



**crawford art gallery cork**  
**áiléar crawford chorcaigh**

Aideen Barry: Not to be Known

14 July – 4 November

Seduced by the concept of the ideal home-maker and the working woman as proposed by the media, Aideen Barry's stop-motion film, *Not to be Known*, shows the artist overwhelmed by the monotony and magnitude of domestic chores in nightmarish scenarios. To maintain the tension between reality and aspiration, the artist's Medusa-like hair of vacuum cleaner hoses prepares and cooks the perfect family meal, irons the laundry, whilst she 'keeps up appearances', sitting quietly at the kitchen table, sipping tea, and scrolling through visual images of the 'dream' kitchen – i.e. spotless and non-functioning – on her Smartphone. The hair becomes so busy that it demands Barry's body and drags her upstairs to make the bed, suggesting that adherence to her chores is a far greater need than maintaining an apparent

quality of life. Finally, she chops off her vacuum tentacles in an effort to find her life outside the domestic space.

Barry's performances are often physically and mentally demanding mirroring similar pressures on the female body which are exerted by our society. The dark humoured, uncanny film expands upon her interests in monachopsis – the subtle but persistent feeling of being out of place - and her exploration of obsessional behaviour in the context of suburban normality.

Not to Be Known was commissioned by the Arts & Heritage Trust, UK.

Image © Aideen Barry, commissioned by the Arts & Heritage Trust, UK

## **ENDS**

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## **More About Aideen Barry**

Aideen Barry (\*Cork, 1979) has a national and international profile. Her means of expression are interchangeable and incorporates performance, film, animation, drawing and sculptural forms. Projects include a solo show at MARFA Contemporary, Texas (2018); The Lexicon Commission Award (2017); By Association – A Performative Response to Carol Rama, Commissioned by the Irish Museum of Modern Art and Lismore Castle Arts (2016); and Brittlefield: A Solo Survey, RHA Gallery, Dublin (2016).

## More About Crawford Art Gallery

Located in the heart of Cork city, The Crawford Art Gallery is a must see for locals and tourists alike, welcoming over 200,000 visitors a year.

The Crawford Art Gallery is home to an expansive collection featuring works from the 18th Century to present. It is also home to the famous 'Canova Casts', which were gifted to the city of Cork nearly two centuries ago. Well-known and loved paintings by 20th century Irish artists such as Seán Keating, John Lavery, Jack B. Yeats, Norah McGuinness, Gerard Dillon, and Muriel Brandt feature in the gallery's historic collection, while the modern collection features work by contemporary artists such as Eilis O'Connell, Vivienne Roche, Maud Cotter and Hughie O'Donoghue. The Gallery hosts numerous temporary exhibitions by local, national and international artists showcasing visual art, performance and installations.

Enjoy our free tours and bask in the tranquillity and atmosphere only a building with such history and beauty can provide. The architecture of the building combining the modern new galleries with the historical, gives a breath-taking backdrop to a collection of great national importance.

## Learn and Explore

For details on guided tours, access and education, please visit our website: [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)