

Crawford Art Gallery



Michael Quane, 'Strange Beast' in *Menagerie: Animals by Artists* by Jed Niezgoda

Notes to Editor: for further imagery please click **[here](#)**.

Press Release 13/06/22

Crawford Art Gallery receives acquisition fund of €650,000 to purchase Artworks to expand the National Collection at Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is to receive a substantial acquisition fund of €650,000 from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to acquire contemporary artworks for the National collection.

IMMA will also receive a significant fund of €850,000. In providing these funds to Crawford Art Gallery and IMMA, the Department is significantly increasing the capacity of the two National Cultural Institutions to pursue their remit to support artists and to collect works reflecting the times in which we live.

This award builds on the €1 million fund provided to Crawford Art Gallery and the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 2020, which was designed to support artists throughout the most challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020 Crawford Art Gallery purchased 225 artworks by 39 contemporary artists including many leading artist's work such as Jennifer Trouton, Katie Holten, Michael Quane and Brian Maguire. The acquisitions ranged from paintings, photographs, prints, and drawings, to sculptures, installations, digital film and sound works, textile and embroideries .

Minister Catherine Martin today announced this ambitious new fund of €1.5m for Crawford Art Gallery and the Irish Museum of Modern Art. The fund is aimed to address significant gaps that remain in the National Collection following years of limited acquisitions. This funding will enable both Institutions to acquire works that ensure that the National Collection is more representative of the diverse communities of contemporary Ireland and reflects the issues occupying artists including climate change and global.

Speaking today Minister Martin said:

"As we emerge from the worst days of the pandemic, we can now shift our focus from supporting artists through a time of national emergency toward more thoughtfully and more strategically re-building the National Collection. This funding will ensure that the collection is more reflective of the multiple identities and varied perspectives in Ireland today."

"I look forward to visiting both the Crawford Art Gallery and the Irish Museum of Modern Art to enjoy the new works that they will acquire for the National Collection. It is critical that our institutions keep pace with new developments in our culture and this fund will enable them to present challenging works in new media that tackle head-on some of the most important issues today, including de-colonisation and climate change. Our National Cultural Institutions provide a vital space for open expression and discussion, which I am delighted to support."

Director of the Crawford Art Gallery, Mary McCarthy, said:

"This major investment by the Minister and the Department recognises the significance of the visual arts and the National Collection within the Department's priorities. It represents a real opportunity to engage with

contemporary artists and create new conversations within the Crawford Collection across the centuries. It is an important commitment to building significant collections for the public to enjoy now and into the future."

Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Annie Fletcher, stated:

"Minister Martin's granting of this acquisition funding is truly momentous for IMMA. We can now begin again to invest in building and expanding IMMA's collection of modern and contemporary art for the nation. The scale of the grant shows that our Department is as ambitious for Ireland's National Collection as we are, and this is to be welcomed. We are delighted to re-engage with our colleagues in the Crawford in developing world-class collections in Ireland."

Crawford Art Gallery is currently working with Grafton Architects on a capital developments programme for the Gallery which will ensure its buildings are conserved, enhanced and expanded. Designs will be submitted for planning permission for the redevelopment in the Autumn of 2022 with work expected to commence in Autumn 2023.

ENDS

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Notes to Editor: for further imagery please click [here](#).

The fund will provide €650,000 to the Crawford Art Gallery and €850,000 to IMMA for the acquisition of contemporary artwork in 2022.

The fund is designed to enable both institutions to address gaps that have persisted in the contemporary art holdings of the National Collection.

The Crawford Art Gallery seeks to acquire works that:

- represent a cross-section of contemporary Irish and international artists
- develop its collection of historical works from the 1800s onward
- represent the diverse perspectives and identities of contemporary Ireland

IMMA plans to purchase works:

- From global communities and geographies that have particular resonance for Irish audiences.
- From the 20th century and 21st century that speak to Irish and international contemporary art practice. This may include artists' archives and digital archives.
- That stand outside market forces, including works that reflect modernist and forgotten histories.
- That address diversity and plurality and tackle the urgent issues of our time such as climate change and global mobility.
- That develop IMMA as a leader in the collection and preservation of performance artworks.
- That further develop the IMMA Collection as an international resource in the development and preservation of new media, born-digital and time-based media art in general, as well as new technologies.

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 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.

More About the Crawford National Collection

The Crawford Art Gallery collection comprises over 3,000 works, ranging from eighteenth-century Irish and European painting and sculpture to contemporary film and photography. At the heart of the collection are the Canova Casts, which were brought to Cork in 1818 from the Vatican Museums in Rome.

As well as the purchase and receipt of donated artworks throughout the years, the collection has been greatly enhanced and expanded through the Gibson Bequest (1919), Fr. McGrath Bequest (1998), Great Southern Collection (2006), and part of the AIB Art Collection (2012).

In 2020 a fund of €400,000 was provided to the Crawford Art Gallery from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Art, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media which was designed to support artists based in Ireland throughout the most challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays

Gallery: 11am - 4pm

Entry Free

Upcoming Exhibitions

Meat and Potatoes

16 July – 6 November

DRAWING ROOM

16 September – 4 December

As They Must Have Been: Men of the South, 1922-2022

30 July – 18 September 2022

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.



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