

WRITER IAN MALENEY AND SHAPING IRELAND



Caoimhe Kilfeather (b.1979), *in life (ii)*, 2016. © Caoimhe Kilfeather

Writer Ian Maleney, whose debut book, *Minor Monuments* was published in April 2019 by Tramp Press, visited our exhibition [Shaping Ireland: Landscapes in Irish Art](#) and wrote about two of the photographs by artist Caoimhe Kilfeather.

A: I have never stayed so long anywhere. — *Last Year at Marienbad* (1961)

Seeing Caoimhe Kilfeather's 'in life (i)' and 'in life (ii)', seeing them side-by-side as it seems they must be seen, my mind jumped immediately to Alain Resnais' film, [Last Year at Marienbad](#). It's a film where time folds back upon itself repeatedly, obscuring and finally destroying any idea of narrative progress. Kilfeather's photographs, misted and dark, do not offer a way out – instead, they draw you in, in and then further in again, bottomless and black, until you notice the footsteps in the morning dew. An idea rises of the photographer looking back upon their own movement, asking the question, 'I came from *there*, but where do I go from *here*?' These photographs, still as they are, turn intricately back upon themselves. The eye passes – somewhat frantic, somewhat lost – from one to the other, and back again; their paths cut off, recursive – a garden become a maze.

Ian Maleney, 2019



Caoimhe Kilfeather (b.1979), *in life (i)*, 2016. © Caoimhe Kilfeather

About Ian Maleney:

Ian Maleney is a writer based in Dublin. Born and raised in Co. Offaly, he works as a freelance arts journalist, primarily for the Irish Times, and as the online editor at the [Stinging Fly](#). His essays have been published by [Winter Papers](#), [gorse](#), and the [Dublin Review](#). He is the founder of [Fallow Media](#), an interdisciplinary publication for music, photography, and long-form writing on the internet. *Minor Monuments*, his debut novel, was published in April 2019 by [Tramp Press](#). It is currently the Book of the Week in the Gallery shop, and you can buy it [here](#).