

## **Exploring the dark, dark world of perpetrator trauma with artist Dominic Thorpe**

Perpetrator trauma is a condition that has been studied in relation to some of the world's worst conflicts and atrocities, including the Vietnam War and the Khmer Rouge's deadly reign of Cambodia.

Closer to home, has perpetrator trauma been a feature of Irish history too, not least in the context of the Irish Civil War and The Troubles?

Perpetrator trauma, broadly characterised as the pain of causing pain, can be experienced by individuals and groups struggling to comprehend and process violence they have been directly or indirectly responsible for.

It is often overlooked in the quest to centre victim and survivor experiences of violence, but to recognise it is to acknowledge a fuller spectrum of the trauma that can exist within society in the aftermath of violence.

Artist Dominic Thorpe, who has been exploring perpetrator trauma in an Irish context for several years, brings a symposium on perpetrator trauma and the Irish Civil War to Crawford Art Gallery this January.

The symposium will explore a fuller account of the personal and societal impacts of violence and the place of perpetrators in memory and commemoration.

Experts Dr Cara Levey of University College Cork, Dr Síobhra Aiken of Queen's University, Belfast, and human rights documentary maker Peadar King will join Thorpe for a public discussion not to be missed.

The symposium coincides with *Dark Dark Mouth*, a body of performance, drawing, and installation work by Thorpe at Crawford Art Gallery, exploring perpetrator trauma and the Irish Civil War in Cork city.

*Dark Dark Mouth* is one of six project awards commissioned as part of *Building as Witness*, a Decade of Centenaries programme focusing on the site of Crawford Art Gallery, which was itself witness to fascinating histories of local, national, and international importance surrounding the Irish Civil War period.

More information on the individual speakers and on the *Building as Witness* programme, as well as a link to a folder of images, are below in the editor's notes.

Dr Síobhra Aiken will speak on Perpetrator Trauma and the Irish Civil War, Dr Cara Levey will address the Place of Perpetrators in the Commemoration of Atrocity in Latin America, and Dr Dominic Thorpe will talk about Perpetrator Trauma and Contemporary Visual Art from Ireland, followed by a panel discussion chaired by Peadar King.

***Perpetrator Trauma and the Irish Civil War, 10am – 1pm, Saturday 27 January 2024***

***Dark Dark Mouth by Dominic Thorpe runs 15 – 28 January 2024 in Crawford Art Gallery's Upper Gallery, Gibson Galleries, and Lecture Theatre with a live durational drawing performance from 11am-3pm on Thursday 25 January in the Gibson Galleries.***

**Notes to editors**

**For more images click here.**

**For more on Building As Witness, click here.**

**More on the speakers:**

**Dr. Síobhra Aiken** joined the Department of Irish and Celtic Studies at Queens University in 2021. She holds a BA in European Studies from Trinity College, an MA in Irish Studies from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Irish-language Translation and Editing from Maynooth University. She graduated with a PhD in 2020 from the Centre for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland, Galway. Her first monograph, *Spiritual Wounds: Trauma, Testimony and the Irish Civil War*, was published in April 2022 by Irish Academic Press, awarded the Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books in Language and Culture 2022 and the Whitfield prize from the Royal Historical Society 2023.

**Dr. Cara Levey** (MA University of London, PHD University of Leeds) is Senior Lecturer in Latin America Studies at University College Cork. Her work focuses on the politics of memory in and beyond the Southern Cone. She is the author of *Fragile Memory, Shifting Impunity: Commemoration and Contestation in Post-dictatorship Argentina and Uruguay* (Peter Lang, 2016), a study that goes beyond architectural readings of memorials to explore the underlying debates and controversies of memory-making in the aftermath of state terrorism.

**Dr. Dominic Thorpe** is an Irish visual artist who works through performance art, video, photography, drawing, installation, collaborative and relational based processes. He has shown and performed extensively in Ireland and internationally including at the Tasmanian Museum and Gallery, Bangkok Cultural Centre, Ulster Museum Belfast and Galway Arts Centre. Much of his work addresses contemporary and historical violence, human rights and institutional abuses. In recent years his focus has expanded to include an exploration of individual and collective perpetrator trauma and in 2022 he received a PhD at Ulster University for research on Performance Art from Ireland and Perpetrator Trauma.

**Peadar King** is an Irish documentary filmmaker and writer. For Irish television, he has presented, produced and occasionally directed the award-winning global affairs series *What in the World?* Hailed by *The Irish Times* as “terrific and moving, illuminating and insightful...King’s contribution to our understanding of global economic inequality has been impressive”. The series has filmed in over fifty countries across Africa, Asia and The Americas, providing a compelling critique of the current predatory model of neoliberalism.

**More about Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish national cultural institution, dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it is also houses a collection of national importance which tells a 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 Aideen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Tacita Dean, and Sean Scully as well as much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats.

An oasis of calm and tranquility, Crawford Art Gallery is open seven days a week, free to enter, and a must-see for locals and tourists alike.

### **Opening Hours**

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm Sundays and Bank Holidays Gallery: 11am - 4pm Entry Free

### **Tours**

Free Tours Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays 2pm Free Tours on Thursday 6.30 pm . This project is in support of the Night-Time Economy and funded by The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

### **Café**

### **The Green Room**

A classic old world dining room in Cork's cultural epicentre that mixes traditional food offerings alongside contemporary trends.

Open 7 days a week with opening times on [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)

### **Leagan Gaeilge:**

### **Iníúchadh a dhéanamh ar dhomhan dorcha duairc tráma an déantóra leis an ealaíontóir Dominic Thorpe**

Is coinníoll é tráma an déantóra a ndearnadh staidéar air i ndáil le cuid de na coimhlintí agus na hainghníomhartha is measa ar domhan, lena n-áirítear Cogadh Vítneam agus réimeas marfach an Khmer Rouge sa Chambóid.

Níos gaire don bhaile, an raibh tráma an déantóra ina ghné de stair na hÉireann chomh maith, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann agus na dTríoblóidí?

Is féidir daoine aonair nó grúpaí a bheith thíos le tráma an déantóra, arb é pian nó duine a ghortú na sainchomharthaí dó, agus iad a bheith ag streachailt le foréigean a bhí siad freagrach go díreach nó go hindíreach a thuiscint agus a phróiseáil.

Is minic a dhéantar dearmad air agus iarracht a dhéanamh eispéiris íospartaigh agus marthanóirí an fhoréigin a chur i lár, ach is ionann é a aithint agus aitheantas a thabhairt do speictream níos iomláine den tráma is féidir a bheith ann laistigh den tsochaí i ndiaidh an fhoréigin.

Tugann an t-ealaíontóir Dominic Thorpe, atá ag cíoradh tráma an déantóra i gcomhthéacs Éireannach le roinnt blianta anuas, siompóisiam ar thráma an déantóra agus Cogadh Cathartha na hÉireann chuig Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford i mí Eanáir seo.

Cíorfaidh an siompóisiam cuntas níos iomláine ar thionchair phearsanta agus shochaíocha an fhoréigin agus ar áit na ndéantóirí i gcuimhne na ndaoine agus sa chomóradh a dhéantar.

Beidh saineolaithe, an Dochtúir Cara Levey ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, an Dochtúir Síobhra Aiken ó Ollscoil na Banríona, Béal Feirste, agus an déantóir clár faisnéise cearta daonna Peadar King i gcuideachta Thorpe le haghaidh plé poiblí nár cheart a chailleadh amach air.

Beidh an siompóisiam ag tarlú ag an am céanna le *Dark Mouth*, corpas de shaothar taibhithe, líníochta, agus suiteála le Thorpe ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, ina ndéantar iniúchadh ar thráma an déantóra agus ar Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann i gcathair Chorcaí.

Tá *Dark Dark Mouth* ar cheann de shé ghradam tionscadail a coimisiúnaíodh mar chuid de *Building as Witness*, clár Deich mBliana na gCuimhneachán a dhíríonn ar shuíomh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, a bhí mar fhinné ar stair spéisiúil a raibh tábhacht áitiúil, náisiúnta, agus idirnáisiúnta ag baint leo a bhain le tréimhse Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann.

Tá tuilleadh eolais ar na cainteoirí aonair agus ar an gclár *Building as Witness*, chomh maith le nasc chuig fillteán íomhána, thíos i nótaí an eagarthóra.

Labhróidh an Dochtúir Síobhra Aiken ar Thráma an Déantóra agus ar Chogadh Cathartha na hÉireann, pléfidh an Dochtúir Cara Levey Ról na ndéantóirí sa Chomóradh ar an Ainghníomh i Meiriceá Laidineach, agus labhróidh an Dochtúir Dominic Thorpe faoi Thráma an Déantóra agus Amharc-ealaín Chomhaimseartha ó Éirinn, agus ina dhiaidh sin plé painéil a bheith faoi chathaoirleacht ag Peadar King.

***Tráma an Déantóra agus Cogadh Cathartha na hÉireann, 10r.n. – 1i.n., Dé Sathairn 27 Eanáir 2024***

***Beidh Dark Mouth le Dominic Thorpe ar siúl 15 – 28 Eanáir 2024 i nGailearaí Uachtar, Gailearaithe Uí Ghibealláin, agus Amharclann de chuid Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford le léiriú líníochta beo ó 11r.n. -3i.n. Déardaoin 25 Eanáir i nGailearaithe Uí Ghibealláin.***

**Nótaí d'eagarthóirí**

**Le haghaidh tuilleadh íomhána, cliceáil anseo.**

**Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil ar Building As Witness, cliceáil anseo.**

**Tuilleadh eolais faoi na cainteoirí:**

Chuaigh an **Dochtúir Síobhra Aiken** isteach i Roinn na Gaeilge agus an Léinn Cheiltigh in Ollscoil na Ríona in 2021. Tá BA sa Léann Eorpach aici ó Choláiste na Tríonóide, MA sa Léann Éireannach ó Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh, agus Diplóma Iarchéime san Aistriúchán agus san Eagarthóireacht Gaeilge ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad. Bhain sí céim PhD amach in 2020 ó Ionad an Léinn Éireannaigh, Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh. D'fhoilsigh Irish Academic Press a céad mhonagraf, *Spiritual Wounds: Trauma, Testimony and the Irish Civil War*, i mí Aibreáin 2022, bronnadh Duais Michael J. Durkan do Leabhair i dTeanga agus Cultúr 2022 agus duais Whitfield ón Royal Historical Society 2023 uirthi.

Tá an **Dochtúir Cara Levey** (MA Ollscoil Londan, PHF ó Ollscoil Leeds) ina Léachtóir Sinsearach le Staidéar Mheiriceá Laidinigh i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh. Díríonn a obair ar pholaitíocht na cuimhne i gCón an Deiscirt agus níos faide i gcéin. Is údar í ar *Fragile Memory, Shifting Impunity: Commemoration and Contestation in Post-dictatorship Argentina and Uruguay* (Peter Lang, 2016), staidéar a théann níos faide ná léamha ailtreachta ar chuimhneacháin chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar na díospóireachtaí bunúsacha agus conspóidí a bhaineann le déanamh cuimhne i ndiaidh sceimhlitheoireacht stáit.

Is amharc-ealaíontóir Éireannach é an **Dochtúir Dominic Thorpe** a oibríonn trí ealaín taibhléirithe, fiseán, grianghrafadóireacht, líníocht, suiteáil, próisis chomhoibríocha agus choibhneasta. Thaispeáin agus léirigh sé go forleathan in Éirinn agus go hidirnáisiúnta, lena n-áirítear ag Músaem agus Gailearaí na Tasmáine, Ionad Cultúrtha Bangkok, Músaem Uladh, Béal Feirste agus Ionad Ealaíon na Gaillimhe. Tugann cuid mhaith dá shaothar aghaidh ar fhoréigean comhaimseartha agus stairiúil, ar chearta an duine agus ar mhí-úsáidí institiúideacha. Le blianta beaga anuas tá a fhócas leathnaithe chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar thráma an déantóra aonair agus comhchoiteann agus in 2022 fuair sé PhD in Ollscoil Uladh le haghaidh taighde ar Ealaín Taibhléirithe ó Éirinn agus Tráma an Déantóra.

Is scannánóir clár faisnéise agus scríbhneoir Éireannach é **Peadar King**. Maidir le teilifís na hÉireann, tá an tsraith gnóthaí domhanda 'What in the World?', a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite aici, curtha i láthair, léirithe agus stiúrtha aige ó am go chéile. Ráite ag an *The Irish Times* mar “iontach agus tochtmhar, spésiúil agus léirsteanach...is éachtach é an t-ionchur atá ag King ar ár dtuiscint ar an éagothroime airgeadas domhanda”. Tá an tsraith tar éis scannánú a dhéanamh i mbreis is caoga tír ar fud na hAfraice, na hÁise agus Críocha Mheiriceá, ag cur critice láidre ar mhúnla creiche reatha an nua-liobrálachais ar fáil.

**Tuilleadh eolais faoi Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford**

Institiúid chultúrtha náisiúnta Éireannach is ea Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, atá tiomanta d'amharc-ealaín chomhaimseartha agus stairiúil, atá lonnaithe i bhfoirgneamh oidhreachta suntasach i gcroílár chathair Chorcaí. Cuireann sé clár bríomhar dinimiciúil de thaispeántais shealadacha ar fáil, agus tá bailiúchán ann freisin a bhfuil tábhacht náisiúnta aige agus a insíonn scéal iontach faoi Chorcaigh agus faoi Éirinn le trí chéad bliain anuas.

Tógadh an Gailearaí den chéad uair i 1724 mar Theach Custaim na cathrach, áit a bhfuil na Cásálacha cáiliúla Canova, a bronnadh ar Chorcaigh dhá chéad bliain ó shin. Tá ealaíontóirí comhaimseartha Aideen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Tacita Dean, agus Sean Scully le feiceáil i mbailiúchán an ghailearaí, chomh maith le saothair leis na healaíontóirí Éireannacha James Barry,

Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, agus Jack B. Yeats.

Tá sé ina thearmann de shíocháin agus de shuaimhneas, tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford oscailte seacht lá na seachtaine, saor in aisce le dul isteach, agus riachtanach le feiceáil do mhuintir na háite agus turasóirí araon.

**Uaireanta Oscailte**

Dé Luain-Dé Sathairn 10.00r.n-5.00i.n

An Déardaoin ag oscailt go dtí 8.00i.n

Dé Domhnaigh agus Gailearaí na Laethanta Saoire Bainc: 11r.n - 4i.n Iontráil shaor

**Turais**

Dé Domhnaigh tá turais Saor in Aisce agus Saoire Bainc Dé Luain 2 i.n

Turais saor in aisce ar an Déardaoin ag 6.30i.n.

Tá an tionscadal seo ag tacú leis an nGeilleagar Oíche agus á mhaoiniú ag an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

**Caifé: An Seomra Glas**

Seomra bia clasaiceach domhanda i gcroílár cultúrtha Chorcaí ina measctar tairiscintí bia traidisiúnta in éineacht le treohtaí comhaimseartha.

Oscailte 7 lá na seachtaine le huaireanta oscailte ar [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)