

“When Pobal Ar A’n lùl first approached me about illustrating three stories from the Mid-Tyrone Gaeltacht, I was over the moon. Folktales are essential to our lives, they teach us about strength, love, loss, and fighting for what we believe in. My choice of black and white pencils as the medium in the drawings aims to render the intrinsic nature of the Celtic realms and their “otherness”— dark and light carry the full weight (or lightness) of ancestral magic and the musicality of Irish language. Words are shape-shifting all the time, like the Irish weather and the light. To me, a student of Gaidhlig, Irish is unique in that it seems to have been hewn from the island itself. An Ireland of landscape, of grass and heather and acorns, mountains, lakes, cliffs, and horses and hares, and laughter and weeping, and myths. In these drawings I wished to undertake the recovery and reawakening of lost bliss from which the images bring us back to memories, associations, and the otherness of a new Light..” Kikki Ghezzi

