

# THE BORDER IN IRELAND

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## **Abstract**

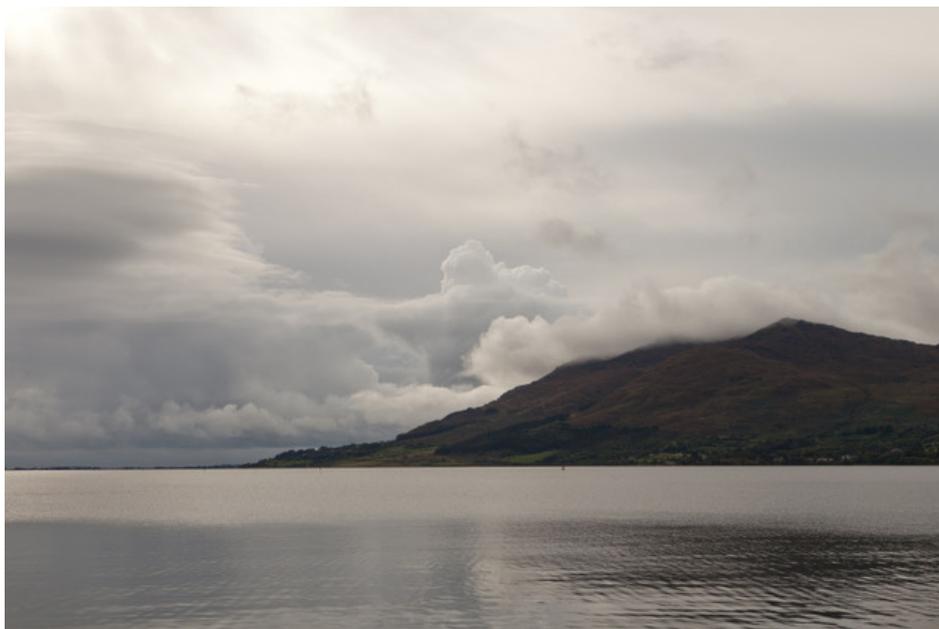
The Irish Border that marks the boundary between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland was supposed to be a hopeful compromise between two communities after years of political debate and increasing violence. 2021 marks the centenary of its creation and for the unionists a way of celebrating its ties with the United Kingdom, and for Republicans a reminder of the 'scar' on the Irish landscape and a tangible obstacle for Irish Unification.

The border is 500km (310 miles) long and I am researching, through the practice of photography, the interface of cultural identities to gain insights into the effects this border has had upon the local land and landscape of the region. Identity does not adhere to political boundaries, it is forged through a shared history.

My research aims to see if the Irish Border can be disentangled from the history and diverse political and religious lives of those who live in the shadow of this politically contrived border that has become the lens through which Ireland is viewed. It also seeks to discover the meaning of place and belonging in a politically and religiously polarised community.







### **Biography**

Mary is a visual artist specialising in photography. She is currently a Doctoral Researcher at Plymouth University working on The Irish Border (also known as The British Border in Ireland) researching the visual and cultural land and landscape of the region.

Mary is interested in how the land is used as a notion of belonging and formation of cultural identity. She has worked extensively in cold climates, especially Iceland and Greenland. Her work centres on remote landscapes that are regularly devoid of people.

Mary also has a PGCE and has lectured in Further Education.

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