

Doug DuBois

My Last Day at Seventeen

November 10, 2015 to January 23, 2016

www.crawfordartgallery.ie

**Preview and Aperture Book Launch:
Monday 9 November, 4pm**



Image © Doug DuBois 2015

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to present *My Last Day at Seventeen* by American artist-photographer Doug DuBois (November 10, 2015 – January 23, 2016). Combining portraits, spontaneous encounters, and collaborative performances, the images of *My Last Day at Seventeen* exist in a delicate balance between documentary and fiction. The series looks at the bravado, adventure, fragility and inevitable loss of childhood.

What began as a month artist residency at Sirius Arts Centre, developed into a five year project, from 2009-2014, with DuBois spending his summers in the Irish coastal town of Cobh, Co. Cork. Working with an extraordinary group of young people from a housing estate area in Russell Heights, DuBois gained entry to the community when two of its residents, Kevin and Erin (who would later become one of the central subjects of his work), took him to a local hangout spot, opening his eyes “to a world of the not-quite adults, struggling—publicly and privately—through the last moments of their childhood.”

DuBois has commented ‘the place you grow up in is what forms you as an adult – coming of age is an experience that everyone goes through –it can happen at 17 or 12 or 45 but it’s that moment when you realise that your youth is behind you and no longer in front of you which can be a very difficult moment’

DuBois’ photographs try to project his subjects into the future while honouring their present and their potential. ‘Life has limits and maybe one of the important signs of leaving childhood behind is understanding some of your limits and hopefully never ever forgetting your potential’ he observes.

Moving through the transitions of life, people who came and left, the relationships formed and dissolved, and babies were born, DuBois is quick to mention that his ‘eye’ was that of a ‘middle-aged American photographing a group of young people from a few blocks of a housing estate’ in Ireland. However, despite remaining the outsider looking in DuBois has noted “There is a sense of family and identity attached to neighborhood, town and county that is much stronger than what I felt growing up in New Jersey.”

The photographs, situated in the historic Sculpture Gallery and the Modern Galleries, offer ‘to honour the idea of being young’ says DuBois. The exhibition also features a fourteen page illustrated narrative series by Patrick Lynch which together creates a unique dialogue that mixes documentary and creative fiction echoing DuBois concept of the project (see <http://www.patrickl.net>).

The exhibition is produced in partnership with Sirius Arts Centre and with support by Aperture. With special thanks to Peggy-Sue Amision, Miranda Driscoll and Doug DuBois and the young people of Russell Heights.

EDITOR NOTES

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About the artist:

Doug DuBois' photographs are in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City; SFMOMA in San Francisco; J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles; the Museum of Fine Art in Houston; the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.; and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. He has received fellowships from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the MacDowell Colony, Yaddo, the National Endowment for the Arts, SITE Santa Fe, Light Works, and the John Gutmann Foundation. DuBois has exhibited at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles; the Museum of Modern Art and Higher Pictures in New York; SITE, Santa Fe; New Langton Arts in San Francisco; PARCO Gallery, Tokyo, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Roma and the Irish Museum of Modern Art. DuBois' photographs have been published by the Aperture Foundation, Museum of Modern Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum, Double Take, the Picture Project, the Friends of Photography, and in magazines, including *The New York Times*, *Details*, *Black Book*, *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph* (London), and *Monopol* (Berlin). www.dougdubois.com

About Aperture Foundation:

Aperture, a not-for-profit foundation, connects the photo community and its audiences with the most inspiring work, the sharpest ideas, and with each other – in print, in person and online. Created in 1952 by photographers and writers as “common ground for the advancement of photography,” Aperture today is a multi-platform publisher and center for the photo community. www.aperture.org

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

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