



Harry Clarke, *Soon, up Aloft, the Silver, Snarling Trumpets 'gan to Chide*, c.1923. Collection Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.

Press Release 22/12/2020

HARRY CLARKE MARGINALIA

Crawford Art Gallery will close its doors at 3pm on December 24th until further notice in line with Government Covid 19 guidelines. Please check our website for details www.crawfordartgallery.ie

In the meantime Crawford invite all to checkout the new online exhibition which features the magic of Harry Clarke allowing visitors to go behind the frame and discover hidden details close up. www.crawfordartgallery.ie/harry-clarke-marginalia/

In place of its annual exhibition of magical Harry Clarke watercolours, Crawford Art Gallery has taken the opportunity to present them in all their exquisite detail online.

The online exhibition Harry Clarke Marginalia lets virtual visitors get up close to the artist's delicate studies for his celebrated stained-glass masterpiece, *The Eve of St Agnes* (1924). Just shy of a hundred years old, Clarke's watercolours are filled with ethereal figures and wintry blue colour.

The exhibition's curator, Michael Waldron says: "We love to share our collection of Harry Clarke watercolours with visitors at this time of year, but the challenges of 2020 made us rethink how we could present them in an imaginative and accessible way particularly at a time when people cannot visit the gallery in person."

“This online format allows us to share details usually hidden within the frame,” he continues. “It’s very exciting to reveal Clarke’s working notes, doodles, and other sketches found only in the margins or on the reverse of his studies.”

Among these usually hidden details is a nude life drawing, handwritten instructions on colour choices, grotesque faces, clues to his wider artistic and musical network, and a possible self-portrait of the artist.

Visitors across Ireland and the world can now enter Clarke’s imagination from the comfort of their own homes, schools, or workplaces. Waldron continues: “It is important for us to make these treasures of the national collection available to the public, particularly at a time when some will not be able to visit the gallery in person.”

Made in support of a commission from Harold Jacob of Jacob’s Biscuits in 1923, Clarke’s watercolours are inspired by “The Eve of St Agnes”, a poem written by John Keats in 1819 and published in 1820.

This exhibition is presented online, Crawford Art Gallery will now close to the public on December 24th and visitors will have the opportunity to encounter Clarke’s work as well as other exhibition material and activities on its website.

Harry Clarke Marginalia and other gallery activities can be viewed online here:
<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/harry-clarke-marginalia/>

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More about Harry Clarke

Harry Clarke (1889-1931) was a remarkably talented and distinctive book illustrator and stained-glass artist. His contributions to the Irish Arts and Craft Movement, as well as the Celtic Revival, have ensured his lasting reputation, while his extraordinary handling of colour and minute, often grotesque detail has won him widespread acclaim. The exhibition coincides with Clarke’s anniversary on 6 January.

Harry Clarke’s 18 watercolours represent an almost complete set of preparatory studies for his famed *Eve of St Agnes* stained-glass window, which is in the collection

of the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin. These were purchased from the artist in 1924 through the Gibson Bequest, a generous act of philanthropy for Crawford Art Gallery made in 1919. They are augmented in the collection by 5 original book illustrations drawn from the works of Edgar Allan Poe and Robert Graves, and Clarke's earliest known works in stained glass: three prize-winning panels from 1910-1911. He would win his first major commission, the Honan Chapel (University College Cork), just a few years later.

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. Home to a collection of national importance, it tells a compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries, while also offering a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions.

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 well-known and much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats, as well as contemporary artists Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Eilis O'Connell, and Hughie O'Donoghue.

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

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays 11am - 4pm

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve 10am–4pm

Closed: Christmas Day, St Stephen's Day, New Year's Day

Entry Free



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

