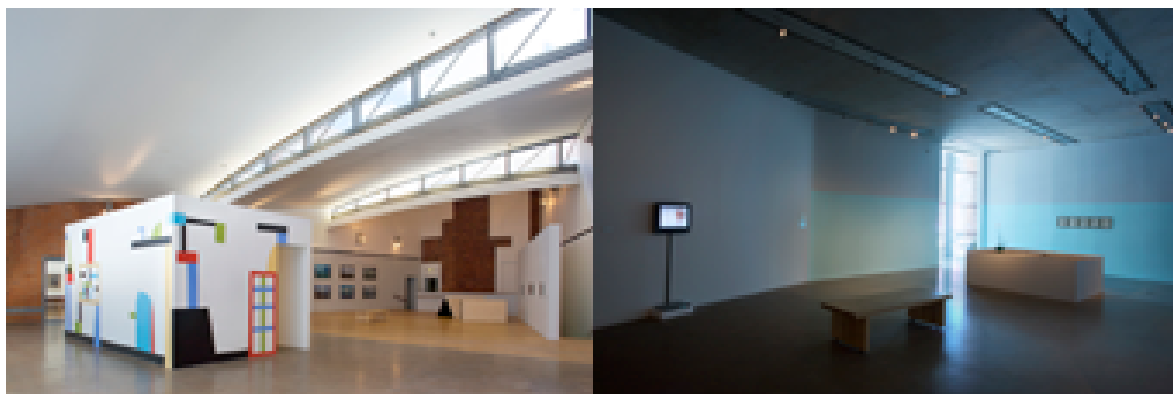


CLOSE to HAND

Lorraine Burrell, Gary Coyle, Cleary + Connolly,
Katie Holten, Nick Miller, Collette Nolan,
Nathalie du Pasquier

until 9 October, 2010



L-R: Nathalie du Pasquier, Gary Coyle, Collette Nolan, Lorraine Burrell, Katie Holten, installation

Within the current economic downturn, the media's concentration on the home as a symptom and symbol places a focus on the relationships between dwellers and buildings. The habitat in which we reside and its extended environment, offers both opportunity and restriction, being a potential centre for comfort and conflict, rituals and reverie and a site for rich aesthetic exploration.

Close to Hand focuses on the investigations and processes of eight artists: **Lorraine Burrell; Gary Coyle; Cleary + Connolly; Nick Miller; Katie Holten; Collette Nolan and Nathalie du Pasquier** who continue to invoke the personal and physical relationship of their surroundings within their practice.

The artists in this exhibition, could be said to be committed to the 'infra-ordinary'- watchful students of the everyday attempting to recover elements that form part of the texture of everyday life so easily disregarded.

Exposing the blurring or 'entanglements' between life and its environs, Close to Hand celebrates the creative impetus that is the familiar and the overlooked within our everyday context and perhaps prompts the viewer to 'look again' at the relationship with one's immediate surroundings.

CLOSE to HAND

About ten years ago the frontier between art and the lives of **Cleary + Connolly** started to blur: life mixed up with art mixed up with life or “entanglements” as Anne Cleary terms it. The film ‘There & Then’ documents two weeks in September 2005 when the artists, accompanied by their twin five year old girls, were preparing an installation about a piano performance by their friend, Eriko Momotani. Spending most days in the air-conditioned flat escaping the outside heat and humidity the film is about the small world in which they temporarily reside.

In his paintings **Nick Miller** attempts to grasp, record and be present with his landscape environment. In ‘Lissadell Bay’, Miller extracts one specific viewpoint, from a myriad of possible sites, within his journey between his house and studio. ‘Oyster Bay’ (2010) records the view from the artist’s house “overlooking a half empty Celtic Tiger housing estate, located in the incongruous beauty of Sligo Bay and Knocknarea” - allowing Miller to “come to terms with my immediate daily surroundings”.

Katie Holten’s practice is rooted in her fascination with her relationship “with a city block, a house, an airplane, a tree, anything that happens around us”. Often working with geophysicists, botanists, historians her work shown here is diverse. ‘Cosmic Turquoise’ - denotes the ‘average colour of the universe’ as calculated by astrophysicists at John Hopkins University, and comments on the absurdity and inaccuracies of this scientific discovery. Holten’s drawings detail the recent man-made Gulf Coast oil spills on ‘ready-made narratives’ (‘On Aggression’, Konrad Lorenz, 1963) - which is a seminal text telling the story of man’s fascination with, and attempts to control nature.

Lorraine Burrell has always been intrigued how the home is conceived as a place of comfort and safety as well as one of conflict and anxiety. Her work is part performance, part staged photography. ‘Studies’ documents her ‘three dimensional’ attempt to teach her youngest child to identify basic geometric shapes. Burrell constructs images within her own domestic environment exploring parenthood, family relationships and living in suburbia.

Gary Coyle’s work records his decade long daily ritual of swimming in the ‘40 Foot’ in Dublin. Alongside his meticulous sketch books and diaries is a map of Dun Laoghaire where Coyle has highlighted each and every road and cul-de-sac he has systematically been present in. The screening of ‘At Sea’ illustrates the degree to which Coyle’s daily routines and art practice collide capturing Coyle’s passion for his surroundings and the people who inhabit the spaces alongside him “transforming the mundane stuff of all our lives into something

CLOSE to HAND

completely different". Quoting James Joyce, Coyle remarks 'The ordinary is the proper domain of the artist, the extraordinary can safely be left to journalists'.

Nathalie du Pasquier's work is about "arranging what is around me in a way I like". She suggests her approach is quite simple in that the everyday objects don't fascinate her, "they are just around me". Based in Milan, du Pasquier uses these objects as raw material, erasing any labels and arranging them together with pieces of wood simply cut and painted, in a formal composition. Du Pasquier has created a 'cabin' for this exhibition that plays upon the wealth and scale of everyday objects, extracting their essence, to develop the large-scale paintings 'Deconstuito' and 'Foglia di Magnolia'.

Adopting an ethnographic approach to everyday life, **Collette Nolan's** videos concern everyday moments. Blurring the boundaries of home-life and studio art practice, Nolan turns to her own familial relationships to look at issues of childhood, development of self, play and reverie. Nolan's works have an authentically experimental 'home-movies' aesthetic that is important to the intention of the work. In 'Transmitter', by employing the device of a wireless camera attached to the child's body, this video work seeks to involve the child in a participatory investigation of the child's world as seen from his immediate experience and perspective, attempting to unite the perspectives of maker and viewer.

CLOSE TO HAND – FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Cleary + Connolly 'Luas Carol' (2009) Screening

September 23 – October 23

Artist's Talk: 5:30 pm Thursday 23 September

Gary Coyle Live Performance of 'At Sea'

7:00 pm Thursday 30 September

Open Hours: Monday-Saturday: 10:00-17:00, Thursday – 20:00

(Closed Bank Holidays & Sunday)

Admission Free

Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, Cork, Ireland

www.crawfordartgallery.ie

CLOSE to HAND