

CRAWFORD ART  
GALLERY CORK

ANNUAL REPORT  
2011

## **PREFACE**

The role of the Crawford Art Gallery is to serve as a museum of fine arts, presenting exhibitions of works from the permanent collection, as well as temporary exhibitions of both contemporary and historic art. The Gallery serves people in the local community, the Munster region and further afield, as well as encouraging cultural tourism, with a programme that includes lectures, tours, concerts and seminars. The Gallery promotes scholarship, through exhibitions, publications and conferences. Education for all age groups is central to the Gallery's mission.

The Gallery and its staff are committed to providing a quality service to the public and to ensuring that visits to the museum are enjoyable and informative. Admission is free and approx 200,000 visitors now visit the Gallery each year.

A National Cultural Institution, the Crawford Art Gallery receives its annual grant-in-aid from the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2011 the Crawford Art Gallery continued to build on successes of the previous years. The number of works added to the permanent collection was lower than in previous years, but the temporary exhibitions programme continued, with sustained commitment to showing high-quality art. There were no changes to the Gallery staffing allocation, but the existing complement of staff worked to ensure that all aspects of the programme were delivered in a professional manner. In 2011, as in the previous year, the Gallery received its grant-in-aid from the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Throughout the year, the Gallery continued to open on Thursday evenings to the public. This report charts the consolidation of the Crawford Art Gallery in its role as a National Cultural Institution.

The board of directors, chaired by John Bowen, met eight times during the year. Sub-committees, dealing with finance and legal issues, artistic policy, and marketing, met regularly and made significant contributions to the development of the Gallery's profile and operational efficiency. With the assistance of the Minister for Arts and officials of the Department, the Gallery succeeded in substantially meeting public expectations, in terms of exhibitions, acquisitions and education projects. However, with the budget cutbacks, and with the prospect of further reductions in funding in the coming years, there was an inevitable easing off of expectations regarding continued growth. In May, the Minister for Arts, Jimmy Deenihan met with members of the board and affirmed that he would do his best to find the resources needed for the Gallery. The Minister also opened the exhibition *Gravity*, on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Overall, the year can be characterised as one of stabilisation. With the OPW awaiting finalisation of the transfer of legal title to the building, building maintenance continued to be looked after by board and Gallery management.

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism pay allocation to the Gallery for 2011 was €475,000, while the non-pay allocation was €600,000. The capital allocation for 2011 was €275,000.

### Legal Establishment

The board of directors of the company "Crawford Art Gallery Cork Ltd", registered in November 2006, met eight times during the year 2011. The board comprises sixteen members, including nominations of one member each from Cork City Council, Cork County Council and City of Cork VEC. Tim Lucey is appointed ex officio. The term of office of board members expired in December 2011, and a number were reappointed, for a period of two years.

Board of Directors:

John R. Bowen (Chairman)

Jim Corr

Tim Lucey

Úna Feely

Tim Brosnan

Sheila Maguire

Kevin Lonergan

Noel O'Keeffe

Neil Prendeville\*

Barbara Murray\*

Mairin Quill\*

Anne Harpur\*

Michael F. Downes\*

Mary O'Donovan\*

Frank Hayes\*

\*board members whose term of appointment expired on December 2011. The remaining board members had their appointment extended for a term of two years.

Members of the Board are directors of a company registered as a Guarantee Licence Company. The Company Secretary is Peter Murray, Gallery Director.

## **REVIEW OF OPERATIONS IN 2011**

The year 2011 was the third year in which the Gallery operated independently of the City of Cork Vocational Education Committee. In spite of administrative staff shortages, the Board met at twice-monthly intervals, overseeing the implementation of several important changes, and advancing the Gallery in its new independent status. Crowleys DFK provided financial accounting and financial reporting services to the Gallery throughout the year.

The Gallery began and ended the year in good financial order, with no overspend in 2010 and success in meeting overall budget targets for 2011.

While the shortfall in admin and curatorial staffing continued to be a key factor hampering the Gallery's further development, the exhibitions and education programme delivered to the public continued at a high level of output and quality. The lack of a Marketing Officer and Development Officer continued to hamper fund-raising and the wider promotion of the Gallery.

The Chairman of the OPW, Clare McGrath, visited the Gallery on July 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 and met with the Gallery Chairman and Director. However, no material progress was made towards the objective of transferring ownership of the Gallery building to the ownership of the Office of Public Works. Pending the OPW taking ownership of the Crawford Art Gallery building and grounds, a series of improvements were implemented by the Board. These included the installation of an early eighteenth-century chimneypiece in one of the two Penrose Rooms, the provision of lockers for visitors, new swipe card security locking systems to three internal Gallery doors, construction of painting storage rack systems and the replacement of the alarm system panel. Improvements in the displays in the Sculpture Galleries were also implemented. Off-site automatic back-up of Gallery computer records continued through 2011. There were improvements in the provision of IT services.

With practically all exhibition spaces in the Gallery open to the public throughout the year, progress made in upgrading and improvements showed very positive results.

## GALLERY STAFFING

1. Director
2. Gallery Secretary
3. Exhibitions Officer
4. Exhibitions/Education Officer
5. Gallery Team Supervisor
6. Senior Caretaker
7. Caretaker
8. Attendant
9. Attendant
10. Attendant
11. Attendant
12. Cleaner (part-time)
13. Cleaner (part-time)
14. Cleaner (part-time)
15. Cleaner (part-time)

The Gallery Senior Caretaker, Joe Murphy, retired on September 15<sup>th</sup>, after over two decades of committed and professional service to the Crawford Art Gallery. The Board and Staff of the Gallery paid tribute to Joe's exemplary work and wished him all the best in the coming years.

The Gallery's curatorial team was augmented through the temporary secondment of a curator from the Irish Museum of Modern Art, to assist with contemporary art exhibitions planning and implementation. This successful secondment was for a period of nine months, and initiated an exploration of further sharing of services and resources between the two institutions.

### *Staff Training*

Gallery staff received training through on-the-job supervision and assessment on a continuing basis. Additional training in handling, storage and display of artworks was provided through practical programmes headed by Laurence Fitzgibbon, Mark McLoughlin and other specialist art handlers. The Gallery itself through in-house staff provided training on an ongoing basis to placement interns under a co-operation agreement with the University of Trento. While Marta Giordanino returned to Italy after her internships, Elena Rossi remained working for the Gallery on a part-time basis. Gallery staff also received specialised training in-house from consultants expert in the area of visitor management, fire safety and health and safety issues. In 2011 the Gallery could not proceed with the National Heritage Council's Museum Accreditation Course, due to the delay in transfer of ownership of the building to the OPW.

## PERMANENT COLLECTION 2011

The Gallery's permanent collection was presented throughout the building, in the Gibson Galleries, the Eighteenth-Century and Penrose Rooms, the Watercolour Room, Modern Galleries, the Harry Clarke Room and Sculpture Galleries.

Because of the Gallery's reduced funding, there were few purchases of works of art for the permanent collection made during the year.

Work continued on entering catalogue details of the Gallery's permanent collection onto the ArtBase collections management software package.

By December 2011, the total number of works from the permanent collection photographed had reached 2,500. The gallery website was completely re-designed and improved. The number of works from the permanent collection on the website exceeded 900. There were regular updates to the education and exhibitions pages, and to the on-line bookshop.

The Gallery's set of Harry Clarke watercolours depicting scenes from the poem by John Keats, *The Eve of St. Agnes*, were re-framed. These new frames, hand-gilded and of a National Gallery standard size, enhanced the display of these fine watercolours in the Harry Clarke Room.

Several paintings from the permanent collection were re-framed and placed on display on the main landing. The works included James Barry's *Ulysses and Polyphemus*, Daniel Maclise's *The Falconer* and *Lear and Cordelia*, and Samuel Forde's *Winged Angels*. The new frame for the James Barry dates from around 1820 and is Rococo Revival in style, incorporating mid eighteenth-century decorative elements. It replaced a 20<sup>th</sup> century reproduction frame.

### *Acquisitions to the Permanent Collection*

An oil painting by Nathaniel Grogan, *View of O'Sullivan's Mills at Dripsey*, was acquired at a Mealy's auction, held at Mallow Castle in March 2011. The painting, dating from the latter half of the eighteenth century, depicts a paper mill and ironworks, alongside Dripsey Bridge, near Cork city.

Two oval pastel portraits, by Alexander Pope, an artist born in Cork in 1763, have been presented to the Gallery by Colin Rafferty. The portraits are of Robert Gordon of Newgrove, near Blarney, and his wife Anne, and date from 1783.

### *Loans from the Collection*

The long-term loan to Fota House of the painting *The Battle of the Birds*, by Frans Snyders, continued through 2011. Other short term loans were approved from time to time by the board.

### *The Gallery Website*

The Gallery website was re-designed and enhanced. With over 2500 works of art in the collection now photographed, including sculptures, paintings and prints, and with over 1000 of these images on the website, the Crawford Gallery is now maintaining a key national online art and education resource, available to individual users, schools and colleges throughout Ireland and worldwide. By May 2011, the monthly average for visitors to the website was 6,000 individuals, with over 400,000 hits. Use of the website grew through 2011, to number over 1500 people logging on every week. The website is updated on a regular basis, reflecting the current, previous and upcoming exhibitions as they occur.

## TEMPORARY EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2011

The 2011 Exhibition Programme offered a diverse and engaging series of exhibitions examining artistic practice from the eighteenth century to the contemporary.

The Gallery maintained an average of eight visiting or temporary exhibitions a year, and in 2011 resources focused on a mixture of originated exhibitions, with catalogues published by the Gallery, and touring exhibitions. The annual programme of exhibitions is designed to be lively and well-balanced, and Gallery policy includes giving exposure to young artists as well as the more established.

### ***The Politics of Memory* exhibition of works from the permanent collection**

Dec 2010 – May 2011

Shane Cullen was invited to curate an exhibition in the Gibson Galleries. This initiative of inviting artist/curators to offer an alternative discourse and evaluation of the Crawford's Collection, is the first of a series of annual curated projects aimed at giving greater access and interpretation to over 2,200 works of art, ranging from the seventeenth century to the contemporary held in the Gallery's collection. Included in the exhibition were "Les Sabines" by Robert Ballagh, "The Revolutionary" by William Orpen and Nigel Rolfe's "Roses in the Face".

### **"All my Lovin"**

Opened on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of February, and curated by Peggy Sue Amison, Krzysztof Candrowicz, and Christoph Tannert, Director of Kunstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin, the exhibition "All My Lovin" took in themes relating to family, love and relationships. The exhibition included work by a range of artists from around the world, including Doug Dubois (USA), Phil Toledano (UK), The Gao Brothers (China), Rongrong and Inri (China), Edith Maybin (Canada), Anna Shteynshleyger (Russia/USA), Igor Savchenko (Russian), Elenor Carruci (Jerusalem/USA), Irish artists in the exhibition included Amelia Stein, Muireann Brady, Chris Hurley and Sandra Minchin. The Crawford showing of "All my Lovin" was curated by Dawn Williams.

### **Video works by contemporary artists**

January - June

The video screenings series continued with the presentation, curated by Dawn Williams, of Cecily Brennan's new work *Black Tears*. The video depicts Irish actress Britta Smith immersed in unexplained grief. Her sadness is accentuated during the course of the video when she appears to be weeping black tears. The artist Cecily Brennan gave an informal presentation on the work, on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>.

Shown from 7<sup>th</sup> April to 30th June, Grace Weir's video *In My Own Time* explored ideas surrounding event time and our perceptions of place. The video consisted of a series of episodes drawing together perceptions of time from different philosophical, scientific and cultural viewpoints. Grace Weir also gave an informal talk on April 7th.

### *Altered Images*

14th February – 29th April

*Altered Images*, a partnership initiative of the Irish Museum of Modern Art's National Programme, Mayo County Council Arts Office and South Tipperary Arts Service, curated by Anne Boddaert, was shown at the Crawford in May 2011.

The exhibition was designed to engage a universal audience: disabled and non-disabled people, newcomers and the regular exhibition-goer, young people and mature audiences. Its multi-sensory approach invited all visitors to touch, listen, hear, imagine, feel, see, navigate and experience.

Each artwork was accompanied by an audio description and a three-dimensional tactile model. Artist Amanda Coogan produced a film using sign language, as a companion piece to the exhibition, and an introduction to contemporary art.

In total, *Altered Images* presented the work of six contemporary artists.

### *Strange Attractor*

January - April

Curated by Dawn Williams, *Strange Attractor*, a collaborative project that involved local and international artists, attracted visitors over the course of a monthly series of durational sound performances. The artists in *Strange Attractor* included Anthony Kelly, Danny McCarthy, Irene Murphy, Mick O'Shea and David Stalling. The events culminated in an exhibition running from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>. There were several lunchtime performances over the same period, which were also well attended. Throughout these events, the artists worked both collaboratively and individually using improvisational sound performance, experimentation with technology, combined media and random and improvised drawing and structural forms to explore creative possibilities resulting in an experience that offers multiple points of entry for the audience.

### *Charles Tyrell* exhibition

May - July

Organised by the Solstice Arts Centre, the Charles Tyrell exhibition showcased the work of one of the best artists working in Ireland today. The exhibition was beautifully installed and included a number of important recent paintings by the artist, as well as prints. Opened by Patrick Murphy, Director of the RHA Gallery on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, the event was attended by 250 people. The manager of Meath County Council, Tom Dowling, attended the opening, as did Belinda Quirke, director of the Solstice Arts Centre. The Crawford showing of *Charles Tyrell* was curated by Dawn Williams.

### *Gravity* exhibition

July 15<sup>th</sup> – October 30<sup>th</sup>

An exhibition originated by the Crawford Art Gallery, *Gravity* combined both historic and contemporary art, and was accompanied by dance performances and also an off-site presentation of video art. *Gravity* was curated by Peter Murray assisted by Elena Rossi. Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, opened *Gravity*, on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The opening was followed by a performance by members of the Daghdha Dance Company, led by Michael Klein.

Johan Lorbeer's outdoor performance art works on Opera Lane received a very extensive press coverage, as did Dorothy Cross' video *Stalactite*, shown at the former Beamish and Crawford brewery on South Main Street, and curated by Rachael Thomas. *Stalactite* was shown at the brewery through the week. Dorothy Cross's installation of a whale skeleton in the Crawford's Sculpture Gallery also attracted a great deal of attention, while Michael Warren's two large sculptures, created specially for the exhibition, were key works in *Gravity*. Among the other participating artists were Maud Cotter, Alex Pentek, Kitty Rogers, Brian Duggan and Grace Weir. Drawings of galaxies and nebulae made in the 1840's at Birr co. Offaly by William Parsons, were one of the highlights of *Gravity*.

### ***In Search of the Miraculous: Ten Days of Film, Video and Photography***

Oct 17 – 28

Set in the former Beamish and Crawford brewery and curated by Rachel Thomas, *In Search of the Miraculous* showcased recent works by Irish and international artists involved with the moving image and photography alongside a key film work from Bas Jan Ader's 1971 'fall' series, *Broken Fall (Geometric)*. The group showing included artists such as Rirkrit Tiravanija, Keren Cytter, Anri Sala, Alex Rose and Clare Langan. There was also a screening of *Stalactite* a new video work by Dorothy Cross.

### ***Bealtine exhibition***

May – June

The Bealtaine community exhibition, organized by Anne Boddaert and the Gallery Education team, in association with Siobhan O'Dowd and the Ballyphehane and Togher Community Development Project, opened on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May to an audience of over one hundred people. The teachers on this course included Mary Timmins, Julie Kelleher and Debbie Dawson. The exhibition received good coverage in the *Echo* and *Cork Independent* and positive visitor feedback.

### ***Barrie Cooke exhibition***

November - January

The Barrie Cooke exhibition, organised by the Irish Museum of Modern Art and curated by Karen Sweeney, was shown at the Crawford between November 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 and January 24<sup>th</sup> 2012. The exhibition, containing highlights from the career of one of Ireland's leading painters, was subsequently shown at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris.

### ***The Rocky Road exhibition***

2011

A new exhibition, curated by Sean Lynch, entitled *The Rocky Road*, opened to the public on November 18<sup>th</sup>. This exhibition included documentation of works of art and events in the Irish contemporary art world in the 1970's and 80's.

### ***Loan Exhibition: Great Southern Collection Highlights Killarney***

The Minister for Arts, Jimmy Deenihan, opened a loan exhibition of works from the Great Southern Art Collection, in the Department's headquarters in Killarney on March 14th, yesterday. In addition to arts representatives mainly from Tralee and Killarney, the event was

attended by staff from the Department, including Tim Scully, John McElligott, Joe Healy, Mary Hearne, Secretary General Con Haugh, Assistant Secretary General Niall O'Donnchu and Gallery board member Kevin Lonergan.

## EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2011

Led by Anne Boddaert, the Gallery Education Programme continued, with regular community programmes, guided visits for schools and groups, lectures and artists' talks. 2011 was as an opportunity to consolidate and build upon the initiatives that were carefully established the previous year as well developing new programmes such as the Thursday Club and an Art and health programme for people suffering from dementia/Alzheimers. A positive and dynamic working relationship with the Cork branch of the Arts Teacher association was established and will continue to flourish in years to come.

The guided tours for schools and groups was available all through the year as well as tours linked with national events; Heritage Week, Culture Night, Drawing Day, the Life Long Learning Festival, and from May to September a series of Saturday tours geared specifically at summer visitors to Cork.

The professional development course for primary school teachers in collaboration with Cork Education Support Centre took place in July. Linking to the primary school National Curriculum, the course is a blend of interactive tours, presentation of gallery publications, illustrated talks and 'hands on' workshops.

The Teen Programme - recognition that there is little provision for teenagers to engage with cultural institutions outside academic structures, with a focus on exams – continued to flourish throughout the year; it included life drawing, graffiti, and a 3D module.

On-going contact, which involved visits to satellite groups, tours and workshops in the gallery led to a pattern of long-term engagement with Ballyphehane Community Development Project and saw the Crawford education team work collaboratively with over fifty adults. Culminating in the exhibit of artwork from the four groups during the Bealtaine Festival in May 2011.

The gallery has been facilitating sessions for older audiences celebrating Bealtaine since 2003. This experience has led to the development of a structured programme over four afternoons in May, which offers thematic tours with a lively and interested guide, a social and relaxed discussion over tea and biscuits followed by a hands-on session. The Thursday Club, a follow-up on Bealtaine was launched in September 2011.

Another strand of the Education programme is our Saturday art classes for children from 8 to 12 years and the 3 weeks of summer art camp focusing on stop-motion animation, an opportunity for children to explore a wide range of media.

In February 2011, the Gallery hosted the exhibition *Altered Images*, a partnership initiative of Mayo County Council Arts Office, South Tipperary Arts Service and IMMA. The exhibition seeks to foster accessibility and inclusiveness. We were delighted to be participating in professional Arts and Disability training as an integral component of this project.

The 2011 focus of the Art and health strand of our programme was the continuation of on-going dialogue with the Arts and Mind group, and the development of a programme for people suffering from dementia/Alzheimers in partnership with the Bessboro Daycare Centre.

## **FRIENDS OF THE CRAWFORD ART GALLERY**

Established in 1987 as an independent support group for the gallery, the Friends of the Crawford Art Gallery now has a membership of over four hundred. The purpose of the Friends is to raise funds in support of new acquisitions, to foster an interest in all aspects of art and promote an awareness of the gallery's collection and exhibitions through a programme of activities that take place throughout the year. The Friends provide an autumn and spring series of weekly lunchtime lectures on Irish and European art and on aspects of local heritage in art and architecture. These are held in the gallery's lecture theatre and are open to the public, for a nominal fee of five euros. The Friends' lectures are consistently well attended.

## **MARKETING THE CRAWFORD ART GALLERY**

The board sub-committee established a marketing policy for the Gallery, focusing on attracting tourists and special interest sectors such as academics, cultural associations, community groups and tour organizers to Cork. These visitors were attracted by exhibitions of contemporary and historic art, group exhibitions and loan exhibitions. Promotion of gallery through bookshop and catalogue sales continued, with prints and reproductions of works of art for sale.

With the assistance of Mary O'Donovan and the APSC, merchandise to sell in the bookshop, such as souvenir pens, magnets and bags were sourced. These were printed with the Crawford Gallery name and are now on sale.

A calendar for 2012, featuring works by Harry Clarke, was also printed for sale during 2011. Culture Night at the Gallery took place on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. During this evening there were events organized by the Friends of the Gallery and also the launch by poet Tom McCarthy of the 2012 calendar took place.

A new range of prints, postcards and greeting cards were published, highlighting works from the permanent collection. International audiences were targeted through a combination of editorial coverage and advertising, and also through website development, as well as through the distribution and sale of catalogues.

National audiences were targeted by similar means, mainly through editorial coverage and reviews in newspapers and magazines. The exhibitions programme, including both historic and contemporary art, generated significant profile and coverage for the Gallery.

Local audiences were not forgotten, with the Gallery continuing to be an active partner in events such as the Cork Film Festival, the Mid-Summer Festival and other events in Cork.

The Friends of the Ulster Museum visited on the 18<sup>th</sup> May and were welcomed by the Director.

Gallery Director: Peter Murray completed his year as chairman of the Council of National Cultural Institutions. This provided an opportunity to consolidate the Crawford Art Gallery's work as a National Cultural Institution.

### VISITOR FIGURES

Crawford Art Gallery			January to December 2010	January to December 2011
			170,334	187,311