

# THE IRISH TIMES

## Facing up to intellectual disability

Portrait series creates greater visual awareness of people with intellectual disabilities and challenges stereotypical attitudes



■ Bridget Lawrence



■ Séamus O'Halloran



■ Anthony Quinn



■ Ursula O'Connor



■ Ann McDonald



■ Gerard McLoughlin



■ Barra Pollard



■ Ann Reilly



■ Nuala Moore

**I**Am" is a photographic portrait series of adults with intellectual disabilities, made in association with St Michael's House in Dublin. Inclusion is central to people's identity and being visible is essential to being considered and included. The goal of the work - by photographer Bryan James Brophy - is to create a greater visual awareness of people with intellectual disabilities in society, to advocate for greater inclusion and to challenge stereotypical attitudes. The work is about being seen, being visible and being included. "A photographic portrait provides an

opportunity to really look," said Emeritus Professor Roy McConkey about I Am. "The viewer is encouraged to think more deeply about the person - their life, their feelings, even their hopes.

### Small steps

"They may slowly realise that the people portrayed are not so different after all as they see similarities with themselves or others known to them.

"When that happens, the door to inclusion starts to open in people's minds and in due course to their actions. From such small steps, a more socially inclusive society is built."



■ Elizabeth Ronan



■ John Field



■ Darren Corrigan



■ David McHugh



■ Christopher O'Toole



■ Sandra Hankey



■ David Morgan



■ Paul Hogan



■ Tara Leech