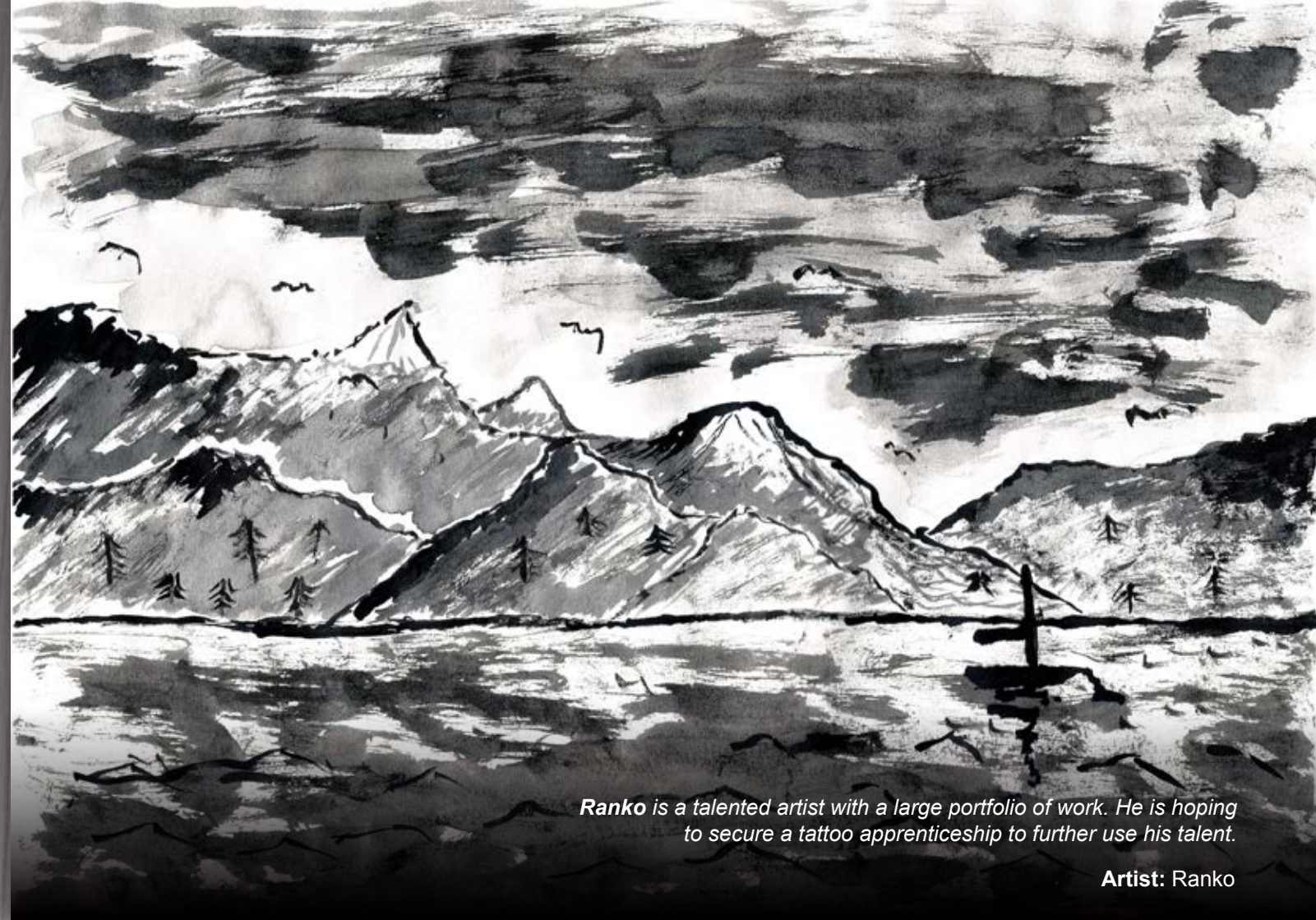
Trying to get away,
I will never regret the times I had and what I learned
From blocking out my day.
The moon that shone upon that river.
Lit the way to my path
As I sit here now foreseeing the future
I pray I don't look back.

G Byrne



Artist: Martin

Martin shared that he hadn't picked up art since school but decided to draw something he enjoyed.



Ranko is a talented artist with a large portfolio of work. He is hoping to secure a tattoo apprenticeship to further use his talent.

Artist: Ranko



Photo: Craig

THE BEAUTY OF LIFE CONTROLS YOUR MIND

I sit on the lawn as the sun over the black caste does dawn

Sitting there as I watch the fawn

Lay back on to the green

You know its the beauty we have all seen.

Chaps at 6 am walking home

All full of song

Yet I sit in an amazed ways

As the sun does rise with the rays.

Smiles all plenty as Wicklow does sing

Days like this is what makes life begin

Time to get up and Saunders home

Back to Ballynerrin cause that's were I belong.

Hour later I hit home

Mount Carmel Avenue were I belong

As I look down were we once break-danced to hip hop bands

Looking at the pump house all so grand.

In my mind, I hear hip hop tunes

Grasping the night when life was not full of gloom

Chaps dancing to early morn

Its were we belong

CRAIG

***Craig** draws a great deal of his inspiration for his photography and poetry from his life in Wicklow.*

Photo: Craig



Sharon said the piece inspired her to take a trip to the beach which she has not been to in many years.

Artist: Sharon



Artist: Marcin

Artist: Jerry



MY MOMMA LOVES ME

To hear your voice for once that's not a ghost
The one that meant the most
Yet I am not been bad about dad
Another's ghosts voice
Lost and confused show me the sign
Cause my eyes are blind
Show me your hand come through the heavens tonight
I promise I wont feel the fright
Pull me up with your grasp
Thanking you this is the last
Pure heaven where the angels are pure
Mum you are my cure

CRAIG

Artist: Sandy





Artist: Sandy



Artist: Martina



Artist: Ranko



Artist: Gerry

My Family

My family are always there
And will always care
My mother is my best friend
Until the very end
My children mean so much to me
And forever you will see
My brothers are every thing
To me and I hope that one day
They will see

Cheryl



Artist: Martina



Artist: Ranko

DREAMS

During a creative writing workshop in Detox we explored the theme of dreams both in while we are sleeping and also the daydreams and dreams we have for our future. These are two pieces created by participants in the workshop.

My life
My dreams
My family
My end

My dream in my life since I was young in age were stolen from me in front of my eyes and since then my life has become a disaster zone, but I still have hope! To carry on with my life no matter what.

Abulelhefid

I don't
dream about
the future

I don't think dreams can be real
just you can make the reality
become apart of your life for your
happiness not when you sleep
and one time you wake up you
feel the reality where you are.

Alex



Photo: Craig



Artist: Winnie

Warm a Heart

Light a candle for a friend,
Warm their heart, and send a smile.
Say a prayer, think of them,
Wish them well from a mile.

Write a letter telling news,
Little cost for joy it brings.
Lift the phone, say 'Hello!'
Joining minds, harmony sings.

Sing a song, raise the spirit,
Tell a joke, make them laugh.
Share a dish, fill their hunger,
Steal a kiss from your other half

Thomas MacM



Artist: Anonymous

Crafting & Making



Boxes: by clients in BBVU



Origami Swans: by clients in Detox



Christian worked diligently on creating a unique dream catcher. He spoke of using this to brighten his space.



Artist: Christian



Artist: FC

Summer sand and sea

I went to the beach and walked
On the sand and with that my
 Daughter held my hand
The summer is here so we
All cheer, smiles all around
 As I walk on to the sea
And all I could be was happy

Cheryl



The Magician

Once tall, now stooped
An old man in a young man's body
Shuffles onto the bridge
Makes his way to the centre
Lowers himself slowly to sit
Draws his knees to his chest
Takes a paper cup from his lived-in coat
Puts it beside him on the ground
And with those simple motions
To the stream of humanity
Passing him by
Becomes invisible.

John



Artist: Andrew

The red rose and its thorn
Some people can look as beautiful as a rose
but I have learnt not to judge with my eyes
for when the thorn pierces my skin I must stifle my cries.
Rather look to their soul for it tell no sharp lies.
For beauty distrusts and hides their cruel lies.

James

James shared this poem after coming into the writing session with mixed emotion. He was not sure how writing could be an outlet for his anger and using the rose as an inspiration he created this poem. After the session he commented around how he always tries to keep his emotions in check and this has not worked for him but he can see how writing could be a good outlet.



Artist: Ranko

The Hop in Kinvara

I am talking about a HOP in Kinvara where I was born and raised. The local women of Kinvara organised it for the age group, 13 to 16 years of age. Myself, one sister and two brothers used to cycle every Monday evening, 6 o'clock, dressed in our lovely clothes.

About 30 used to attend. We danced hornpipes, reels, jigs, jives and waltzes for two hours. Such fun and laughter! At 8 O'clock, we ate lovely sandwiches, teas, scones and fairy cakes. We ate our fill which the women of Kinvara made for us and cost us nothing. We cycled back home, tired but what an enjoyable evening "The Hop in Kinvara"

Rita C

Rita C. recalling a fond childhood memory.



Artist: Anonymous



Artist: Darrel



Artist: Andrew

Artist: Ranko

Freedom



Artist: Darrel

Beauty in Life

There is beauty in age
A wisdom from the road
Knowing what is valued
A wanting for happiness

Kind words and a kiss when awoken
Puts sunshine in your step
A smile in your heart
Even on a cloudy day

The freedom of peace of mind
Blossoms like the spring
Your senses will kiss the rainbow
And then your heart will be home

Thomas MacM

*Thomas is a published poet with his poetry
being featured in various publications.*



Artist: T. Dunne

Inside Back Cover (Hardback)





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Art Direction: Johnny Rothwell

Print by

DEFINITION 

The word "DEFINITION" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a colorful, abstract logo consisting of a central blue circle with a yellow dot, surrounded by a burst of red, orange, and yellow paint splatters.