KEVIN DOYLE
Consolidation and Its Discontents: "Let Us Compare Dramaturgies!"

Kevin Doyle [IE/US] is a writer and director of interdisciplinary theatre and film currently working as the 2018-2019 Saari Invited Artist at the Saari Residence for artists and researchers in Mynämäki, maintained by Kone Foundation. The author of twelve plays and screenplays, his texts have been translated into French, Romanian, and Swedish; receiving productions in seven countries. Doyle grew up next to a New York prison and lives in the shadow of unnecessary sports stadiums. He has won several honors for his work including: the Thornton Wilder Fellowship at The MacDowell Colony; a USArtists International Award from Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation; an Individual Artist Fellowship from the Asian Cultural Council; and as Artist in Residence at The Watermill Center.

Major global powers and politics figure centrally in his plays, such as W.M.D. (just the low points) – a deconstruction of American intelligence failures prior to the Iraq War – and – when after all, it was you and me (or the genocide play) – an examination on the history of Western governments’ responses to genocide in the modern era. His recent theatre project – THE ARTS – investigated the history of public funding for the arts in the United States; and premiered in 2018 at the TONY Award winning La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York City. Doyle writes on intersections between the media, the arts, and politics as a contributing writer at DIGGIT Magazine in The Netherlands.

Doyle is one of the few Americans who accurately predicted how and why Donald Trump would win the 2016 Presidential Election. Conversely, he also predicted how and why Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez would win her 2018 primary election in New York City. During his lecture at Åbo Akademi, Doyle will connect these observations from driving and walking through abandoned regions of the United States and his native New York – to his ongoing theatre and film work with garment workers in Bangladesh and Iraqi refugees living in Sweden. Doyle will share aspects of his current research in Finland – ranging from the structural dangers to public discourse posed by social media and superhero movies -- to the failure of contemporary artists to confront consolidation in the arts sector in the face of declining public interest. For more information, please visit: doylekevin.com.