

A visit to Crawford Art Gallery Cork



Original Custom house building



1884 extension funded by William Crawford

Look at the film *A Visit to Crawford Gallery (part 1)* <https://youtu.be/bXjGZvumrdw>

Crawford Art Gallery is located in the centre of Cork city.
Its collection comprises over 3,000 works, ranging from eighteenth-century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's custom house, the Gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts. This collection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts, was gifted to Cork in 1818 from the Vatican Museum in Rome.



Sculpture gallery with Canova casts



Research

Find out why these plaster casts were gifted to Cork <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/recasting-canova-2/>

Download the exhibition brochure at <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/wp-content/uploads/CRAWFORD-ART-GALLERY---RECASTING-CANOVA-second-edition-SR.pdf>

Respond

Who was Antonio Canova?

Why did the Pope want plaster replicas of ancient statues?

How do you think you might feel if you visited the sculpture gallery in Cork and saw the Canova casts?

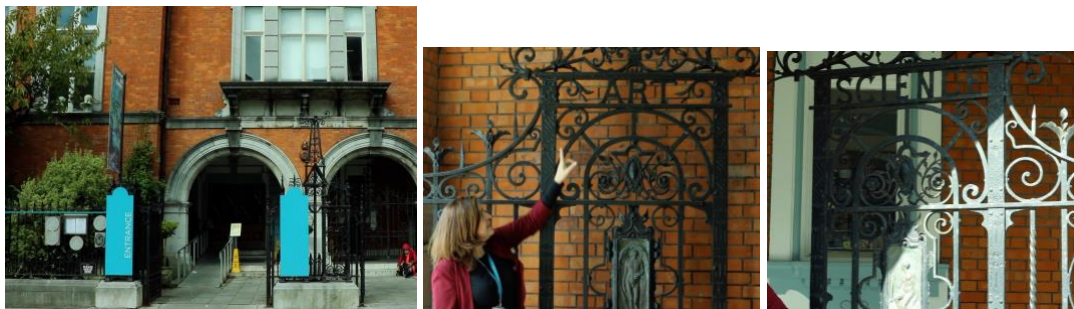
Create

Make some imaginative colour sketches in response to your sense of space and colour of the sculpture gallery at the Crawford.

Develop your ideas further by choosing an object(s) that reflects this response. Continue the process of development by responding to this object in drawing or another media of your choice.

The Crawford Municipal School of Art

A magnificent extension was added in 1884 to accommodate the growing number of students. This was paid for by William Horatio Crawford, a wealthy brewer in the city and it was then re-named the Crawford Municipal School of Art. The extension included several beautiful new purpose-built art galleries.

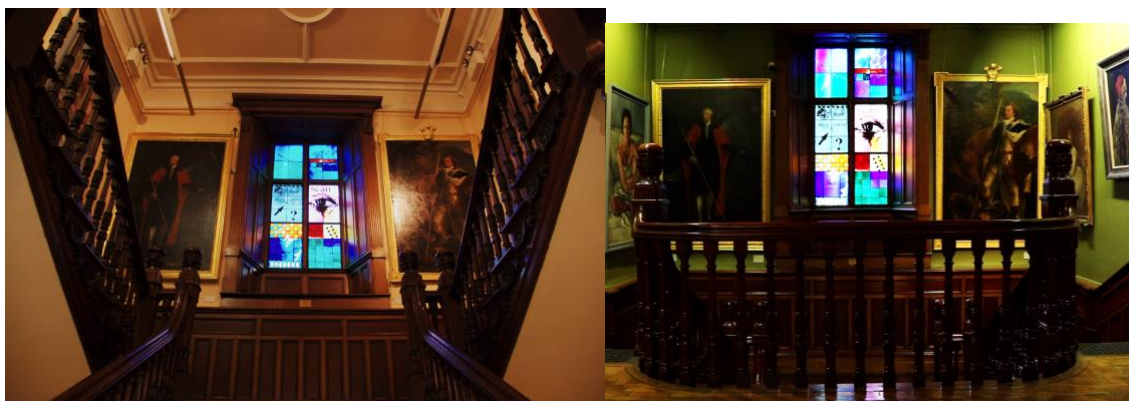


Crawford Gallery entrance

It was originally intended that the 1884 extension would include a School of Science, but the proposals were scaled down. This explains why Science and Art can be seen on the inner entrance gates.

Research

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/history/>



Crawford gallery staircase

In 1979 the School of Art moved to another premises and became the Crawford College of Art and Design. <https://crawford.cit.ie>



In 2000, the Crawford Gallery further expanded its gallery space by creating a new exhibition wing of contemporary art designed by Dutch architect Erick van Egeraat.

Research

Find out more about the architecture of the Crawford Art Gallery

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/history/#Architecture>

Respond

Explore the stories of the Sculpture Galleries with Abbey Ellis and uncover the curious things that usually only curators get to see, at

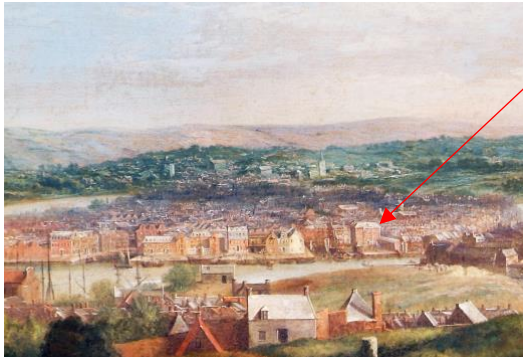
<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/sculpture-secrets-2/>

Abbey Ellis is a PhD researcher at the University of Leicester and Ashmolean Museum, Oxford on an AHRC CDP placement at Crawford Art Gallery. Her research focuses on archaeological plaster casts, sculptural materials and making, and authenticity.

See the original Apollo Belvedere at the Vatican Museum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UX2HDCa1dM>

- Do you agree that this was the perfect form of a man?
- Compare the original marble statues in the Vatican Museum with the plaster cast replicas in the Crawford Gallery?
- Which museum would you prefer to visit?
- Describe how the atmosphere might vary in both?
- Do you think that other museums may also have plaster casts of ancient classical statues?
- What important purpose did these replicas serve?
- What do you think students in the Cork School of Art learned from drawing these statues?
- Make a drawing of your favourite statue from one of these online examples. What did *you* learn from this exercise?



View of Cork by PJ Butts (detail)



This View of Cork was painted in about 1750 by PJ Butts. It shows the Cork Custom house on the edge of the river and Charlotte Kennedy's watercolour and ink *Cork Custom House 1724* (1997) shows an elevation view of the oldest wing of Crawford Art Gallery!

The paintings remind us that Cork was built on marches and many of today's streets were originally part of the river.

View of Cork by RJ Butts

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/work-of-the-week-9-september-2019/>

Cork Custom House 1724

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/work-of-the-week-13-july-2020/>

Respond

Why were pineapples represented over the door of the 1724 Customs House?

Create

Using real pineapples as a starting point, make some drawings and develop your own ideas, through further drawing and research on a theme that represents Cork's position as an important maritime port, supplying sometimes quite exotic goods from overseas to Ireland and Britain.

The Laocoön and his sons



Plaster cast of the *Laocoön and his sons* Crawford Gallery Cork

Key facts (extract from Crawford Gallery resource sheet)

This plaster cast represents Laocoön (Lay-ock-oh-on), a Trojan priest from Greek mythology. During the Trojan War, when the Greeks were fighting the Trojans, Laocoön tried to warn

his people that the Greeks were planning to trick them by hiding their soldiers inside a wooden horse. The goddess Athena, who supported the Greeks, was angry and sent sea serpents to attack Laocoön and his two young sons.

The statue was excavated in Rome in 1506 and placed on public display in the Vatican but no one knew if it was a copy of an earlier Greek sculpture, probably in bronze, or an original Roman work. Today most historians agree that it was probably commissioned for the home of a wealthy Roman, possibly from about 200 BCE to around 70 CE.

Style

Laocoön and His Sons is a typical of the Hellenistic period of ancient Greek art, which had great interest in the realistic depiction of movement. In the action-packed scene, three figures frantically try to free themselves from the grasp of sinuous serpents. In a swirling mass of snakes and limbs, they struggle, twist and turn, but despite all their efforts they remain entangled.

Research

To find out more about the marble statue of the Laocoon and his sons in the Vatican Museum look at:

Smart History <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3cwGCezgSQ>

- Why the arm of the Laocoon is so different from the arm in the cast in the Crawford Gallery?
- Consider the terrible pain and agony shown in the work and yet we enjoy the beauty of the sculpture! Why is that do you think?

Create

- Read the story and examine the plaster cast of Laocoön and his sons.
- Consider the movement and emotion in the work?
- Make some imaginative sketches as part of your reaction and response to this.
- Use these sketches as a starting point for a work of art but as you further develop your own ideas, make drawings from life (using a real person as a model).

Respond to one of the following leaving certificate questions

Section III Appreciation

2018 Ordinary Level

Answer (a) and (b).

(a) Name an art gallery, museum **or** interpretive centre that you have visited.

Describe and discuss how artefacts were displayed using the following headings:

- layout
- lighting
- information for the viewer.

(b) Suggest a design for a brochure to inform visitors about your chosen gallery, museum **or** interpretive centre.

Give reasons for your design decisions.

Illustrate your answer.

2016 Higher Level

Architecture, floor plan, lighting and display techniques all influence the overall visitor

experience and appreciation of works of art in a gallery or museum.

Discuss this statement with reference to a named gallery or museum you have visited.

Describe in detail two named works you found interesting and discuss how these works were displayed.

and

In your opinion, briefly outline two initiatives that would encourage young people to engage with works of art on display