(Re)Making the (Art) World:
Contemporary Fiction and Cultural Creativity in Spanish, Portuguese and Beyond

An international conference hosted by the ARTFICTIONS Project

University College Cork
2–4 June 2027

How does contemporary literature imagine artistic creativity? What do narratives about artists, cultural workers and creative practices reveal about the ways contemporary societies understand work, identity, value and the future? As artistic labour increasingly intersects with entrepreneurialism, precarious employment, digital economies and forms of self-fashioning, literary representations of creativity have become a privileged site for examining and challenging the social, political and material conditions of the present.

This international conference invites scholars to explore the changing relationships between literature, artistic creativity and cultural production in the twenty-first century. Inspired by the Research Ireland-funded project 'Assessing the Contemporary Art Novel in Spanish and Portuguese: Cultural Labour, Personal Identification and the Materialisation of Alternative Art Worlds' (ARTFICTIONS), the conference seeks to foster interdisciplinary conversations on how fiction imagines artistic practices, creative labour and alternative cultural futures.

While ARTFICTIONS focuses on contemporary fiction in Spanish and Portuguese across Africa, the Americas and Europe, the conference welcomes contributions addressing literary, artistic and cultural contexts from any linguistic, geographical or historical perspective. We are interested in approaches that examine how narratives of creativity respond to, reproduce or challenge the conditions of late capitalism and neoliberal cultural production. The conference also particularly welcomes praxis-based contributions that rethink the relationship between literature and artistic creativity beyond disciplinary boundaries and that consider fiction as a space for imagining alternative forms of cultural production, social organisation and collective life.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- The contemporary art novel and its evolving forms
- Literary representations of artists, writers, curators, musicians, performers, designers and other cultural workers
- Cultural labour, precariousness and creative economies
- Artmaking as a response to entrepreneurialism and neoliberal subjectivities
- Fiction and the politics of creative value
- Creativity, selfhood and processes of subject formation
- Alternative art worlds and counter-institutional cultural practices
- Materiality, infrastructures and networks of cultural production
- Artistic collaboration and collective forms of creativity
- Decolonising artistic capitalism

- Race, gender, class, sexuality and disability in representations of artistic labour
- Digital cultures, AI and new forms of creative production
- Ecologies of creativity and environmental imaginaries

We warmly encourage submissions from researchers at all career stages, including postgraduate researchers and early career scholars. Taking into consideration the conference's location and logistics, we kindly ask for papers in Portuguese, Spanish and English.

We invite proposals for individual papers of 15 minutes as well as panel submissions.

Individual papers: Please submit an abstract of approximately 250 words, specifying which of the abovementioned topics your proposal resonates more with, together with a short biographical note (100 words).

Panel submissions: Please submit a panel proposal including a panel title, a panel abstract (around 200 words), the titles and abstracts (250 words each) for each individual paper, and a 100-word biographical note for each participant **via email**.

All submissions should be sent by completing this online form: ARTFICTIONS Conference 2027 – Fill in form by 28 February 2027. Acceptance will be notified by late March.

Bursaries (covering up to €200) are available for early career researchers as well as for creative practitioners and academics without permanent jobs. If you want to apply for a bursary, please indicate so while filling in the form.

Selected papers may be considered for publication in an edited volume or special journal issue.

For enquiries, please contact Carlos Garrido Castellano (carlos.garridocastellano@ucc.ie) and Carla Almanza-Gálvez (calmanza-galvez@ucc.ie)

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