Good tidings this Christmas as Crawford Art Gallery acquires first Harry Clarke artwork in 99 years

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to announce a beautiful new addition to their ever-popular Harry Clarke collection, just in time for the festive season.

Bought at auction from a private seller for the National Collection, *The Colloquy of Monos and Una* is a colour plate illustration for a 1923 edition of Edgar Allan Poe's *Tales of Mystery and Imagination.*

The public can view the latest addition in Crawford Art Gallery in Cork city from 10am on Friday, 15 December.

The richly coloured pencil, ink and watercolour work depicts lovers Monos and Una reunited in the afterlife, as in Poe's classic tale: art deco influences can be seen in the elaborate clothing of the figures, while Clarke's distinctive emphasis on eyes and elongated hands is evident.

The Colloquy of Monos and Una is the first Harry Clarke acquisition for Crawford Art Gallery since 1924, when two other illustrations from the same series, *The Fall of the House of Usher* and *Marie Rogêt*, were purchased alongside over 20 other pieces by Clarke.

The new acquisition brings to 27 the number of Clarke artworks in Crawford Art Gallery's collection, including the three earliest examples of his stained glass work, which were conserved in 2023 with support from the Heritage Council .

Crawford Art Gallery has an annual winter exhibition of their Clarke works that is a firm favourite with gallery-goers. *The Colloquy of Monos and Una* will be reunited with its studio companions after 99 years this Christmas, when it goes on display in Crawford Art Gallery's current exhibition, *HARRY CLARKE: Bad Romance.*

"Crawford Art Gallery continues to build its collection with acquisitions of contemporary and historical works of significance," Crawford Art Gallery director Mary McCarthy said.

"We are truly delighted to have secured this exceptional work for the National Collection at Crawford Art Gallery and furthermore to be able to put it on display immediately. The work is in exceptional condition. We are very grateful to Minister Catherine Martin and colleagues in the Department of TCAGSM for their full support for this magical work by an exceptional artist."

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, the Gaeltacht, Sports and Media provided financial support for the purchase of the artwork.

The Crawford acquisition is the second Harry Clarke piece to be brought into public ownership in recent weeks with the National Gallery purchasing a rare Clarke stained glass piece, Titania Enchanting Bottom (1922) last week. It is in need of conservation work and will go on public display in Dublin in the New Year.

HARRY CLARKE: Bad Romance is open to the public until Sunday, 18 February 2024. Christmas opening hours are as normal, with the exception of 25 and 26 December, and 1 January. For more information visit the website.

More about Harry Clarke:

Harry Clarke (17 March 1889 – 6 January 1931) was a Dublin-born illustrator and stained glass artist, who was a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts (RHA) and a leading figure in the Irish Arts and Crafts movement.

Clarke suffered ill health all his life and died at just 41 in Switzerland, having sought treatment in a TB sanatorium. His condition was likely made worse by working with caustic chemicals to create his famous stained-glass works.

Clarke's stained glass work includes the windows of the Honan Chapel in University College Cork, the windows he made for Bewley’s Coffee Shop on Grafton Street, a window illustrating John Keats' The Eve of St. Agnes now in the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery in Dublin and the Geneva Window, created for the Centre William Rappard in Geneva, Switzerland and now in the Wolfsonian Museum, in Miami, Florida.

Dea-scéala an Nollaig seo is ea go bhfuil an chéad saothar ealaíne, le 99 bliain, de chuid Harry Clarke, faighte ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford

Cúis áthais do Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford a fhógairt go bhfuil saothar nua curtha lena bhailiúchán cáiliúil Harry Clarke, díreach in am do shéasúr na Nollag.

Is ó dhíoltóir príobháideach ag ceant a ceannaíodh an saothar seo don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta. Is é *The Colloquy of Monos and Una* teideal an tsaothair seo, léaráid pailéid dathanna d'eagrán 1923 de *Tales of Mystery and Imagination* le Edgar Allan Poe.

Is féidir leis an bpobal súil a chaitheamh ar an saothar seo i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford i gCathair Chorcaí ón 10am ar an Aoine, an 15 Nollaig.

Léirítear sa saothar daite pinn luaidhe, dúigh agus uiscedhatha seo na leannáin Monos agus Una ar ais le chéile arís sa saol eile, cosúil le scéal cáiliúil Poe: tá tionchair art déco le tabhairt faoi deara in éadaí saothraithe na bhfíoracha, agus tá fianaise ar an mbéim ar leith a leagann Clarke ar shúile agus ar lámha fada le feiceáil freisin.

Is é *The Colloquy of Monos and Una* an chéad saothar de chuid Harry Clarke atá faighte ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ó 1924, tráth a bhfuarthas dhá léaráid eile ón tsraith chéanna - *The Fall of the House of Usher* agus *Marie Rogêt* - saothair a ceannaíodh in éineacht le breis is 20 saothar eile de chuid Clarke.

Fágann ceannach an tsaothair seo go bhfuil 27 saothar ealaíne de chuid Clarke le fáil i mbailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, lena n-áirítear na trí shampla is túisce dá shaothar gloine daite, a caomhnaíodh in 2023 le tacaíocht ón gComhairle Oidhreachta.

Eagraíonn Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford taispeántas bliantúil geimhridh de shaothair Clarke a gcuireann cuairteoirí ar an ngailearaí an-spéis ann. Beidh *The Colloquy of Monos and Una* ar taispeáint taobh lena chompánaigh stiúideo an Nollaig seo tar éis 99 bliain a bheith scartha óna chéile, tráth a mbeidh sé ar taispeáint mar chuid de thaispeántas reatha Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, *HARRY CLARKE: Bad Romance.*

Bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag Mary McCarthy, stiúrthóir Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, "Tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag cur lena bhailiúchán trí shaothair thábhachtacha chomhaimseartha agus stairiúla a fháil".

"Cúis áthais dúinn gur éirigh linn an saothar eisceachtúil seo a fháil don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford agus a bheith in ann é a chur ar taispeáint láithreach. Tá cuma iontach mhaith ar an saothar. Táimid buíoch den Aire Catherine Martin agus a comhghleacaithe sa Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, as tacú lenár n-iarrachtaí an saothar draíochtúil seo le healaíontóir eisceachtúil a fháil."

Chuir an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, tacaíocht airgeadais ar fáil chun an saothar ealaíne seo a cheannach.

HARRY CLARKE: Tá Bad Romance ar oscailt don phobal go dtí an Domhnach, an 18 Feabhra 2024. Tá an Gailearaí oscailte mar is iondúil ach amháin ar an 25 agus 26 Nollaig, agus an 1 Eanáir. Tá tuilleadh eolais le fáil ar an suíomh gréasáin.

Tuilleadh eolais faoi Harry Clarke:

Maisitheoir agus ealaíontóir gloine daite ab ea Harry Clarke (17 Márta 1889 – 6 Eanáir 1931) a rugadh i mBaile Átha Cliath, ball d'Acadamh Ibeirneach Ríoga na nEalaíon (RHA) agus duine mór le rá i ngluaiseacht Ealaíon agus Ceardaíochta na hÉireann.

Bhí an tsláinte go dona ag Clarke i rith a shaoil agus ní raibh sé ach 41 bliain d'aois nuair a cailleadh é san Eilvéis, áit a raibh cóir leighis á fáil aige i sanatóir eitinne. Gach seans nár chabhraigh na ceimiceáin loiscneacha a bhíodh in úsáid aige chun a shaothair cháiliúla ghloine daite a chruthú lena shláinte.

I measc na saothar gloine daite a rinne Clarke tá fuinneoga Shéipéal Honan i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, na fuinneoga a rinne sé do Shiopa Caife Bewley ar Shráid Grafton, fuinneog ar a léirítear *The Eve of St. Agnes* le John Keats atá le fáil in An Hugh Lane, Dánlann Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath anois agus *Geneva Window*, cruthaithe don Centre William Rappard sa Ghinéiv, an Eilvéis agus atá le feiceáil anois i Músaem Wolfsonian, in Miami, Florida.