

GAILEARAÍ  
NÁISIÚNTA<sup>na</sup>  
hÉIREANN



NATIONAL  
GALLERY<sup>of</sup>  
IRELAND

22 May 2019  
[press@ngi.ie](mailto:press@ngi.ie)

**National Gallery of Ireland welcomes Crawford Art Gallery  
as partner for Zurich Portrait Prize 2019**  
*Cork gallery will present exhibition in 2020*

The National Gallery of Ireland and Crawford Art Gallery are delighted to announce a new partnership. For the first time the Zurich Portrait Prize exhibition will travel to a second venue outside of Dublin. The exhibition will run at Crawford Art Gallery from January to April 2020. The exhibition opens in the National Gallery of Ireland on 5 October 2019.

The annual competition showcasing contemporary portraiture attracts entries from across the island of Ireland, and from Irish artists living abroad. The exhibition will feature a shortlist of portraits chosen by the 2019 judging panel: Mike Fitzpatrick, Head of Limerick School of Art and Design; Professor Fiona Kearney, founding Director of the Glucksman; and Mick O'Dea, artist and member of the RHA.

Sean Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland said, *“As the Gallery continues to grow its national footprint, we’re thrilled to bring the Zurich Portrait Prize to Cork. Showcasing portraiture to new audiences at Crawford Art Gallery is a wonderful development in Zurich’s second year of involvement with the competition.”*

Mary McCarthy, Director of Crawford Art Gallery commented, *“Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to partner for the first time with the National Gallery of Ireland on the hugely anticipated Zurich Portrait Prize exhibition. Annually the exhibition and prize giving generates excitement and presents audiences with fresh perspectives on portraiture. We believe it will enable our audiences to make connections with our wider collection and supports our deeper ongoing collaboration with the National Gallery of Ireland.”*

Brian Hunt, Head of Regulatory Affairs at Zurich added, *“We are very pleased that the exhibition will be on display in Crawford Art Gallery in 2020. The Zurich Portrait Prize has a broad appeal and the fact that the shortlisted works will be on display outside*

*Dublin for the first time is an exciting way to mark the second year of Zurich's association with the competition."*

**ENDS**

**Media contacts:**

Kate O'Leary, National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin [press@ngi.ie](mailto:press@ngi.ie) / +353 (0) 1 632 5520  
Dyane Hanrahan, Crawford Art Gallery [dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie) /  
+353 (0) 21 4907856

**Notes to editors:**

The Zurich Portrait Prize exhibition runs at the National Gallery of Ireland from 5 October 2019 – 22 January 2020 and at Crawford Art Gallery from 31 January 2020 – 13 April 2020.

**About the Zurich Portrait Prize:**

The Portrait Prize, open to artists aged 19 over, runs for the sixth time in 2019 with Zurich as sponsor for the second year. The aim of the Zurich Portrait Prize is to showcase and encourage interest in contemporary portraiture, support Irish talent and to raise the profile of the long-standing and constantly evolving National Portrait Collection at the National Gallery of Ireland. The shortlisted artists' works will be exhibited in the National Gallery of Ireland from 5 October 2019 – 12 January 2020 and in Crawford Art Gallery from 31 January – 13 April 2020. Entries are currently being welcomed for the Zurich Portrait Prize 2019. The closing date is 20 June 2019.

**About the National Gallery of Ireland:**

Established in 1854 by an Act of Parliament, the National Gallery of Ireland houses the nation's collection of European and Irish fine art spanning the early Renaissance to the present day, with over 16,300 works of art. The Gallery is also home to the National Portrait Collection (established 1874). Find out more at [www.nationalgallery.ie](http://www.nationalgallery.ie).

**About Crawford Art Gallery:**

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional art museum for Munster, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The collection comprises almost 4,000 works, ranging from eighteenth century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations.  
[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)

**About Zurich:**

Ireland is Zurich's location of choice for its pan-European company Zurich Insurance plc (ZIP). Since 2009, ZIP has been headquartered in Dublin and is the main risk carrier for Zurich's general insurance business in the EU. Patrick Manley is the CEO of Zurich Insurance plc. In terms of domestic business, Zurich focuses on two key business areas in Ireland - General Insurance and Life. In Ireland, Zurich employs approximately 1,100 people.