*****PREASRÁITEAS 03/12/24 *** FÍSEÁIN, FUAIME AGUS ÍOMHÁNNA THÍOS I NOTAÍ D'EAGARTHÓIRÍ*****

Baill foirne Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford c-d, Dr Michael Waldron, Mary McCarthy agus Kathryn Coughlan, glactha I ngriangrafana le linn aistriú na Canova Casts ón ngailearaí. íomhá: Joleen Cronin

Féach: an uain chinniúnach ina mbaintear múnlaí íocónacha Canova ó Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford

D'fhág bailiúchán íocónach Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford de mhúnlaí Canova an foirgneamh den chéad uair le 140 bliain an tseachtain seo, le mionphróiseas chun na saothair ealaíne, a bhfuil an-ghean orthu, a chur i gcliathbhoscaí agus a bhaint ón ngailearaí.

Uain chinniúnach i stair Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, na múnlaí agus Chorcaí a bhí ann nuair a baineadh 25 teilgean plástair agus saothair mharmair ó sciathán an ghailearaí ón 19ú haois, a thóg an móruasal grúdaireachta William Horatio Crawford in 1884 chun na dealbha seo a chur ann go pointe áirithe.

Rinne an dealbhóir Iodálach Antonio Canova na dealbha ó shárshaothair i mbailiúchán na Vatacáine faoi orduithe ón bPápa Pious VII, agus bronnadh ar Chorcaigh iad in 1818. Bíonn an-tóir ar na dealbha, lena n-áirítear *Laocoon and his Sons, The Bathing Venus,* agus *Belvedere Torso,* agus tagann os cionn 250,000 cuairteoir chuig an ngailearaí gach bliain lena bhfeiceáil.

Cuireadh na múnlaí Canova i gcliathbhoscaí stórála saincheaptha go cúramach agus aistríodh chuig stóráil shábháilte iad le hullmhú do Chlaochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, tionscadal uaillmhianach athfhorbartha ilmhilliún euro a thabharfaidh 50% níos mó spáis don ngailearaí i lár na cathrach, chomh maith le bialann úrnua agus "gailearaí spéire" nua le radharc ón aer amach ar chathair Chorcaí.

Tá os cionn 3,500 saothar ealaíne i mbailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford á n-aistriú faoi láthair go háit stórála sábháilte chun tús a chur le hathfhorbairt in earrach 2025.

Mionphróiseas chun na dealbha a bhfuil na tonaí meáchain iontu a aistriú

Le linn na míonna pleanála don mhionphróiseas chun na múnlaí Canova a aistriú, bhí foireann Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ag lorg tuairim

saineolaithe ó chaomhnóirí dealbh Londain Taylor Pearce Ltd agus ag coimisiúnú cliathbhoscaí stórála saincheaptha do gach dealbh.

Meastar go bhfuil níos mó ná dhá thonna meáchain i gcuid mhaith de na dealbha, agus go bhfuil idir 75kg agus 500kg meáchain sna píosaí níos lú.

Mhol stiúrthóir an Ghailearaí, Mary McCarthy, díograis na foirne a raibh baint acu le haistriú na saothar ealaíne 3T, agus dúirt sí gur uain chinniúnach i stair Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford a bhí inti.

"Tá an-áthas orm a fhógairt gur éirigh linn ár múnlaí áille Canova a bhaint as na Gailearaithe Dealbhóireachta, ócáid mhór do Ghailearaí Ealaíne

Crawford toisc nár aistríodh na saothair luachmhara seo amach as an bhfoirgneamh le 140 bliain.

“Is cloch mhíle ollmhór é seo i bpróiseas aistrithe an bhailiúcháin ar fad le stóráil go sábháilte chun ullmhú dár bpríomhthionscadal athfhorbartha, Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford. Tá an phleanáil, an díograis agus an saineolas a bhain leis an aistriú sábháilte thar a bheith spreagúil a fheiceáil agus ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt dár bhfoireann theicniúil inmheánach, le tacaíocht ó shaineolaithe seachtracha breise, ár mbainisteoir léiriúcháin agus ár gcláraitheoir as a gcuid oibre chun an t-aistriú tábhachtach stairiúil seo a chur i gcrích go réidh agus le gairmiúlacht iontach.

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil freisin leis na tríú páirtithe, na saineolaithe dealbhóireachta agus na foirne lóistíochta go léir a chuaigh i gcomhpháirtíocht linn chun an lá tábhachtach seo a bhaint amach.

Tá a fhios againn go mbraithfidh daoine uathu na saothair seo a bhfuil an-tóir orthu agus muid dúnta, ach ba mhaith linn an pobal a chur ar a suaimhneas go mbeidh athchóiriú a bhfuil géarghá leis déanta ar a ngailearaí stairiúil seo nuair a athosclóidh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, rud a chinnteoidh gur féidir taitneamh a bhaint astu go ceann na gcéadta bliain atá amach romhainn.”

CRÍOCH

www.crawfordartgallery.ie Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, Plás Emmet, Corcaigh, Éire.

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Nótaí don Eagarthóir:
Le haghaidh físeáin, fuaime agus íomhánna fotheidealaithe ardtaifigh de na Múnlaí Canova á mbogadh, cliceáil anseo.

Maidir le Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford
Is institiúid chultúrtha náisiúnta é Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford atá suite i bhfoirgneamh oidhreachta suntasach i gcroílár chathair Chorcaí agus atá tiomnaithe do na hamharc-ealaíona, go stairiúil agus go comhaimseartha araon.

Agus é ag cur clár fuinniúil taispeántas sealadach ar fáil, tá bailiúchán náisiúnta tábhachtach faoina dhíon freisin a insíonn scéal spéisiúil Chorcaí agus na hÉireann le trí chéad bliain anuas.

Maidir le Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford
Beidh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta i bhfómhar 2024 chun tabhairt faoi thogra athfhorbartha caipitil darb' ainm Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.

Cuirfidh an infheistíocht, ar fiú na milliúin euro é, 50% breise le spás an ghailearaí, agus déanfaidh sé trí chéad bliain d'oidhreacht thógtha a chaomhnú agus a chosaint, agus cruthófar oidhreacht chultúrtha don ghlúin amach romhainn de réir mar a bheidh Corcaigh ag leanúint ag fás.

Is togra de chuid Thograí Rialtas na hÉireann 2040 é atá ag fáil maoiniú ón Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meáin i gcomhar le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW).

Tá Grafton Architects a bhfuil gradaim bainte acu tar éis obair a dhéanamh ar dhearadh athfhorbartha lena n-áirítear áis Foghlam agus Fiosraithe nua le

rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach, stóráil shuntasach don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta i nGailearaí Crawford, bealach isteach nua, agus spás poiblí a bheidh feabhsaithe go mór lena n-áirítear caifé nua ar Shráid na Leathghealaí.

Beidh bealach isteach an fhoirgnimh curtha ar ais go Plás Emmet de réir leagan amach Theach an Chustaim a chuaigh siar go 1724.

Cruthófar spás gailearaí mór nua le cúig urlár ag féachaint amach ar Chathair Chorcaí, a chruthaíonn radharc do chuairteoirí chun féachaint ar shainchomharthaí i lár na cathrach lena n-áirítear An Seandún agus Ardeaglais Naomh Fionnbarra.

PRESS RELEASE 03/12/24 ***VIDEO, AUDIO AND IMAGES IN EDITORS' NOTES

Crawford Art Gallery staff, l-r, Curator of Collections Dr Michael Waldron, Director Mary McCarthy and Production Manager Kathryn Coughlan pictured during the removal of the Canova Casts from the gallery. Photo: Joleen Cronin

Watch: a historic moment as iconic Canova casts at Crawford Art Gallery are removed

Crawford Art Gallery's iconic collection of Canova casts have left the building for the first time in 140 years, with a delicate process of crating and removing the much-loved artworks concluding this week.

It's a historic moment in the life of the gallery, the casts, and Cork, as 25 plaster cast and marble works depart the 19th century wing of the gallery, built by brewing magnate William Horatio Crawford in 1884, in part to house the sculptures.

Cast from masterpieces in the Vatican collection by Italian sculptor Antonio Canova under orders from Pope Pious the VII and presented to Cork in 1818, the much-loved sculptures, including *Laocoon and his Sons,*

The Bathing Venus, and the *Belvedere Torso* have been firm favourites with over 250,000 visitors to the gallery each year.

The Canova Casts were carefully packed in bespoke storage crates and moved to secure storage to prepare for Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, an ambitious multi-million euro redevelopment project that will see 50% more space brought to the city centre gallery, as well as a brand new restaurant and a new "sky gallery" with birds-eye views overlooking Cork city.

Over 3,500 artworks in Crawford Art Gallery's collection are currently being decanted into safe storage in time for redevelopment works to begin in spring 2025.

Delicate process of moving sculptures weighing tonnes

Months of planning for the delicate operation of moving the Canova casts have included Crawford staff seeking expert opinion from London sculptural conservators Taylor Pearce Ltd, and commissioning bespoke storage crates for each sculpture.

Many of the sculptures are estimated to weigh in excess of two tonnes, with smaller pieces weighing in at anywhere between 75kg to 500kg.

Gallery director Mary McCarthy praised the dedication of the team involved in the removal of the 3D artworks, and said the feat was a pivotal moment in the history of Crawford Art Gallery.

"I'm delighted to announce the successful removal of our beautiful Canova casts from the Sculpture Galleries, a big moment for Crawford Art Gallery as these treasured works have not been moved out of the building for 140 years."

"This is a huge milestone in the decant process of the entire collection into safe storage to prepare for Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, our capital redevelopment project."

"The planning and dedication and expertise that has gone into their safe removal has been awe-inspiring to see and I want to pay tribute to our in-house technical team, supported by additional external experts ,our production manager and our registrar for their work in carrying off this historically important removal smoothly and with great professionalism."

"I also want to thank all of the third parties, sculptural experts and logistics teams that have partnered with us to reach this momentous day."

"We know that people will miss these much-loved works while we are closed, but we want to reassure the public that when Crawford Art Gallery reopens, their historic gallery will have undergone much-needed restoration works, ensuring that they can be enjoyed for centuries to come."

ENDS

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Notes to Editor: for images, video and an audio clip of Mary McCarthy announcing the decant, please click here.

About Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish National Cultural Institution (NCI) dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it also houses a collection of national importance which tells the compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

About Transforming Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery closes to the public from September 23 2024 to undergo an enormously exciting capital redevelopment project: Transforming Crawford Art Gallery.

This multi-million euro investment will increase gallery space by almost 50%, preserve and protect three centuries of existing built heritage, and create a cultural legacy for a new century as Cork continues to grow.

The project is a Government of Ireland 2040 project funded by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The award-winning Grafton Architects have worked on a redevelopment design that includes a new Learn and Explore facility for public engagement, significant storage for the National Collection at Crawford, a new entrance, and a dramatically improved public realm including new café facing onto Half Moon Street.

The building's entrance will be reoriented to Emmet Place in line with the original Customs House layout dating to 1724.

A large new public gallery space will be created five stories above Cork City, creating a new vantage point for visitors to view city centre landmarks including Shandon and St Finbarre's Cathedral.

After a contractor has been appointed and begins work in spring 2025, it is envisaged that Crawford Art Gallery will reopen to the public in 2027.

For all the latest news on Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, sign up to the newsletter on www.crawfordartgallery.ie or follow the gallery's social media.