

Press Release: Tuesday 26 April, 2015  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ELAINE BYRNE

## Rakoczy's March

May 13 – July 9, 2016

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)



Image © Elaine Byrne, 2016, courtesy Kevin Kavanaugh Gallery, Dublin

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to present *Rakoczy's March*<sup>1</sup> (2015) by Elaine Byrne, as part of its continuing screening programme featuring Irish and International artists. Elaine Byrne's research-based practice examines overlooked histories, historical texts and artworks as a platform to mobilize history as it relates to current political and social concerns. Employing sculpture, video and photography Byrne focuses on opening new questions for the viewer to highlight present day urgencies.

The film centres on two Irish uilleann pipers, Leonard Barry and Padraig Carberry McGovern, who are asked to perform *Rakoczy's March* without any previous knowledge of the score. The music, which was once the unofficial national anthem of Hungary, is played by Irish pipers as Lipóti Virag (Leopold Bloom) departs for Százharminczbrojúglyás-Dugulás in James Joyce's *Ulysses* (episode 12, Cyclops<sup>2</sup>).

From the musicians initial startled reaction of hearing and reading the music, to their frustrated, repetitive and exhaustive attempts in realizing the score's complex musical phrases, Byrne films the musicians in their attempt to discover if Joyce's fictive reference to Irish pipes playing *Rakoczy's March* is a viable literary construct.

In using Joyce's text excerpt, Byrne creates a device to explore issues of censorship, nationhood and the rise in anti-Semitism or the 'Other'. Mirroring the complexity of the musical score and the text, the film presents to the viewer questions that are prevalent in today's global and conflictual societies. The dedication of the musicians to push their own musical knowledge and skill touch upon the enduring qualities of human's need to overcome and survive yet they also explore the dichotomy of experience and factual knowledge, accelerated by the omnipotence of the digital world, and if fictional narratives have become the basis of fact in real life.

**Artist's Talk: 5:30 pm, Thursday 26 May**

<sup>1</sup> Elaine Byrne *Rakoczy's March* (2015) HD 41mins

<sup>2</sup> "A large and appreciative gathering of friends and acquaintances from the metropolis and greater Dublin assembled in their thousands to bid farewell to Nagyaságos uram Lipóti Virag, late of Messrs Alexander Thom's, printers to His Majesty, on the occasion of his departure for the distant clime of Százharminczbrojúglyás-Dugulás (Meadow of Murmuring Waters). The ceremony which went off with great éclat was characterized by the most affecting cordiality. And illuminated scroll of ancient Irish vellum, the work of Irish artists, was presented to the distinguished phenomenologist on behalf of a large selection of the community and was accompanied by the gift of a silver casket, tastefully executed in the style of ancient Celtic ornament, a work which reflects every credit on the makers, Messrs Jacob agus Jacob. The departing guest was the recipient of a hearty ovation, many of those who were present being visibly moved when the select orchestra of Irish pipes struck up the wellknown strains of *Come back to Erin*, followed immediately by *Rakoczy's March*."

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## **EDITOR NOTES**

### **About the artist**

Elaine Byrne is based in New York and Dublin. Her work has been shown widely both nationally and internationally and recent projects and exhibitions include: **2016:** *La Diritta Via*, Montero12 Gallery, Rome; *Whenceness*, Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin; **2015:** *Maximum Entropy*, CPS Projects Space, New York. Elizabeth Foundation, New York - Whitney Independent Study Programme; Art & Law Program Fellow, Fordham Law School, New York; Celeste Prize, finalist exhibition, Milan. **2014:** Winner of 8<sup>th</sup> Arte Laguna art prize for sculpture, Venice Arsenale; *Raumplan*, Limerick City Art Gallery; *Terrain, Transferencias*, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico City; *Of the Land*, Woman Made Gallery, Chicago.  
[www.elainebyrne.net](http://www.elainebyrne.net)

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### **About the Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional art museum for Munster, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The permanent collection comprises over 2500 works, ranging from eighteenth century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations. At the heart of the collection is a collection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts, brought to Cork in 1818 from the Vatican Museum in Rome.

Through its temporary exhibitions, publications and education programmes, the Crawford Art Gallery is committed to fostering recognition, critical assessment, and acknowledgement of historical and contemporary Irish and international art practice. Located in the heart of Cork city, the gallery is a critical part of Ireland's cultural and tourism infrastructure, welcoming over 200,000 visitors a year.

### **How to get to the Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is located in the heart of Cork City centre, adjacent to Cork Opera House and Opera Lane, just off Patrick Street. Ten minutes walk from Cork's Kent Train Station and five minutes walk from Cork Bus Terminus. Disabled parking zones are available at the front entrance of the gallery at Emmet Place and Academy Street.

### **Access & Education**

For details on guided tours, access and education contact: [emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
[www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html)

### **Admission / Opening Hours**

Admission to the Crawford Art Gallery and *Elaine Byrne: Rakoczy's March* screening is free.

Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5pm (last entry 4:45pm); Thursday: 10 am - 8pm

closed Sundays and Bank Holidays

**ENDS**