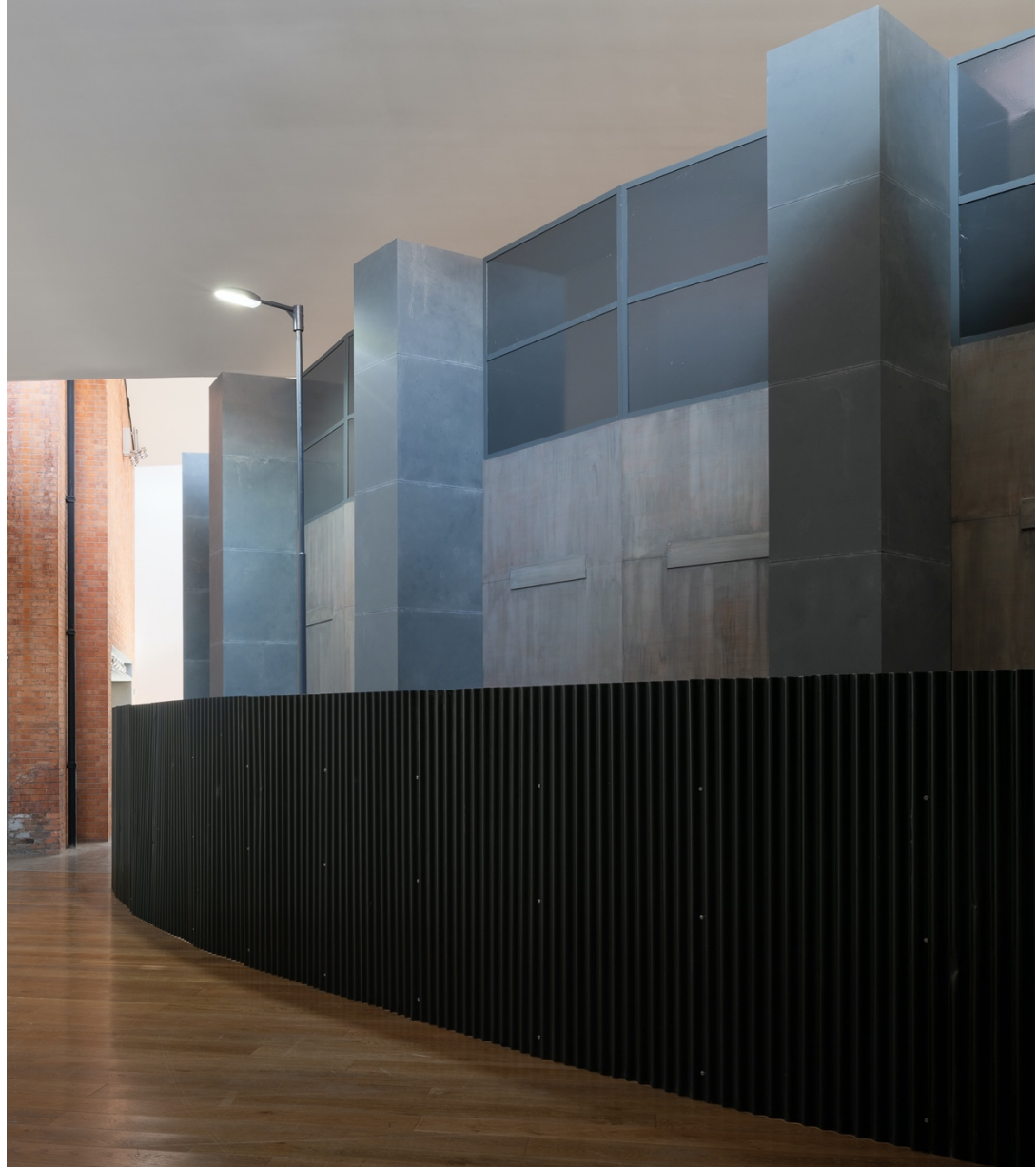


Crawford Art Gallery



Press Release 24/05/2021

Doug Fishbone 'Please Gamble Responsibly' detail of installation (2021) © Doug Fishbone. Courtesy of Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. Photo Jed Niezgodza. With thanks to Jay Cole.

DOUG FISHBONE | PLEASE GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY

21 May – 29 August 2021

Crawford Art Gallery announces internationally renowned artist Doug Fishbone's first solo exhibition in Ireland entitled *Please Gamble Responsibly* from 21 May – 29 August 2021.

Fishbone creates projects and exhibitions—unearthing, questioning, and examining societal misconceptions through humour and manipulation of context. His film and performance works are heavily influenced by the rhythms of stand-up comedy.

In his first solo exhibition in Ireland, *Please Gamble Responsibly*, commissioned by **Crawford Art Gallery**, Fishbone creates an architectural spectacle—mirroring the housing and rental market—and invites visitors to wander around his “ghost estate.”

Replete with broken windows, boarded up balconies and surrounded with shabby corrugated fencing, it offers those that enter through the break in the fence more than an abandoned half-built interior. Inside, Fishbone presents a free-wheeling video on the topics of money and real estate—forces that drive the global economy but expose home owners and investors to perpetual systemic risk of disaster.

“Ghost estates”—housing developments built during the speculative Celtic Tiger boom of the Irish property market, and left unfinished when the credit bubble fuelling it ground to a halt in 2008—were once Ireland’s most visible signs of a financial system spinning out of control. Though most of the estates were wound down during the ensuing bail-outs and period of austerity, and discussion of them is now largely a footnote, the Castle Lake apartment complex in the suburban outskirts of Cork remains a lasting remnant of this dubious period in modern financial history.

A symbol of the dashed expectations of globalisation, where ill-advised business models collide with reality to devastating effect, it calls to mind *Fordlandia*, Henry Ford’s doomed attempt to build a rubber plantation in the Brazilian Amazon in the mid-20th century. Like *Fordlandia*, which never produced anything despite a massive investment, Castle Lake now sits idle and overgrown in the countryside, an instant ruin that is yet to welcome tenants. How instability and collapse are coded into the very way modern money works, from the Nixon Shock in 1971 to the ongoing corporate bailouts of today, fuels a system far dodgier than it seems.

Please Gamble Responsibly at the **Crawford Art Gallery** presents the artist’s largest and most challenging work to date. Resonating as a formal sculpture in its own right and capturing some the empty eeriness of the original Castle Lake complex—which serves as its inspiration—Fishbone’s structure offers an unexpected stage-set for a meditation on wider issues of economy and folly.

ENDS

Dyane Hanrahan
Marketing & Communications Manager
E dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie
T +353 (0) 21 4907856
M +353 (0) 86 8278151
W www.crawfordartgallery.ie
Crawford Art Gallery,
Emmet Place,
Cork, Ireland.
T12 TNE6

Notes to the Editor

Installation imagery available [here](#).

Excerpt from Film: <https://vimeo.com/552006581>

Password (all caps): DOUGFISHBONECRAWFGALL

More about the artist

Based in film and performance work, Doug Fishbone's practice is wide-ranging and has been described as a "stand-up conceptual artist." Recent exhibitions and performances include: *Jews, Money, Myth*, Jewish Museum, London (2019); Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival (2019); *No Thanks/Thanksgiving*, Hauser and Wirth, Somerset (2018); *European Media Art Platform*, Werkleitz/Halle (2018); *Writing Photographs Symposium*, TATE Modern (2018); *Yinka Shonibare's Artist Dining Room*, Royal Academy, London (2016); *Boomin' Bus Tours*, Look Again Festival, Aberdeen (2016); *Made in China*, Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (2015); and *Doug Fishbone's Leisure Land Golf*, 56th Venice Biennale (2015).

More about Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution in Ireland and is dedicated to contemporary and historical Irish and international visual art. Located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city it is home to a collection of national importance, it offers a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions which probe the future, contemplate the present and reveal the past to create engaging conversations across the timelines.

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 4,000 objects are contemporary artists Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Hughie O'Donoghue, Daphne Wright and Sean Scully alongside works by well-known and much-loved artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats.

An oasis of calm and tranquillity, Crawford Art Gallery is open seven days a week, free to enter, and a must-see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 265,000 visitors annually, the Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

Opening Hours | Entry Free
Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm
Late opening Thursdays until 8pm
Sundays and Bank Holidays: 11am - 4pm



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media