

CONFLICTING VISIONS IN A TURBULENT AGE 1900-1916

June 3 – August 20, 2016

Preview: 5:30 pm, Thursday 2 June, 2016

Crawford Art Gallery, Cork is delighted to present the exhibition, *Conflicting Visions in a Turbulent Age 1900-1916* from June 3 – August 20, curated by Dr Éimear O'Connor HRHA in collaboration with the gallery.

<http://avondhupress.ie/>



Conflicting Visions in a Turbulent Age 1900-1916 is an exciting exhibition featuring several themes that influenced the era, some local to Cork and others more nationally or internationally focused. Highlights include a portrait by John Butler Yeats – which has never been publically displayed, three portraits by Dermod O'Brien that have not been seen in public in over one hundred years, personal material belonging to Terence MacSwiney, a new sculpture by Rowan Gillespie, an exquisite woodcut by Lady Gregory, and a bible with a poignant connection to the same Lady Gregory

The exhibition will feature paintings, drawings, posters, film and artefacts pertaining to, for example, the Cork International 1902-3, the First World War, the connection between Sir Hugh Lane and the Abbey Theatre, and the Easter Rising, along with evidence of the then contemporary artistic engagement with New York, and with Parisian Modernism. There is the crash and bang of war in a series of films, and yet, in a quiet section of the gallery, there is artwork from the Honan Chapel, University College Cork, consecrated in November 1916.

Personalities emerge in various ways: George Russell, May Guinness, Sir Horace Plunkett, John Butler Yeats, Beatrice Gubbins, and Robert Gregory, to name but a few. Present-day artwork by Robert Ballagh, Orla de Brí, Margaret Irwin West, Margaret Corcoran and Mick O'Dea embody the recent artistic response to 1916 and the centenary of commemoration in general, while another piece, painted in 1966, represents the then response to an official call to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Easter Rising. The show also includes *The People's Exhibition*, a digitized display containing images of historical items belonging to the people of Cork and, with permission from the owners, some of that material is included within the exhibition itself. Within the exhibition there are many complex, complicated, and conflicting visions that combine towards synthesis, and yet disrupt preconceived perceptions.

The exhibition will also include a public gathering entitled '**A Heart That is Free': Terence MacSwiney in Context** (Friday, 17 June). Featuring excerpts from MacSwiney's 1914 play, *The Revolutionist*, this engaging and accessible event is free to the public and is an exciting way to celebrate the writer's cultural legacy.

For further information and images please contact dawnwilliams@crawfordartgallery

EDITOR NOTES

Preview: 5:30 pm, Thursday 2 June with opening remarks by Mick O’Dea, President of the Royal Hibernian Academy.

Public Symposium ‘A Heart That is Free’: Terence MacSwiney in Context

Celebrating Terence MacSwiney’s creativity and the context in which he worked, this event, Friday 17 June (11 am-4:30pm) featuring excerpts from the author’s 1914 play, *The Revolutionist*, is an engaging and accessible introduction to MacSwiney’s less known cultural legacy.

Presented by Dr Éimear O’Connor and the Crawford Art Gallery, in partnership with Cork Midsummer Festival and Cork Opera House, the speakers will include Cathal MacSwiney-Brugha, John Borgonovo, Thérèse McIntyre, Gabriel Doherty, Fíona O’Bríen and Tom Spalding

Admission is free but booking is essential at Eventbrite.ie

Publication

A new 96 page, full colour publication will accompany the exhibition *Conflicting Visions in a Turbulent Age 1900-1916*. Featuring a new text by Dr Éimear O’Connor HRHA, it is published by Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (ISBN. 978-1-874756-26-2) price €10, and will be available in the gallery shop and online.

About the Curator

Dr Éimear O’Connor HRHA is an art historian, author, and curator. She is a Research Associate with TRIARC-Irish Art Research Centre, Trinity College Dublin. Her art-historical research interests are wide ranging. She is particularly interested in the complex national and international contexts pertaining to the construction of Irish visual identity in the late nineteenth and twentieth century. O’Connor’s research also encompasses the development of European and American modernism in the twentieth century. She has published chapters, articles and reviews on Irish art and artists and is author of *Seán Keating in Context: Responses to Culture and Politics in Post-Civil War Ireland* (Dublin: Carysfort Press, 2009), editor of *Irish Women Artists 1800-2009: Familiar but Unknown* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2010). Her monograph on Keating, titled *Seán Keating: Art, Politics, and Building the Nation*, was published by Irish Academic Press in 2013. O’Connor is currently completing a book that examines the cultural connections between Ireland and America in general, and Dublin and New York in particular between 1890 and 1942. She previously curated *Seán Keating: Contemporary Contexts* for the Crawford Art Gallery in 2012.

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.

Access & Education

For details on guided tours, access and education contact: emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie
www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html

Admission / Opening Hours

Admission to the Crawford Art Gallery and *Conflicting Visions in a Turbulent Age 1900-1916* is free.

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5pm (last entry 4:45pm); Thursday: 10 am - 8pm

Closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

ENDS