



Mary McCarthy, Director of the Crawford Art Gallery, was photographed at the unveiling of four new artworks acquired by the gallery for the National Collection in October 2024. She is pictured alongside Sean Keating's *Elijah with the Ravens, Version II* (1930), his self-portrait (c. 1961), and the gallery's previously acquired *Men of the South*. Photo: Joleen Cronin

PRESS RELEASE 23/10/24

**A “fantastic coup” for growing National Collection as Crawford Art Gallery acquires two Seán Keating paintings at a recent auction.**

Crawford Art Gallery in Cork has acquired two more paintings by one of Ireland's best-known painters, Seán Keating.

The Keating paintings are amongst four artworks recently acquired at auction by Crawford Art Gallery for the National Collection.

Sean Keating's *Elijah with the Ravens, Version II* (1930) and his self-portrait, c.1961, along with *Winter Evening, Calary* (1964) by abstract and landscape artist Camille Souter and *Attic Bedroom* (date unknown) by Grace Henry



were all purchased with the support of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

The acquisitions bring to 15 the number of Keating works in Crawford Art Gallery's collection. Keating, born in 1889 in Limerick, is considered one of Ireland's leading painters of the first half of the twentieth century.

One of Keating's best-loved paintings, *Men of the South*, depicting men of the 2nd North Cork Brigade of the IRA awaiting an ambush, is in Crawford Art Gallery's collection. In November 2023 Crawford purchased *The Window*, a tender depiction of Keating's wife, May, at a Dublin auction.

Crawford Art Gallery is currently closed to the public for Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, an extensive restoration and redevelopment that is currently expected to be complete in 2027.

While the gallery is closed, staff continue to work on care of the collection of over 3,500 artworks. The collection is being decanted into secure storage throughout the winter of 2024 for the duration of the building's renovations.

The newly acquired Keatings, Souter and Henry will go on public display after the gallery reopens.

"This is a fantastic coup for Crawford Art Gallery and for the National Collection," Crawford Art Gallery director Mary McCarthy said of the acquisitions.

"The acquisition of *Elijah and the Ravens* and Keating's self-portrait are a thrilling moment for Crawford Art Gallery, making Crawford Art Gallery an even more significant custodian of public works by this much-loved and historically important Irish painter."

"The Camile Souter and Grace Henry acquisitions further expand our collection of two very fine artists' works."

"Crawford Art Gallery's doors might be closed to the public at present for redevelopment, but as these important acquisitions show, we are

continuing to work behind the scenes to enhance the National Collection," Ms McCarthy said.

"The public will have an even more exciting and enriching visitor experience awaiting them when we re-open our doors following Transforming Crawford Art Gallery."



ENDS

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie) Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, Cork, Ireland.

Dyane Hanrahan Marketing & Communications Manager

E: [dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie) T +353 (0) 21 4907856 M +353 (0) 86 8278151

Ellie O'Byrne Press Officer

E: [press@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:press@crawfordartgallery.ie) M +353 (0)87125 8446

### **Editors' notes:**

**Notes to Editor:** for extra images please click [here](#).

### **Brief bio of each artist**

#### **Biography: Sean Keating (1889-1977)**

Sean Keating was born in Limerick and moved to Dublin in 1911 to study at the Metropolitan School of Art under William Orpen. Keating felt his mission was to help to define Irish nationhood through his painting and nationalism was a driving force behind his work. He was a staunchly traditional realist painter, although abstract art thrived at the time he lived and taught in Ireland.

In 1918, Keating was appointed teacher at the Metropolitan School of Art, Dublin. He later became Professor of Painting and was elected a member of the R.H.A. in 1923. In 1934, he was appointed Professor of the National College of Art in Dublin and held the position of President of the Royal Hibernian Academy from 1948 until 1962.

#### **Biography: Grace Henry (1868-1953)**

Scottish artist Grace Henry was born Emily Grace Mitchell near Aberdeen in 1868. She studied at the Académie Delécluse in Paris. In 1920, she was a founding member of the Society of Dublin Painters with Letitia Marion Hamilton, her then-husband Paul Henry, Mary Swanzy, and Jack B. Yeats. She lived with Paul Henry on Achill Island for ten years, popularising the West of Ireland as a source of inspiration for painters.

#### **Biography: Camille Souter (1929 – 2023)**

Camille Souter was a British-born Irish abstract and landscape artist who lived and worked on Achill Island. She was born Betty Pamela Holmes in Northampton in 1929, but grew up in Ireland. After training as a nurse, she began painting as a part of occupational therapy while recovering from TB on the Isle of Wight. In 1953 she began exploring the medium of paint after a visit to Italy. She married the sculptor Frank Morris in 1960, moved to County Wicklow and had four children with him. She died at 93 in Dublin.



### **About Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish National Cultural Institution (NCI) dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it also houses a collection of national importance which tells the 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 and Sean Scully as well as much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness and Jack B. Yeats.

### **About Transforming Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery closes to the public from September 23 2024 to undergo an enormously exciting capital redevelopment project: Transforming Crawford Art Gallery.

This multi-million euro investment will increase gallery space by almost 50%, preserve and protect three centuries of existing built heritage, and create a cultural legacy for a new century as Cork continues to grow.

The project is a Government of Ireland 2040 project funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The award-winning Grafton Architects [have worked on a redevelopment design](#) that includes a new Learn and Explore facility for public engagement, significant storage for the National Collection at Crawford, a new entrance, and a dramatically improved public realm including new café facing onto Half Moon Street.

The building's entrance will be reoriented to Emmet Place in line with the original Customs House layout dating to 1724.



A large new public gallery space will be created five stories above Cork City, creating a new vantage point for visitors to view city centre landmarks including Shandon and St Finbarre's Cathedral.

After a contractor has been appointed and begins work in spring 2025, it is envisaged that Crawford Art Gallery will reopen to the public in 2027.

For all the latest news on Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, sign up to the newsletter on [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie) or follow the gallery's social media.



Mary McCarthy. Íomhá: Joleen Cronin

### PREISEISIÚNT 23/10/234

Tá “éacht iontach” déanta ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford agus dhá shaothar de chuid Seán Keating faighte ag ceant le déanaí chun cur leis an mBailiúchán Náisiúnta.

Tá dhá shaothar eile faighte ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford Chorcaí le duine de na péintéirí is cáiliúla in Éirinn, Seán Keating.

Tá saothair Keating i measc ceithre shaothar ealaíne a fuair Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford le déanaí ar ceant don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta.

Ceannaíodh *Elijah with the Ravens*, Leagan II (1930) le Seán Keating agus a fhéinphortráid, c.1961, mar aon le *Winter Evening, Calary* (1964) leis an ealaíontóir teibí agus tírdhreacha Camille Souter agus *Attic Bedroom* (ní fios an dáta) le Grace Henry le tacaíocht airgeadais ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

Tá 15 shaothar le Keating anois i mbailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford mar thoradh ar na héadálacha. Meastar go bhfuil Keating, a rugadh in 1889 i Luimneach, ar dhuine de na péintéirí is mó le rá in Éirinn sa chéad leath den fhichiú haois.



Is i mbailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford atá ceann de na saothair is mó tóir de chuid Keating, *Men of the South*, ina bhfuil fir ón 2ú Briogáid de chuid an IRA i gCorcaigh Thuaidh ag fanacht le luíochán. I mí na Samhna 2023, cheannaigh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford *The Window*, léiriú grámhar ar bhean chéile Keating, May, ag ceant i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta don phobal faoi láthair do Chlaochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, athchóiriú agus athfhorbairt fairsing a bhfuiltear ag súil go mbeidh sé críochnaithe in 2027.

Ach cé go bhfuil na doirse dúnta, leanann an fhoireann ag obair ar chúram bailiúcháin de níos mó ná 3,500 saothar ealaíne. Tá an bailiúchán á bhogadh le stóráil go slán le linn gheimhreadh 2024, ar feadh thréimhse athchóirithe an fhoirgnimh.

Rachaidh na saothair de chuid Keating, Souter agus Henry a fuarthas le déanaí ar taispeáint go poiblí tar éis don ghailearaí athoscailt.

“Is éacht iontach é seo do Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta, agus do Chorcaigh,” a dúirt stiúrthóir Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, Mary McCarthy, faoi na héadálacha.

“Is ócáid an-spreagúil é do Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford éadail *Elijah and the Ravens* agus féinphortráid Keating, agus fágann sé go bhfuil Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ina choimeádaí níos suntasaí fós ar shaothair phoiblí leis an bpéintéir Éireannach seo a bhfuil meas mór air agus a bhfuil tábhacht stairiúil ag baint leis.”

“Le héadálacha Camille Souter agus Grace Henry leathnaítear ár mbailiúchán de dhá shaothar ó ealaíontóirí cumasacha.”

“Cé go bhfuil doirse Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta don phobal faoi láthair le haghaidh athfhorbartha, mar a léiríonn na héadálacha tábhachtacha sin, táimid ag leanúint de bheith ag obair sa chúlra chun feabhas a chur ar an mBailiúchán Náisiúnta,” a dúirt an tUasal McCarthy.

“Beidh taithí cuairteoirí níos spreagúla agus níos saibhre fós ag an bpobal nuair a osclóimid ár ndoirse arís tar éis Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.”

CRÍOCH

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie) Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, Plás Emmet, Corcaigh, Éire.

Dyane Hanrahan Bainisteoir Margáíochta & Cumarsáide



R: [dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie) T +353 (0) 21 4907856 M +353 (0) 86 8278151

Ellie O'Byrne Preasoifigeach

R: [press@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:press@crawfordartgallery.ie) M +353 (0)87125 8446

### **Nótaí don eagarthóir:**

Chun breis íomhánna a fheiceáil, cliceáil [anseo](#).

### **Mionchur síos ar gach ealaíontóir**

#### **Beathaisnéis: Seán Keating (1889-1977)**

Rugadh Seán Keating i Luimneach agus bhog sé go Baile Átha Cliath i 1911 chun staidéar a dhéanamh i Scoil Ealaíne na Cathrach faoi William Orpen. Bhraith Keating gurbh é an misean a bhí aige ná cabhrú le náisiúntacht na hÉireann a shainiú trína phéintéireacht agus bhí náisiúnachas mar spreagadh ina shaothar. Ba phéintéir réalaióch traidisiúnta é, cé go raibh rath ar ealaín theibí ag an am a raibh sé ina chónaí agus ag múineadh in Éirinn.

I 1918, ceapadh Keating ina mhúinteoir i Scoil Ealaíne na Cathrach, Baile Átha Cliath. Ceapadh ina Ollamh le Péintéireacht é ina dhiaidh sin agus toghadh ina bhall den R.H.A. é sa bhliain 1923. I 1934, ceapadh é ina Ollamh sa Choláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne i mBaile Átha Cliath agus bhí sé ina Uachtarán ar an Acadamh Ibeirneach Ríoga ó 1948 go 1962.

#### **Beathaisnéis: Grace Henry (1868-1953)**

Rugadh an t-ealaíontóir Albanach Grace Henry mar Emily Grace Mitchell in aice le hObar Dheathain in 1868. Rinne sí staidéar ag an Académie Delécluse i bPáras. Sa bhliain 1920, bhí sí ar dhuine de bhunaitheoirí Chumann na bPéintéirí i mBaile Átha Cliath le Letitia Marion Hamilton, a fear céile Paul Henry, Mary Swanzy, agus Jack B. Yeats. Bhí cónaí uirthi le Paul Henry ar Oileán Acla ar feadh deich mbliana, ag cur iarthar na hÉireann i mbéal an phobail mar fhoinsé inspioráide do phéintéirí.

#### **Beathaisnéis: Camille Souter (1929 - 2023)**

Ealaíontóir teibí agus tírdhreacha Éireannach a rugadh sa Bhreatain ba ea Camille Souter a bhí ina cónaí agus ag obair ar Oileán Acla. Rugadh Betty Pamela Holmes in Northampton sa bhliain 1929, ach d'fhás sí aníos in Éirinn. Tar éis di oiliúint a fháil mar altra, thosaigh sí ag péinteáil mar chuid de theiripe saothair agus í ag teacht chuici féin ón eitinn ar Inis Iocht. I 1953 thosaigh sí ag iniúchadh meán na péinte tar éis cuairt a thabhairt ar an Iodáil. Phós sí

an dealbhóir Frank Morris i 1960, bhog sí go Contae Chill Mhantáin agus bhí ceathrar páistí aici leis. Fuair sí bás i mBaile Átha Cliath nuair a bhí sí 93 bliain d'aois.





### **Maidir le Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford**

Is institiúid chultúrtha náisiúnta é Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford atá suite i bhfoirgneamh oidhreachta suntasach i gcroílár chathair Chorcaí agus atá tiomnaithe do na hamharc-ealaíona, go stairiúil agus go comhaimseartha araon. Agus é ag cur clár fuinniúil taispeántas sealadach ar fáil, tá bailiúchán náisiúnta tábhachtach faoina dhíon freisin a insíonn scéal spéisiúil Chorcaí agus na hÉireann le trí chéad bliain anuas.

Tógadh ar dtús i 1724 é mar Theach Custaim na cathrach agus tá na Múnlaí Canova cáiliúla ar taispeáint sa Ghailearaí, a bronnadh ar Corcaigh dhá chéad bliain ó shin. Tá os cionn 3,000 saothar i mbailiúchán an ghailearaí. Ina measc tá na healaíontóirí comhaimseartha Aileen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross agus Seán Scully mar aon le saothair a bhfuil gean mór orthu leis na healaíontóirí Éireannacha James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness agus Jack B. Yeats.

### **Maidir le Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford**

Beidh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta i bhfómhar 2024 chun tabhairt faoi thogra athfhorbartha caipitil darb' ainm Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.

Cuirfidh an infheistíocht, ar fiú na milliúin euro é, 50% breise le spás an ghailearaí, agus déanfaidh sé trí chéad bliain d'oidhrecht thógtha a chaomhnú agus a chosaint, agus cruthófar oidhrecht chultúrtha don ghlúin amach romhainn de réir mar a bheidh Corcaigh ag leanúint ag fás.

Is togra de chuid Thograí Rialtas na hÉireann 2040 é atá ag fáil maoiniú ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meáin i gcomhar le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW).

Tá Grafton Architects a bhfuil gradaim bainte acu [tar éis obair a dhéanamh ar dhearadh athfhorbartha](#) lena n-áirítear áis Foghlam agus Fiosraithe nua le rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach, stóráil shuntasach don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta i nGailearaí Crawford, bealach isteach nua, agus spás poiblí a bheidh feabhsaithe go mór lena n-áirítear caifé nua ar Shráid na Leathghealaí.

Beidh bealach isteach an fhoirgnimh curtha ar ais go Plás Emmet de réir leagan amach Theach an Chustaim a chuaigh siar go 1724.

Cruthófar spás gailearaí mór nua le cúig urlár ag féachaint amach ar Chathair Chorcaí, a chruthaíonn radharc do chuairteoirí chun féachaint ar shainchomharthaí i lár na cathrach lena n-áirítear An Seandún agus Ardeaglais Naomh Fionnbarra.