

Press Release

Local Cork Artist

Danny McCarthy



Exhibits

Beyond Silence: A Bell Rings in an Empty Sky

At Crawford Art Gallery

Date : 26 May - 12 August, 2017

Publication Launch : 12 – 3pm Sat 8 July 2017

A native of Mallow but now resident in Midleton Mc Carthy is one of Ireland's pioneers of performance art and sound art and he continues to be a leading exponent exhibiting and performing both in Ireland and abroad.

Multiple ceramic bells and mesmeric static musical figurines installed in the Crawford Art Gallery prompt the viewer to pause a while. The work allows a moment, for the imagination to grow with the sounds prompted by the visual spectacle.

The installations are accompanied by drawings created by the artist during a recent residency at the prestigious Rauschenberg Foundation in Florida.

McCarthy's practice has long concerned itself with promoting the simple of idea of listening. In a departure from creating sound, for this exhibition, McCarthy foregrounds our daily, ever present background soundscape.

The Artist brings together over 500 found ceramic objects, which have been either muted by the artist or by their material restrictions. McCarthy is a gatherer and scours car boot sales and second hand shops to find discarded objects that have been overlooked and under used.

Beyond Silence playfully triggers memories to create potential imaginary mindscapes. The installations are accompanied by drawings created by the artist during a recent residency at the prestigious Rauschenberg Foundation in Florida. McCarthy immersed himself in the legacy of Robert Rauschenberg's practise, which led to his use of erasure as a tool of engagement in the drawings and further engaged with his interest in listening.

Danny McCarthy is one of Ireland's pioneers of performance art and sound art and he continues to be a leading exponent exhibiting and performing both in Ireland and abroad.

McCarthy's is also interested in acoustic ecology and collates 'lost sounds' - evident in his Found Sound (Lost at Sea) at Crawford Art Gallery (2011-2016) and his work *Mutus Liber* focuses his concern for lost sonic soundscapes. McCarthy asked Hubert Bookbinding to create a handcrafted book containing found perforated music paper. The music paper, that would have been ubiquitous a century ago, was at the forefront of popular culture when many fairground and cinematic attractions would feature pianolas (a self-playing piano). McCarthy captures the now muted sounds in archival form perhaps in the hope that the next generation may find a willingness to listen and explore sounds from history.

Publication launch:

Responding to the exhibition **Beyond Silence: A Bell Rings in an Empty Sky** a publication featuring text and visuals David Toop, Stephen Vitiello, Helen Frosi and Patrick Farmer(Soundfjord), Paul Hegarty, Rachel Warner, Cristin Leach, Bernard Clarke ,John Godfrey, Dr.Emily Putnam, Anthony Kelly and introduction by Dawn Williams, will be launched between 12-3pm, Saturday 8 July, 2017.

The publication is published by Farpoint Recordings priced €20.



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More about Danny Mc Carthy

Danny McCarthy is one of Ireland's pioneers of performance art and sound art and he continues to be a leading exponent exhibiting and performing both in Ireland and abroad. In 2006, he founded the Quiet Club with Mick O'Shea, a floating membership sound (art and electronics) performance group. Recent selected projects include *The Last Siren* with Lauren Kinsella, Ian Wilson and The Quiet Club, Dublin Theatre Festival: The Model, Sligo (2016); *Strange Attractor* Crawford Art Gallery; Mobius, New York; Contemporary Arts International, Boston; Pigeon Wing Gallery, London (2009 –ongoing). McCarthy has been involved in several curatorial projects including INTERMEDIA Festival 1990-2002, "For Those Who Have Ears" book+CD (with Julie Forrester). "Sound Out" (co-curated with David Toop), "Bend It Like Beckett" CD Project, "Rediscovering Locality (A Sonology Of Cork Sound Art)" CD project Art Trail. "Just Listen" Seminar +Installations (co-curated with Sean Taylor) for National Sculpture Factory. His most recent projects include "(Re)writing (Hi)story A Sonic Opera " a 1916 commemorative project sound and visual for Triskel Arts Centre and "Future Histories" a major performance art event in Kilmainham Jail. Recent exhibitions include "The Memory Room" Soundfjord, London , New Ear Festival FriedMan Gallery New York plus shows at the Rauschenberg Foundation Florida and Universtity of Richmond Virginia. His numerous CDs and books are available from Farpoint Recordings.

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 is comprised of thousands of 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.

Learn and Explore

For details on guided tours, access and education please go to:
www.Crawfordartgallery.ie