For over thirty years, Deirdre O'Mahony's research and art practice has focused on the complicated relationship between land, landscape, and ecological sustainability. Responding to conflicts about land use and regulation, ideas were considered through painting in the 1990s and then increasingly through a variety of approaches; painting, context-specific land artworks, socially engaged art practice, archival and moving image installation, writing and events. Deploying whatever means were most relevant to communicate connections between people and place, the artist has focused on creating public space for better understanding of the complex factors affecting land use, landscape, and by extension food security.

It is no longer possible to consider landscape without taking account climate change and biodiversity collapse. Drawing on design philosopher Tony Fry's idea of the 'Sustainment' as an equivalent movement to the Enlightenment in its capacity to transform systems of thought and behaviours, since 2020, O'Mahony's *Sustainment Experiments* project has used a range of activities, from sculptural plantings (*PLOT 1 & 2*, *Model* Plot), feast events (*Parmentier Feast, Eat Food Policy Feast)* as well as on-the ground research, as public spaces for speculative conversations between farmers, food producers, and scientists to collectively imagine a different approach to farming, food production and consumption, as climate change becomes an irreversible fact.

The outcome of this process is *The Quickening* which brings together urgent conversations, original music and moving image alongside the voice of insect and soil life; a polyvocal response to the most urgent questions affecting land and its inhabitants that gives voice to the invisible protagonists that shapes earth's future, reflecting an idea of being-in-common that encompasses all earthly beings.