

Press Release : for immediate release

Wednesday 14 January, 2015

BRIAN DUGGAN

The Last Day Diary

January 23 to March 28, 2015

www.crawfordartgallery.ie



Image © Brian Duggan, 2015

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to present the premier screening of *The Last Day Diary* (2015) by Brian Duggan, as part of the gallery's continued screening programme of Irish and International artists.

The Last Day Diary is a new short HD film inspired from a specific historical relic from the Johnson County War in 1882 Wyoming. The film's initial location of privilege and safety in the grand eighteenth century entrance hall of Charlemont House, is in stark contrast to the narration's guiding text from a hand written letter found on the body of Nathan D. Champion. Falsely accused by a wealthy Wyoming cattleman's association, Champion was the first person murdered by a band of hit men hired by the cattlemen. The letter he had written during the day of the siege in his cabin is a poignant testament of a person in crisis and the last hours he spent surrounded. The film concludes in Kaycee, Wyoming, where the original ambush took place one hundred and thirty three years ago.

The film is a powerful but contemplative film which draws parallels to contemporary issues of immigration and power, and the situations and pressures between those with land and those without. *The Last Day Diary* expands on Duggan's larger body of work regarding citizenship, community and resistance which is influenced by themes in the film *Heaven's Gate* (1980) a film based on A.S. Mercer's 1894 book *Banditti of the Plains*. The book, which was banned in Wyoming due to political embarrassment, is an eye-witness account of local small homesteader immigrant groups, mostly from eastern Europe, who are harassed into abandoning their plots of land to earlier, politically connected settlers having manipulated cattle grazing rights. The final text is a chilling and unnerving voice simply describing the very real and present danger the individual was experiencing. The film is pertinent to contemporary concerns and insecurities of economic migration and social assimilation.

Brian Duggan's invitation to actor John Hurt and actor and composer David Mansfield to contribute to the production of *The Last Day Diary*, echoes their significant roles in director's Michael Cimino's original 1980 epic western film (which famously bankrupted United Artists Film Studio due to spiralling production costs). The strategic inclusion of these two protagonists - the original score of *Heaven's Gate* was composed by David Mansfield - set against the current wider societal backdrop of remembrance and commemoration questions how the written word and historical events are interpreted today with emphasis on 'experience' within historical interpretation.

The Last Day Diary was part funded by the Arts Council of Ireland and Fundit patrons.

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EDITOR NOTES

Screening dates: Friday 22 January – Saturday 28 March 2015
Public talk: 1pm, Thursday 12, February 2015

About the artist:

Brian Duggan concerns himself with more or less dramatic events in crisis, in a prosaic, subtle, but no less disconcerting way. He plunges the viewer into a realm where seemingly casual navigation of space bespeaks chilling (hi)stories. His work examines situations both pre and post events where things do not work out as planned. Recent exhibitions include: *This short-term evacuation*, POSITIONS Berlin; *Life is (not) a Still Life (after Oskar Kokoschka)*, Balzer Art Projects, Basel (2014); *We like it up here ,its windy, really nice*, ISCP New York (2013); *They Have Tried Everything to Keep Us From Riding...but in the end we always win*, Limerick City Gallery; *Everything Can Be Done, In Principle*, Visual, Carlow, (2012). www.brianduggan.net | www.balzer-art-projects.ch

For further information or images contact: dawnwilliams@crawfordartgallery.ie

Access & Education

For details on guided tours, access and education contact:

emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie or www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html

About the Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional art museum for Munster, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The permanent collection comprises over 2500 works, ranging from eighteenth century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations. At the heart of the collection is a collection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts, brought to Cork in 1818 from the Vatican Museum in Rome.

Through its temporary exhibitions, publications and education programmes, the Crawford Art Gallery is committed to fostering recognition, critical assessment, and acknowledgement of historical and contemporary Irish and international art practice. Located in the heart of Cork city, the gallery is a critical part of Ireland's cultural and tourism infrastructure, welcoming over 200,000 visitors a year.

How to get to the Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is located in the heart of Cork City centre, adjacent to Cork Opera House and Opera Lane, just off Patrick Street. Ten minutes walk from Cork's Kent Train Station and five minutes walk from Cork Bus Terminus. Disabled parking zones are available at the front entrance of the gallery at Emmet Place and Academy Street.

Admission

Admission to the Crawford Art Gallery and *Motivational Deficit* exhibition is free.

Opening Hours:

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5pm (last entry 4:45pm); Thursday: 10 am - 8pm
closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, Cork, Ireland

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