



Credit: Ellie O' Byrne

**Press Release 28/07/2022**

## **This Heritage Week, seeds are the living heritage we can all help to protect**

This Heritage Week, the living heritage of heirloom seeds and their vital role in future proofing against climate change is in the spotlight at Crawford Art Gallery.

Join Jason and Deirdre Morrissey of Irish Seed Savers Association (ISSA) for a free, family-friendly seed saving workshop and open seed swap at The Crawford Art Gallery in Cork.

At Seeds Are Stories, gallery-goers and gardeners are invited to learn seed saving techniques from the experts, and amateur seed savers are invited to bring their saved seed to trade with others, and to tell the story behind their seed. Children can also sow a seed to take it home and watch it grow.

Making seed-saving a regular part of how we garden and grow food is becoming more important, but we need the knowledge to do it: that's the message from seed sovereignty advocate Jason Horner.

It's a global issue, but everyone who gardens and likes to grow their own can help.

Rebuilding global seed biodiversity and avoiding increasingly vulnerable food monocultures is essential to making sure our food system is resilient and sustainable, Jason says, and we can all contribute, from home gardeners to commercial horticulturalists.

Chef-turned-farmer Jason underwent a “massive learning curve” in 2021, when, after 30 years of organic horticulture on his four-acre farm in Co Clare, he switched from growing veg for high-end restaurants and his local farmer’s market to cultivating seeds.

He was partly inspired by the seed shortages experienced in Ireland during the boom in gardening we saw during Covid lockdowns in 2020, which highlighted how little seed is now grown in Ireland.

Brexit’s impact on stocks of seed potatoes further highlighted to Jason how important it is for Irish growers to relearn the art of saving seed to increase our food security for the future. Agriculture Minister Charlie McConalogue hailed the stoppage of UK seed potato exports to Ireland as a “massive opportunity” for Irish growers to get in on the seed business, and Jason agrees.

“It’s so simple really, but a lot of growers have just never thought it through,” he says. “They just haven’t joined up all the dots.”

Jason works as the Gaia Foundation’s Seed Sovereignty Programme Coordinator for Ireland, teaching growers seed-saving techniques and encouraging Irish farmers to save seed. But he’s equally passionate about the role hobby gardeners have in keeping heirloom seed varieties alive.

## **EVENT DETAILS FOR HERITAGE WEEK:**

### **SEEDS ARE STORIES: Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of August for HERITAGE WEEK, at 1pm**

A lunchtime workshop on seed saving with Irish Seed Savers Association’s seed curator Deirdre Morrissey, followed by a “seed show and tell” with Jason Horner, where people can bring, swap and sow food crop seeds and explain the origins of their saved seed. Sow a seed to bring home. 1pm seed workshop, 2pm-4pm seed swap/sowing.

### **Free Guided Tour of Meat and Potatoes exhibition**

Saturday 13 August, 11am

Learn more about the abundance of food-related artworks in the exhibition Meat and Potatoes with a free guided tour of the exhibition.

No Booking required, Suitable for all ages. Meeting point by the Sculpture Gallery.

### **Art Picnic at the Crawford**

Sunday 14 August, 11am - 1pm

### **Meat and Potatoes Project Space**

Come join us in the gallery for an artistic feast. A picnic themed drop-in workshop where you can have a try at still-life painting, drawing and basic block printing.

All ages welcome. No art experience necessary.

## **ENDS**

Kayleigh Milner  
Marketing & Communications Executive  
E [Marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:Marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
M +353 (0) 87 655 6423  
W [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)  
Crawford Art Gallery,  
Emmet Place,  
Cork, Ireland.  
T12 TNE6

### **Notes to Editor:**

The Gallery will present an extensive programme of food and art related events to accompany the exhibition. Further details online as released.

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/meat-and-potatoes/>

**For more imagery, please click [here](#).**

If you would like an interview with Jason Horner and Gillian Lattimore of Irish Seed Savers, please contact **[marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie)**

### **About the Crawford Art Gallery's Meat and Potatoes Project Space**

Meat and Potatoes is the Crawford Art Gallery's food-themed art exhibition, running from July 16<sup>th</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup>. While the downstairs gallery is showing artworks with food as a theme, upstairs, the project space is holding a big, ambitious programme of food events, from live baking workshops to a crop of gallery spuds which will be harvested and

cooked in the gallery, to talks and workshops exploring the serious food issues of the day. Full programme of events [here](#).

### **About Irish Seed Savers**

[Irish Seed Savers Association](#) (ISSA) in Scariff, Co Clare, is Ireland's only public seed bank. They maintain and preserve the biodiversity of Irish food crops through their work in saving heirloom seed. They are also home to Ullórd na hÉireann, an orchard that serves as a living gene bank for threatened varieties of Irish heirloom apples. ISSA was founded by Anita Hayes, the American wife of Stockton's Wing bodhrán player Tommy Hayes, in 1991.

### **About Deirdre Morrissey**

Deirdre Morrissey is ISSA's Seed Officer. She trained in Organic Horticulture at Dromcollagher Organic College and joined Irish Seed Savers Association in 2017 as Seed-to-Seed Assistant. In 2020 she undertook training in Botany with the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and in Seed Conservation techniques with The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She is a passionate advocate for community gardening and gardening for well-being and loves inspiring people to save their own seeds.

### **About Jason Horner**

Jason Horner is a seed saver based in Co Clare. Having worked in commercial organic horticulture for 30 years, in 2020 he began producing seed commercially. He is the Gaia Foundation's Seed Sovereignty Programme Coordinator for Ireland and he is also a coordinator for the Organic Growers of Ireland's Small Growers Network.

### **More about Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish national cultural institution, dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it also houses a collection of national importance which tells a compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's Customs House, the Gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries ago. Featured in the gallery's collection of over 3,000 objects are contemporary artists Aileen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Tacita Dean, and Sean Scully as well as much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats.

An oasis of calm and tranquillity, Crawford Art Gallery is open seven days a week, free to enter, and a must-see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 265,000 visitors annually, the Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

### **Current Event Programme:**

#### **From 15 July**

**Spuds growing** in the Upper Gallery  
in partnership with **Cork Rooftop Farm (Brian McCarthy)**

#### **5 August**

##### **Soil and the City**

Evening Panel Discussion/Live Podcast: How much of our food could we grow in the city? And what would we need to make that happen? Join Cork Urban Soil Project, Brian McCarthy of Cork Rooftop Farms and Maria Young of Cork Food Policy Council, who co-ordinates community growing projects including Togher Community Gardens, for a lively discussion. Allotment-growers and others with an interest particularly welcome!

#### **13 August – Heritage week**

##### **Seeds are Stories**

##### **1pm Seed Workshop, 2pm–4pm Seed Swap/Sowing**

A lunchtime workshop on seed saving with Irish Seed Savers Association's seed curator Deirdre Morrissey, and then a "seed show and tell" where people can bring, swap and sow food crop seeds and explain the origins of their saved seed. Sow a seed to bring home.

#### **14 August – Heritage week**

##### **Art Picnic at the Gallery**

Come join us in the gallery for an artistic feast. A picnic themed drop-in workshop where you can have a try at still life painting, drawing and basic block printing. All ages welcome. No art experience necessary.

#### **25 August**

##### **Locavore: Brexit, Covid, Ukraine and Irish food security**

##### **Thursday 25 August 6pm**

Artist and food activist Lisa Fingleton is the founder of the annual "30 day local food challenge," in which, each year she and others eat only foods grown in Ireland for the month of September. Lisa has been warning about imbalances in Irish food production for years, and recent crises including the

invasion of Ukraine have highlighted how fragile our global food supply chains can be. Join Lisa and a panel of fellow experts to explore and debate the current state of Irish food security. Details of contributors to follow.

### **10 September**

#### **Cork Rooftop Farm: Morning Tour**

##### **Saturday 10am Cornmarket, outside Cork Rooftop Farm**

Join Brian McCarthy for a tour of the Rooftop farm that's less than 500m from the door of the Crawford Art Gallery. Brian has been the brains behind the crop of spuds growing in the Crawford and if you want to see how it's possible to grow food in the city, there's no better place to start. A free but ticketed event with limited places; pre-booking is essential. Keep an eye on our events page for when tickets will become available.

### **10 September**

**The Animal Connection** : walking tours in the city with Food historian Regina Sexton. Free but with registration on Eventbrite.

### **16 September**

#### **Irish Heritage Potatoes and the Lost Crops of the Andes Friday 16 September 1:15pm**

Purple Sweet Potatoes, Yacon, Oca: come to a lunchtime talk and meet the food crops Ireland could be growing to diversify and provide sustainable food sources into the future. Join horticultural innovator Pat Fitzgerald, whose company, Beotanics, specialises in developing and breeding rare plant crops whose true potential remains untapped in Ireland.

### **17 September**

#### **Walking Cork's Food Culture: Past and Present Saturday 17 September 10:30am-2pm**

For a period in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Cork was known as 'The Slaughter House of Ireland' due to its role in supplying salted beef to the provisioning industry. Discover how the production of salted beef and butter shaped a lot of the character of the city and join food and culinary historian Regina Sexton for a walking tour of this fascinating and sometimes bloody history. A free but ticketed event, with limited numbers. Suitable for adults. Please note this is an active walking tour over several hours. Tour starts on the ground floor of the Crawford Art Gallery and ends at the Old English Market. Keep an eye on our events page for when tickets will become available.

## **22 September**

### **Ancient Grain**

Wheat is the dominant crop on which most of the developed world's bread traditions is based. But what can we learn from our ancestors about diversifying our use of grains in response to climate challenges and food supply chain disruptions? Three grain growers – Donal Creedon of Macroom Oatmeal, Leonie Workman from Dunany Farm, and Fanny Leenhardt of Real Bread Ireland – join UCD ancient food and farming expert and archaeologist Meriel McClatchie for a lively discussion and some tastings and samples.

## **23 September – Culture night**

### **Puppet Tours**

Puppets will take on the role of tour guides, showing Children around the gallery. Exploring the Meat and Potatoes exhibition, the puppets will talk about some of the artworks, engage the children with stories and create an interactive fun experience for all. Keep an eye on our events page for when tickets will become available.

### **Interactive Workshop In Meat and Potatoes Project Space**

Connecting colour and food this interactive workshop will focus on the ways we can create ecologically friendly art and highlight the role of food in creating a circular economy. Using dyes created by Ashleigh Elis from different foods, spices and herbs, participants paint, stamp and print artworks. A family friendly event, this workshop will be open to all ages.

## **Saturday 24 September – Friday 7 October**

### **Milling Saturday 24 September – Friday 7 October**

Gallery-goers can try their hand at milling flour from organic Irish-grown spelt berries when they visit the Meat and Potatoes project space between Saturday 24 September – Friday 7 October. The flour will be stored for use in our bread-making workshop on the 8th of October.

## **1 October**

### **Green Towers at Crawford Saturday 1 October – Sunday 6 November**

Green Towers are an aeroponic growing system; they may look like sci-fi, but they're capable of growing a lot of veg in just one square metre, and with up to 90% less water consumption. To complement our gallery spuds and to prepare for a harvest feast of Colcannon, the Crawford will be growing a crop of curly kale in a Green Tower.

## **6 October**

### **Take the Cake Thursday 6 October 5:30 pm**

An ongoing project of artist April Gertler, TAKE THE CAKE is a hybrid lecture performance / baking show with the intention of examining the historical trajectory of common ingredients in a cake using a feminist and post-

colonial perspective. As part of her research project, Terms of Consumption, curator Julia Gelezova commissioned Gertler to develop an Irish edition of TAKE THE CAKE, with the performances taking place in Cork and Dublin this October.

### **8 October**

#### **Our Daily Bread: A Sourdough Bread-baking Workshop with the Experts Saturday 8 October 11am–3pm**

Eight lucky members of the public can sign up for a full halfday bread baking workshop in the Project Space. Join Fanny Leenhardt of Well Bread and Ben Le Bon of the Natural Foods Bakery to learn traditional sourdough baking methods with Irish-grown spelt flour. This workshop is free but ticketed and will be dispensed on a firstcome, first-served basis to adult participants (over 18s) only. Please ensure that you have the time to be present for the entire four hours before booking a ticket. Even if you can't get a ticket, the workshop is open to all for viewing; there's still a lot to learn by stopping by to watch the baking happen. Keep an eye on our events page for when tickets will become available.

### **9 October**

#### **All About Cake Decoration Sunday 9 October 1–4pm**

Cork Sugar-craft Association is a big mix of people - young, old, hobbyists and professional cake decorators – who are passionate about cake decorating and all things sugar craft. Join members to be wowed with a display of their work and then try your hand at some of their cake decorating techniques. Suitable for adults and children.

### **13 October**

#### **Breads of the World Thursday 13 October 5:30pm**

Bread is the cornerstone of many cultures; join home bakers for live baking demonstrations in the Meat and Potatoes Project Space.

### **20 October**

#### **Artist talk : Deirdre O'Mahony**

Deidre will talk about The Persistent Return and Trial and errors, her 2 works featuring in Meat and Potatoes, in the wider context of her artistic practice. Deirdre O'Mahony, The Persistent Return Two-screen moving-image installation, 2018.

### **27 October**

#### **Food Price Crisis Thursday 27 October 5pm**

In the midst of plenty, a large, silent minority are experiencing hunger. Food inflation has pushed the price of foods up by over 5% in the past two years. Meanwhile, one in five Irish people is living in poverty after housing costs have been accounted for, according to Social Inclusion Ireland. Join UCC



public health nutritionist Janas Harrington and others for an evening discussion on the impacts of food poverty in Ireland.

### **31 October**

#### **Samhain: The Origins of an Irish Halloween and The Festive Foods of Humans and Fairies Monday 31 October 3–5:30pm**

After a whole growing season, it's time for the Crawford to dig their spuds and pick their kale! Join food and culinary historian Regina Sexton and UCC folklorist Dr Jenny Butler for a hands-on afternoon in which we will dig spuds and cook up a batch of colcannon while discovering the traditional dishes of the festival. Jenny will explain the pre-Christian and folk dimensions of an Irish Halloween and Regina will outline the role of food in the festival. Suitable for all ages, and if you're going trick-or-treating straight afterwards, fancy dress is welcome too

### **4 November**

#### **Food Futures Friday 4 November 6–8pm**

Say farewell to Meat and Potatoes with an exciting closing evening of bite-size, TED-style talks on the future of food, accompanied by some surprising nibbles. Introduced and moderated by sustainable food systems advocate Ruth Hegarty. Others speakers to be confirmed.

### **Opening Hours**

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays

Gallery: 11am - 4pm

Entry Free

## **Upcoming Exhibitions**

### **Meat and Potatoes**

16 July – 6 November

### **DRAWING ROOM**

16 September – 4 December

### **As They Must Have Been: Men of the South, 1922-2022**

30 July – 18 September 2022

## TOURS

### **Free Tours Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm**

### **Free Tours on Thursday 6.30 pm .**

This project is in support of the Night-Time Economy and funded by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,  
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**  
Department of Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media