



Perceptions 2016: THE ART OF CITIZENSHIP

While 2016 is a time to remember the past; it is also an opportunity to re-imagine the future and to expand our perceptions of future possibilities for a brighter society. With their new exhibition, **Perceptions 2016: The Art of Citizenship**, Cork City Council Arts office, Crawford Art Gallery and CIT Crawford College of Art and Design are building on the success of the 2013 *Art of Inclusion* exhibition.

From 9 September – 29 October a diverse range of artwork will free-wheel across ten city venues, with subject matter ranging from a *Beetle Circus*, to television personalities Miriam O’Callaghan and Gay Byrne, buildings, love stories, machines, places, patterns large and small.

Perceptions 2016: The Art of Citizenship will showcase the artwork of over sixty artists working in supported studio settings, both nationally and internationally. The exhibition will include a screening programme featuring animations, artist profiles, and more.

This exhibition will delight visitors, while seeking to prompt a real dialogue around creativity, ability and the active role that the arts can play within our communities. It is provocative, humorous and confident. The artwork demonstrates a mastery of materials and technique that undermines easy assumptions.

Perceptions 2016: The Art of Citizenship aims to broaden the range of voices, visions, perceptions and approaches to creativity that the public engages with in cultural venues. The project is based on the premise that, when we create and opportunities to listen to a broad range of diverse intelligences, perspectives and voices, our knowledge, experience and understanding of the world is enriched.

This exhibition will also showcase outcomes of the Expanding Realities project, a European Erasmus + funded partnership. Over the past 2 years GASP Cork, Art in Motion (AIM) Bristol and Debajo del Sombrero Madrid - have developed and exchanged approaches to engaging the creativity, and supporting the professional development of their artists. (www.expandingrealities.eu)

Artists and organisations presenting work will be involved in public engagement events, tours and workshops with the opportunity for schools, community groups, and any members of the public to get involved. For updates see: www.perceptions2016.com, www.crawfordartgallery.ie.

A symposium investigating our understanding of citizenship within the unique context of the *Perceptions 2016* exhibition will be held on October 25 and 26.

Details of full programme and for registration: www.perceptions2016.com

EDITOR NOTES:

Participating venues:

- **Crawford Art Gallery** (www.crawfordartgallery.ie)
- **The Atrium, Cork City Council**
(<http://www.corkcity.ie/services/architects/newcivicofficesforcorkcitycouncil>)
- **CIT/ CCAD Wandesford Quay Gallery** (www.ccad-research.org/gallery)
- **CIT/ CCAD Sullivan's Quay**
- **CIT/Crawford College of Art and Design**
- **Sternview Gallery at Nash 19** (www.nash19.com/sternview.html)
- **Quay Co-op** (www.quaycoop.com)
- **The Natural Food Bakery Gallery** (www.thenaturalfoodsbakery.com)
- **Cork Airport** (www.corkairport.com)
- **Union Grind Espresso Bar**

What is a Supported Studio

A supported studio is a sustained creative environment for individuals with specific health or social needs that fosters and supports the individual practice of visual artists. Supported Studios facilitate professional development and career building opportunities for artists (both individually and as a collective), provide technical artistic support, promote artists in the marketplace, networks and audiences outside the health and social care settings. Supported studios demonstrate a commitment to producing and presenting work of high artistic quality. (adapted from:<http://aarts.net.au/supportedstudios/about/>)

About the organizers

Cork City Council Arts Office, Crawford Art Gallery and CIT Crawford College of Art and Design are building on the success of their previous collaboration *The Art of Inclusion*, 2013.

The Dept of Arts in Health & Community Practice at **CIT Crawford College of Art and Design** offers a range of courses from introductory through to Masters and continuing professional development, all exploring differing roles for the arts within a community or health context. It also provides a studio space to GASP artists and opportunities for shared studio practice between GASP and students. Art making within a social context often brings about transformation for the individuals and groups involved. Exploring the means to, and potential for, this transformation is a key concern of the Department.

Cork City Council Arts Office is a local Authority Arts Office with a strong tradition of supporting the Arts sector in Cork. Access to the arts is a civic right and Cork City Council invests strategically in strengthening the infrastructure of the arts sector in the city to

ensure access to the arts for audiences and communities is rich and diverse and opportunities for artists are meaningful. The Arts Office has over many years worked in partnership with national and local partners to raise the capacity and support the development of the Arts and Disability community through its work with the Cork Arts and Disability Network (AND) in 2011, Music Generation Cork City, *The Art of Inclusion* 2013, *Cork IGNITE* in 2014/2015 and *Perceptions 2016; the Art of Citizenship*.

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional art museum for Munster, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary.

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.

Perceptions 2016 has received financial support from: Erasmus +, Léargas, HSE (Arts and Health programme), The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Cork City Council, CIT CCAD and Crawford Art Gallery.

EXHIBITION DATES: 9 September – 29 October

Admission is free.

www.perceptions2016.com

For any further information or images please contact:

Direct line + 353 (0) 21 4907857 anneboddaert@crawfordartgallery.ie