



**Winner of the 2018 Aigne Photo Competition:  
Identity (Re)Construction and Embodiment**

**Grace Felisa Claro**

School of English / School of History of Art, UCC

When contemplating the title “Identity (Re)Construction”, I decided that identity itself was too abstract and subjective a concept for me to fit its depiction into a simple portrait.

Therefore, I chose to digitally alter my raw images and ‘construct’ them into designs much more malleable and interpretable.

**Image 1 – A Leafy Canopy in Killarney:** Drawing from nature, the original image which features in this design is of a leafy canopy in Killarney National Park, edited and divided into fractals. I was influenced by Jackson Pollock’s artistic method of painting into such fractals. The stark monochrome design, to me, resembles images used by psychologists, in which patients see a multitude of figures and meanings. This, to me, resembles the construction of identity through personal growth and interpretation of experience.

**Image 2 – Unnamed:** This image harkens back to Andy Warhol’s style of pop art. The main image is a dried skeleton of a leaf; its veins are still visible. The bare natural state of the leaf fused with a bright colour palette of blues, oranges and reds is as malleable and subjective to the viewer’s impression of identity itself.

**Grace Claro** is a second year Arts student, majoring in History of Art and taking a minor in English. She is an event photographer with UCC Societies and has worked on fashion shoots for vintage sellers in Kerry. Alongside her BA, she is also doing a level 7 evening course in Fine Art Photography at CIT Crawford. Her portfolio is viewable online at <https://gracefelisa.myportfolio.com>.



