

Photo exhibition shows disability in a new light

Photographer says visual representation will make for greater inclusion

By William O'Connor

william@echo.ie

ST MICHAEL'S House – one of Ireland's largest providers of community-based services for children and adults with intellectual disabilities – has announced a new photographic portrait series exhibition entitled 'I Am'.

The portrait series was created by Bryan James Brophy, a Dublin-based photographer for his MFA in Photography at the Belfast College of Art, Ulster University and features portraits of adults with intellectual disabilities who avail of services provided by St Michael's House in Templeogue.

The goal of Bryan's work is to create a greater visual awareness of people with intellectual disabilities in society, to advocate for greater inclusion and to challenge stereotypical attitudes.

Photographer Bryan James Brophy said: "I've chosen to photograph people with Intellectual Disabilities because I believe that they are under-represented visually in society. Inclusion is central to people's identity and being visible is essential to being considered and included. By making this work and increasing the visual representation

of people with intellectual disabilities through the photography, my intention is to advocate for greater inclusion. With the portrait series being on display initially in Ballymun, and in future public exhibitions, including the upcoming Belfast Photo Festival,

we hope to communicate to the wider community the importance of being seen, being visible and being

included."

The exhibition took place in the St Michael's House Ballymun Head Office on May 15, from 11am and was launched by Deputy

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Cathleen Carney Boud.

The exhibition coincided with the UN International Day of Families, which aims to highlight different areas of interest and importance to families, and service users and their families.



EXHIBITION: Conor Kenny (Director of Adult Services, St Michael's House), Councillor Cathleen Carney Boud (Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin), Bryan James Brophy (photographer), Nuala Moore (who attends St Michael's House day service in Templeogue), and David Dunne (Director of Operations, St Michael's House)