**Press Release: 26/01/24**

# Considerations of time take centre stage at Crawford Art Gallery this spring with major new exhibition

A major new exhibition called **A Matter of Time** is due to open in Crawford Art Gallery this spring, and will run from 17 February – 3 June. The exhibition considers temporality within a broad spectrum, focusing on the human experience.

Time is present in the most common, mundane of human activities. But it's also in the more significant and profound elements of human experience.

Time can be wasteful, enduring, precious and elusive. It can be measured intuitively through the seconds ticking past on a clock, by the growth spurt of a teenager, or the aeons of a mountain's erosion. Yet, embedded in the construct of human societies, time is also a central characteristic of power, control, capitalism, morality and belief.

Featuring over sixty works by twenty-five Irish and International artists, **A Matter of Time** is an expansive, ambitious and thought-provoking exhibition that gallery-goers can truly immerse themselves in. Works include:

- **Yinka Shonibare CBE** (NIG/GBR) iconic series *Diary of A Victorian Dandy*
- **Rula Halawan**i's (PSE/JOR) *For My Father* series, depicting changes to the landscape of her childhood in East Jerusalem.
- A new commissioned series **Nedko Solakov** (BGR) *Just a Matter of Time*
- **Amanda Dunsmore**'s (IRE) *The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918,* 100 portraits reproduced from glass plate negatives created in Armagh Prison prior to the partition of Ireland in 1921.

For a full list of the exhibited artists, a folder of hi-res images and some short bios, please see the editors' notes below.

Displayed over two gallery floors, the exhibition alludes to many of the human constructs around it and includes themes of nationhood, post-colonialism, appropriation, memory, health, urbanism, mediation, re-emergence, hope and legacy.

**A Matter of Time** curator Dawn Williams paid tribute to the generosity of the artists, private collections, international galleries and institutions including the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), the Hugh Lane Gallery and the Arts Council of Ireland, all of whom loaned artworks for the exhibition.

"The works, whilst stimulating, can be unsettling in perhaps underscoring how almost every facet of our lives is dominated by the human construct of time," she said.

An extensive Learn & Explore programme of artists' conversations, tours, and workshops will accompany the exhibition. See website or social media updates for details.

**Notes for editors**

For a full folder of hi-res images, please click here.

**Artists:** (in alphabetical order):

**Darren Almond, Kevin Atherton, Sara Baume, Cecily Brennan, Ursula Burke, Elaine Byrne, Gary Coyle, Dorothy Cross, Jamie Cross, Mollie Douthit, Amanda Dunsmore, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Rebecca Horn, Austin Ivers, Nick Miller, Brian O'Doherty, Kathy Prendergast, Gail Ritchie, Patrick Scott, Naomi Sex, Yinka Shonibare, Nedko Solakov, Phillip Toledano, Daphne Wright.**

**Featured artists and artworks include:**

**Amanda Dunsmore: *The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918***
*The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918* (2018) is a series of 100 portraits selected from thousands of glass plate negatives discovered by the artist at the Northern Ireland Prison Service Training College at Woburn House in Millisle, Co. Down. They were mostly taken at Armagh Prison and date to before the partition of Ireland in 1921.

With the distance of time, the negative associations connected to the prison context are lifted and the humanity of the subjects is reassigned and given a fresh perspective.

**Short Biography**
Amanda Dunsmore's artworks utilize media such as video, sound, photography and installation to create an accumulative legacy practice examining place, people and moments of political significance.

Recent projects include the *Keeper* archive (1997-ongoing), which was initiated whilst 'artist in residence' at The Maze/Long Kesh prison, in Northern Ireland and *Agreement*(2004-2023), an important and unique collection of 14 video portraits depicting individuals involved in the Belfast / Good Friday Agreement of 1998. The 2012 commission, as artist in residence working with Galway County and City older LGBTQ+ Community, led to the major art project *Becoming Christine.* She has exhibited widely, more recently *Memento-Agreement* Ulster University Gallery (2023), *Keeper,* Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (2018) and internationally Living Art Museum, Reykjavik; IDAO Gallery, Chicago and the International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Genèva,

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**Nedko Solakov: *Just A Matter Of Time***
Crawford Art Gallery is excited to exhibit a new commissioned work by Bulgarian artist Nedko Solakov. A series of nine watercolours that - in his own inimitable style - explores the notion of time through his customary wry humour, dark truths and exquisite imagery.

**Short biography**

Nedko Solakov's often confessional, always highly conceptual work, imbued with a unique off-beat humour alongside glimpses of something darker, embellishing collective "truths" and societal norms connected with the human existence.
He has exhibited extensively including internationally including Tate Modern, London (2020); Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2018); Documenta 12 (2007) and six Venice Biennales.

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**Rula Halawani:** ***For My Father***
Ten large-scale monochrome photographs from Palestinian photographer Rula Halawani's series *For My Father* (2015) feature in the exhibition. Widely respected for her experimental approach to documentary photography, the images detail the Israeli occupation of Palestine from the vantage point of fading recollection.

**Short Biography**
As a native of occupied East Jerusalem, Halawani began her artistic carer by registering the difficulties of living under a protracted political conflict. Lately, Halawani has increasingly focused her practice on the special implications of the occupation by documenting its built environments and structures.

Her work is held in international collections including Victoria and Albert Museum, London Centre Georges Pomidou, Paris and The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman. She has exhibited internationally including *May You Live in Interesting Times, 58th Venice Biennale* (2019), The Guangzhou Image Triennial (2021) and *I am the Traveller and Also the Road* (2023) Tasweer Photo Festival, Qatar.

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**Yinka Shonibare CBE:** ***Diary of a Victorian Dandy***

Yinka Shonibare's iconic photographic suite, *Diary of a Victorian Dandy* (1998) of five images depicts a 24-hour period in the fictional life of a 19th century dandy, played by Shonibare himself. Drawing on William Hogarth's (1697-1764) aptitude for social criticism, Shonibare's own presence in this series - as a Black man inverting the hierarchy of skin colour in an overwhelmingly white world - represents the visual reinstatement of black faces and stories into racially exclusive national narratives. His work also refers to the wider narratives of slavery and colonialism that underpinned and economically supported Victorian society and as Shonibare notes 'To reflect upon history, is also, inextricably, to reflect upon power'.
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**Yinka Shonibare Short Biography**

British-Nigerian artist Yinka Shonibare CBE was born in London, moved to Lagos, Nigeria at three and returned to England at 17. A year later at 18, he contracted transverse myelitis, an inflammation of the spinal cord, resulting in the paralysis of one side of his body, a life-long physical disability. He was nominated for a Turner Prize in 2004, and his work has been exhibited widely, including at London's Royal Opera House and Trafalgar Square. His installation 'The British Library' was acquired by Tate in 2019 and is currently on display at Tate Modern, London.

He was appointed Member of Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 2005 and Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2019. Most recently, he has been announced as a contributor to the Nigerian pavilion at this year's 60th Venice Biennale.

**Leagan Gaeilge**

**Tógann cúrsaí ama lár stáitse le haghaidh mórthaispeántas nua Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford**

Tá mórthaispeántas nua ar a dtugtar **A Matter of Time** le hoscailt i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford san earrach, agus beidh sé ar taispeáint ón 17 Feabhra - an 3 Meitheamh. Cuireann an taispeántas teamparáltas i láthair laistigh de speictream leathan, ag leagan béime ar an taithí dhaonna.

Bíonn an t-am i gceist sna gníomhartha daonna is comónta agus is bunúsaí. Ach bíonn sé i gceist freisin sna gnéithe is suntasaí agus is doimhne de thaithí dhaonna.

D'fhéadfadh am a bheith diomailteach, leanúnach, lómhar agus deacair teacht air. Is féidir é a thomhas i do chroí istigh sna soicindí le ticeáil ar chlog, sa ráig fáis i ndéagóir, nó sna haeóin i gcreimeadh sléibhe. Mar sin féin, agus é tuímithe i sochaithe daonna a thógáil, is tréith lárnach é am i gcumhacht, i smacht, i gcaipitleachas, i moráltacht agus i gcreideamh.

Agus os cionn seasca saothar ó fiche a cúig ealaíontóir Éireannach agus Idirnáisiúnta ar taispeántas, is taispeántas fairsing, uaillmhianach a bhfuil ábhar machnaimh ann é **A Matter of Time** inar féidir leis an dream a théann chuig an ngailearaí go minic iad féin a thumadh go domhan ann. Áirítear ar na saothair seo:

- **Yinka Shonibare CBE** (NIG/GBR) sraith íocónach *Diary of A Victorian Dandy*
- **Rula Halawan**i's (PSE/JOR) sraith *For My Father*, ina léirítear athruithe ar an tírdhreach le linn a hóige in oirthear Iarúsailéim.
- Sraith nuachoimisiúnaithe **Nedko Solakov** (BGR) *Just a Matter of Time*
- *The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918* de chuid **Amanda Dunsmore** (IRE), 100 portráid athchruthaithe ó chlaonchlónna plátghloine a cruthaíodh i bPríosún Ard Mhacha roimh críochdheighilt na hÉireann i 1921.

Chun liosta iomlán na n-ealaíontóirí a bhfuil saothair leo ar taispeáint, le fillteán d'íomhánna ardtaifigh agus roinnt féinaisnéisí gearra, féach ar nótaí an eagarthóra thíos le do thoil.

Agus iad ar taispeáint thar dhá urlár an ghailearaí, déanann an taispeántas tagairt do thógáin dhaonna mórthimpeall agus áirítear náisiúntacht, iarchoilíneachas, sealbhú, cuimhne, sláinte, uirbeachas, idirghabháil, a bheith ag teacht chun cinn, dóchas agus oidhreachta ar na téamaí.

Thug coimeádaí **A Matter of Time** Dawn Williams aitheantas d'fhlaithiúlacht na n-ealaíontóirí, na mbailiúchán príobháideacha, na ngailearaithe agus na n-institiúid idirnáisiúnta lena n-áirítear Áras

Nua-Ealaíne na hÉireann (IMMA), Gailearaí an Hugh Lane agus Comhairle Ealaíon na hÉireann, a thug saothair ealaíne ar iasacht don taispeántas.

"Cé go bhfuil na hoibreacha spreagúil, is féidir leo a bheith míshocair chun béim a leagan ar an gcaoi a bhfuil beagnach gach gné dár saol faoi smacht ag tógáil ama an duine," a dúirt sí.

Beidh clár fairsing Foghlaim & Plé ar chomhráite, turais, agus ceardlanna ealaíontóirí ar fáil in éineacht leis an taispeántas. Féach ar an suíomh gréasáin nó ar na meáin shóisialta chun breis eolais a fháil.

**Nótaí le haghaidh Eagarthóirí**

Chun fillteán iomlán d'íomhánna ardtaifigh a fháil, cliceáil anseo le do thoil.

**Ealaíontóirí:** (in ord aibítre):

**Darren Almond, Kevin Atherton, Sara Baume, Cecily Brennan, Ursula Burke, Elaine Byrne, Gary Coyle, Dorothy Cross, Jamie Cross, Mollie Douthit, Amanda Dunsmore, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Rebecca Horn, Austin Ivers, Nick Miller, Brian O'Doherty, Kathy Prendergast, Gail Ritchie, Patrick Scott, Naomi Sex, Yinka Shonibare, Nedko Solakov, Phillip Toledano, Daphne Wright.**

**Ar na healaíontóirí agus na saothair áirítear:**

**Amanda Dunsmore: *The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918***

Is éard atá sa tsraith *The Peoples Portraits 1899-1918* (2018) ná bailiúchán de 100 portráid roghnaithe ó na mílte claonchlónna plátghloine a d'aimsigh an t-ealaíontóir ag Coláiste Oiliúna Sheirbhís Phríosúin Thuaisceart Éireann ag Teach Woburn ar Oileán an Mhuilinn, Co. an Dúin. Glacadh iad den chuid is mó ag Príosún Ard Mhacha agus téann siad siar go críochdheighilt na hÉireann i 1921.

Le fad ama, cuirtear deireadh leis na ceangail dhiúltacha a bhaineann le comhthéacs an phríosúin agus déantar daonnacht na n-ábhar a athshannadh agus peirspictíocht úr a thabhairt dóibh.

**Beathaisnéis Ghearr**

Baineann saothair ealaíne Amanda Dunsmore úsáid as meáin ar nós físeán, fuaime, grianghrafadóireachta agus suiteála chun cleachtas oidhreachta carnach a chruthú ina scrúdaítear áit, daoine agus tráthanna a bhfuil tábhacht pholaitiúil ag baint leo.

Ar na tograí is déanaí áirítear an aircív *Keeper* (1997-leanúnach), a cuireadh tús leis leis 'an t-ealaíontóir cónaithe' ag príosún na Ceise Fada/An Mhaigh, i dTuaisceart Éireann agus *Agreement*(2004-2023), bailiúchán tábhachtach agus uathúil de 14 portráidí físeáin a léiríonn daoine aonair a bhain le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta Bhéal Feirste i 1998. Le coimisiún 2012, is mar ealaíontóir cónaithe a d'oibrigh le Pobal LADTA+ Chontae agus Chathair na Gaillimhe, ba chúis leis an mórthionscadal ealaíne *Becoming Christine.* Cuireadh ar taispeáint go forleathan í, agus le déanaí cuireadh ar taispeáint í i nGailearaí Ollscoil Uladh *Memento-Agreement* (2023), Keeper, Gailearaí an Hugh Lane, Baile Átha Cliath (2018) agus go hidirnáisiúnta Living Art Museum, Reykjavik; IDAO Gallery, Chicago agus sa International Museum of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Genèva,

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**Nedko Solakov:** ***Just A Matter Of Time***

Tá sceitimíní ar Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford saothar nuachoimisiúnaithe a chur ar taispeáint ó ealaíontóir Bulgárach, Nedko Solakov. Sraith de naoi bpictiúr uiscedhatha - ina stíl sainiúil féin - a chuardaíonn tuairim ama tríd a ghreann dóite, a fhírinní dorcha agus a shamhlaoidí den scoth is iondúil leis.

**Beathaisnéis Ghearr**

Bíonn saothar Nedko Solakov faoistiniúil go minic, ach ardchoincheapúil i gcónaí, lán le greann neamhghnách in éineacht le léargais de rud éigin níos doimhne, a chuireann le "fírinní" bailithe agus nósanna sochaíocha a bhaineann le saol an duine.

Chuir sé saothair ar taispeáint go fairsing lena n-áirítear go hidirnáisiúnta le Tate Modern, Londain (2020); Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (2018); Documenta 12 (2007) agus sé Venice Biennale.

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**Rula Halawani:** ***For My Father***

Tá deich ngrianghraf monacrómacha mórscála ón ngrianghrafadóir Palaistíneach Rula Halawani *For My Father* (2015) le feiceáil sa taispeántas. Tá meas forleathan uirthi as a cur chuige turgnamhach i leith grianghrafadóireacht faisnéise, agus tugtar mionsonraí sna híomhánna ar fhorghabháil Iosraelach na Palaistíne ón bpointe a raibh na cuimhní ag dul i léig.

**<u>Beathaisnéis Ghearr</u>**

Mar dhuine a tháinig as Oirthear na hIarúsailéim faoi fhorghabháil, chuir Halawani tús lena gairm ealaíne trí na deacrachtaí a bhaineann le maireachtáil faoi choimhlint pholaitiúil fhada a chur i láthair. Le déanaí, tá Halawani tar éis a cleachtas a dhíriú níos mó ar impleachtaí speisialta na forghabhála trína thimpeallachtaí agus a struchtúir thógtha a thaifead.

Sealbhaítear a saothar i mbailiúcháin idirnáisiúnta lena n-áirítear Victoria and Albert Museum, Londain Centre Georges Pomidou, Páras agus The Khalid Shoman Foundation, Amman. Tá saothair dá cuid ar taispeáint go hidirnáisiúnta lena n-áirítear *May You Live in Interesting Times, 58th Venice Biennale* (2019), The Guangzhou Image Triennial (2021) agus *I am the Traveller and Also the Road* (2023) Tasweer Photo Festival, Qatar.

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**Yinka Shonibare CBE:** ***Diary of a Victorian Dandy***

Léiríonn sraith grianghrafadóireachta íocónach Yinka Shonibare, *Diary of a Victorian Dandy* (1998) de chúig íomhá tréimhse 24 uair an chloig i saol ficseanúil scóitséara ón 19ú haois, lena raibh páirt Shonibare aige féin. Ag tarraingt ar chumas William Hogarth (1697-1764) maidir le cáineadh sóisialta, léiríonn láithreacht Shonibare féin sa tsraith seo — mar fhear Gorm atá ag inbhéartú ordlathas an chraicinn i ndomhan atá thar a bheith geal — is léiriú é ar aischur amhairc na n-aghaidheanna gorma agus na scéalta ina n-insintí náisiúnta atá eisiach ó thaobh cine de. Tagraíonn a shaothar freisin do na hinsintí níos leithne ar an sclábhaíocht agus ar an gcoilíneachas a bhí mar bhonn agus mar thaca ag sochaí Victeoiriach agus a thacaigh go heacnamaíoch léi agus mar a deir Shonibare 'Machnamh a dhéanamh ar an stair, is é sin freisin, machnamh a dhéanamh ar chumhacht'.

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**Yinka Shonibare Beathaisnéis Ghearr**

Rugadh an t-ealaíontóir Briotanach-Nigéarach Yinka Shonibare CBE i Londain, bhog sé go Lagos, an Nigéir ag trí bliana d'aois agus d'fhill sé ar Shasana ag 17 mbliana d'aois. Bliain ina dhiaidh sin ag 18 mbliana d'aois, tholg sé miailíteas trasnach, athlasadh de chorda an dromlaigh, rud a d'fhág go raibh pairilis ar thaobh amháin dá chorp, míchumas fisiciúil ar feadh an tsaoil. Ainmníodh é do Dhuais Turner in 2004, agus cuireadh a shaothar ar taispeáint go forleathan, lena n-áirítear sa Royal Opera House i Londain agus i Trafalgar Square. Fuair Tate a shuiteáil 'The British Library' in 2019 agus tá sé ar taispeáint faoi láthair in Tate Modern, Londain.

Ceapadh é ina Chomhalta d'Ord Impireacht na Breataine (MBE) in 2005 agus ina chomhalta d'Ord Ró-shármhaith Impireacht na Breataine (CBE) in 2019. Le déanaí, fógraíodh é mar thaispeántóir le Pailliún de chuid na Nigéire ag 60ú Venice Biennale i mbliana