

Crawford Art Gallery



Installation shot of *Meat and Potatoes* . Photo: Jed Niezgoda

Press release for Year in Review 2022

26/12/22

Crawford Art Gallery reflects on a successful year where visitors flocked back to the city centre venue.

Cultural visitors in Cork and across the country were delighted to see the attractions open again post covid. Crawford the most visited cultural attraction in Cork city recorded excellent visitor numbers as culture vultures voted with their feet.

The exhibitions programme presented a wide mix of national and international programming, from *Meat and Potatoes* the summer block buster, ***Behind the Scenes: Collection at Work*** to the iconic, cherished works of ***OTHER WORLDS: Harry Clarke Watercolours***. The gallery features everything from the experimental ***Artists' Film International*** to the remarkable bodies of work in ***Corban Walker: As Far As I Can See*** and a form of an intervention in the iconic Sculpture Galleries, ***EITHNE JORDAN: Mise en scène, Part II***.

A number of captivating exhibitions based on the gallery's vibrant National Collection were also hosted throughout the year, including: ***BOTANICA: The***

Art of Plants, The Port of Cork Collection, ODYSSEYS, AS THEY MUST HAVE BEEN: Men of the South, 1922-2022 and **Drawing Room** showcasing some of the highlights of the collection, as well as works rarely seen by the public.

Currently showing **is Corban Walker: As Far As I Can See**, Corban is an internationally celebrated artist based in Ireland who creates installations, sculpture and drawings that focus on human-made systems and perceptions of scale. In this exhibition Walker's distinctive sculptural and installation works are sited in **Crawford Art Gallery's** historic Gibson and Long Room galleries where they disorientate and reorientate audience perceptions to navigate known familiar spaces of the gallery.

A highlight of Crawford Art Gallery's exhibition programme this year was **Saturation: the everyday transformed** which explored remarkable bodies of work created by a dynamic generation of artists using photography to explore lives played out in front of them, often creating or conveying a heightened experience through the use of colour.

Summer exhibitions are always appealing to a broad audience and capture tourists to the city also. In 2022 a highlight of the programme was **Meat and Potatoes**, which opened across two floors of exhibition space over the summer of 2022. This exhibition brought together works by historic and contemporary artists who have used food as their muse, the exhibition was organised into three primary sections – BREAD, MEAT and POTATOES.

An interactive online project focusing on Crawford Art Gallery named **Building as Witness**, transforms the fascinating histories of local, national, and international importance surrounding the Irish Civil War period. The Gallery recently awarded 6 practitioners significant project awards to develop creative responses engaging with Crawford Art Gallery's buildings and environs from one hundred years ago.

Most recently, the planning application for the redevelopment of Crawford Art Gallery under Catherine Martin TD, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, was lodged with Cork City Council. The redevelopment of Crawford Art Gallery, as a significant institution in the heart of Cork city, is a flagship project under the Department's programme of National Development Plan investments.

On Thursdays 6.30 pm, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm, the gallery provides free tours. 'Tours on Thursday' are in support of the Night-Time Economy and funded by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. The tour experience varies from week to week, offering fascinating insights, information and the stories behind the artworks and the artists who created them. So visitors are invited on repeat visits!

The Green Room at the Crawford, a new café, opened its doors in November 2022. A classic old world dining room in Cork's cultural epicentre that mixes traditional food offerings alongside contemporary trends. The best of local Cork & Irish produce, treated with a light hand by chefs committed to simplicity and flavour.

Throughout the year, Crawford has invited visitors to explore the gallery through an alternative lens, championing new voices and delivering a consistently high-quality programme of exhibitions and events. This included working in partnership with **Cork Harbour Festival, Cork Midsummer Festival, National Heritage Week** and **Cork International Film Festival**. Crawford Art Gallery along with Cork's key cultural spots provided the **Playful Pirate Culture Trail** to children, to discover Cork's cultural adventures. To celebrate Cork Pride 2022, an **LGBTQ+ Gallery Trail and Tour** was created for visitors, as the gallery continues to diversify its collection.

Culture Night 2022 exceeded previous audience numbers with a record number of over 3,400 culturally curious visitors to the gallery.

In 2022, the Gallery's **Learn & Explore programmes** included workshops, tours, talks, large- and small-scale events and long-term community and health-based partnership projects.

For **Meat and Potatoes** exhibition an extensive programme of food related events were devised. There was an Interactive Workshop in the Meat and Potatoes Project Space throughout the course of the exhibition. Additionally, there was an offering of talks, tours and some surprising activities such as potato growing, creating edible art and viewing Crawford Collection inspired biscuits to name a few.

This year the Learn & Explore team held First Fortnight, The Drawing Clinic, Making a mark Find Your Tribe III, Bubble and Squeak: Free Drop-in Animation Sessions and National Drawing Day.

The **Learn & Explore team** also continued to facilitate the work of **Crawford Supported Studio** and **Seen-Unseen**, a sustained creative environment that fosters and supports the art practice of individuals with specific health or social needs and visually impaired person.

Crawford Art Gallery and MTU Cork School of Music have continued their long-standing partnership throughout the year with the musical ensemble **Music at Midday**. These performances have delighted visitors, delivering a lively set full of playfulness, drama and humour.

Crawford Art Gallery became a part of a new partnership with **Pat McDonnell Paints** for their exhibition, ***SATURATION: the everyday transformed.***

The gallery also launched their '**Familiar Faces**' campaign in partnership with Cork Airport. These partnerships showcased the Gallery's focused support for the continued growth of cultural tourism and local business across Cork.

Crawford Art Gallery thrives as the only National Cultural Institution located entirely outside of Dublin.

ENDS

Notes to the editor:

For additional imagery please click [here](#).

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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 is also houses a collection of national importance which tells a compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

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 Aideen 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 also houses their new Café, The Green Room in stunning surroundings, serving local produce for which Cork is famous.

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm
Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays
Gallery: 11am - 4pm
Entry Free

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