



CAG.2343 Elizabeth Magill, Blue Constrictor, 2006, oil on canvas, 153 x 183 cm. Purchased, 2008. © the artist

**Land, memory and identity come together in new exhibition from  
Crawford Art Gallery and Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.**

Crawford Art Gallery and Highlanes Gallery present *To Land: Living Roots Awaken* from 23 May to 9 August.

Drawing from the rich collection of Crawford Art Gallery's contemporary artworks, the exhibition explores how identity is shaped by our relationship with land, history, and memory. We are an island formed by rupture and renewal, rooted in ancient cultures yet continually re-forming in the wake



of colonisation. The exhibition conveys the persistence of history in the present. Themes of displacement and the urge to put down roots resonate quietly throughout the artworks.

The featured artworks have been selected by the Highlanes Curatorial Group of Artist-Teacher-Researchers, with guidance from Dr. Michael Waldron, Curator of Collections and Special Projects at Crawford Art Gallery.

Aoife Ruane, Director of Highlanes Gallery says; “We have been excited to work with Crawford Art Gallery on this major exhibition during the 20th year of Highlanes Gallery. For this exhibition, the Crawford Art Gallery collection has been explored by our Artist-Teacher-Researcher Curatorial Panel focusing on contemporary art practice. This is their fifth curated exhibition since 2022 and the largest to date. The immersive process of researching and investigating the collection over the last two years was supported by Crawford Art Gallery and Dr Michael Waldron, and this exhibition reflects a valuable, inspiring and rich resource, with meaningful and thought provoking work by a range of ambitious artists, within a prism of themes for audiences to engage with.”

Dr. Michael Waldron says: ‘It’s a true delight to witness the Artist-Teacher-Researchers explore Crawford Art Gallery’s collection of Irish contemporary art and to conceive of an exhibition with such pertinence to our times. The variety of media and practices featured in *To Land: Living Roots Awaken* is both energising and reassuring, and demonstrates that the national collection is a vital resource for reflection, enquiry, and creativity.’ Waldron continues: ‘It is also heartening to know that, through this exhibition, Highlanes Gallery is making so many artworks publicly accessible while Crawford Art Gallery undergoes its major redevelopment.’



During its closure period, Crawford Art Gallery is working with colleagues across the museum and gallery sector on the island of Ireland to tour and share the National Collection.

Bringing together painting, printmaking, textile, drawing, ceramics, and sculpture, the exhibition considers our connection to nature and asks how we relate to the world around us today.

This exhibition features contemporary artwork by Dorota Borowa, Tom Climent, Karen Conway, Barrie Cooke, Dorothy Cross, Stephen Doyle, James Hayes, Katie Holten, Anthony Haughey, John Keating, Fiona Kelly, Anne Kiely and Mary Palmer, Elizabeth Magill, Alice Maher, Frieda Meaney, Ciara O'Connor, Nuala O'Donovan, and John Rainey.

Highlanes Curatorial Group of Artist-Teacher-Researchers are Eileen Brennan, Kieran Gallagher, Bairbre Geraghty, Veronica Lavin, Ciarán Power and Roisin O'Sullivan. Admission to the exhibition is free and is supported by a programme of talks, tours, and workshops.

## **ENDS**

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**Notes to Editor:** for hi-res captioned images, [please click here](#).



**Events:**

Seen/Unseen with artist Fiona Kelly. Friday 12 June, Highlanes Gallery

In Conversation with artist Fiona Kelly and Aoife Ruane, Friday 12 June, Highlanes Gallery

More information about these events can be found at [crawfordartgallery.ie](https://crawfordartgallery.ie)

**About Highlanes Gallery:**

Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery is a state-of-the-art visual arts space for Drogheda and the north east of Ireland, presenting a diverse programme of temporary exhibitions and exhibitions drawn from the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection.

The gallery is located in the former Franciscan Church on St. Laurence Street, gifted to the people of Drogheda in 2000, when the Franciscans ended their 760-year association with the town. The Collection dates from the seventeenth century.

Marking its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, Highlanes Gallery exhibits and promotes modern and contemporary art through an ongoing programme of exhibitions and access initiatives. For more information, visit [highlanes.ie](https://highlanes.ie).

**About the Artist-Teacher-Researcher Curatorial Group:**

Highlanes Gallery's Artist-Teacher-Researcher Curatorial Group developed out of links with art teachers and students at Second Level and Third Level Education. In 2016, Highlanes initiated a curatorial project exploring the British Council's Collection and the Drogheda Municipal Art Collection with two Drogheda-based schools - St Oliver's Community College in Drogheda and Our Lady's College, Greenhills. This year-long project resulted in an exhibition titled [In Sense of Place](#) in 2017.

Since 2021, the gallery has worked with artist-teachers (at Second Level Education) from across the country, and lecturers from the Art and Design Initial Teacher Education Programme Team, Limerick School of Art and Design, TUS - Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, exploring public collections of art including the British Council Collection, LUX, The Arts Council, Poetry Ireland, Limerick City Gallery of Art, and Crawford Art Gallery. Curated exhibitions include [A Thread Between Us](#) (2025), [file:///Embracing Vision/Celebrating 100 Years of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland](#) (2024), [TRAce](#) (2023), and [We Are Here](#) (2022).

The curators have connected disparate ideas, engaged in critical dialogue, and generated multiple themes, perspectives and readings of diverse artwork within the collections. As part of this iterative process they have also invited artists to exhibit as part of the thematic exhibitions.

Working more closely with artist-teacher-researchers has offered Highlanes Gallery greater insight into strategic ways of supporting this sector, and since 2022, the gallery has developed a Continuous Professional Development days, running three times a year and linking the historic and contemporary art at the gallery with important sites of art and archaeology in the region like Newgrange,



Knowth and Muiredach's Cross, offering hands-on artist-led practical workshops and informal and engaging discursive artist/curator talks, offering connection and networking opportunities for artist-teacher-researchers across the island.

In 2025, Highlanes Gallery and Limerick School of Art and Design developed a Graduate Internship Award for Bachelor of Education student graduate to allow time and space to continue to develop their professional practice as an artist-teacher-researcher.

For individual bios of the Artist-Teacher-Researcher Curatorial group [please click here](#).

**About Crawford Art Gallery:**

Crawford Art Gallery is currently closed to the public for a major redevelopment; Transforming 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.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's Custom House, the gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries ago. Featured in the gallery's collection of over 3,500 objects are contemporary Irish and international artists Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Isabel Nolan, Kathy Prendergast, Sean Scully, and Nedko Solakov, as well as much-loved works by artists James Barry, Mainie Jellett, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Harry Clarke, Seán Keating, John Lavery, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Mary Swanzy and Jack B. Yeats.

**About Transforming Crawford Art Gallery:**

Crawford Art Gallery is closed to the public and currently undergoing an 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 Culture, Communication and Sport in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The award-winning Grafton Architects have worked on a [redevelopment design](#) that include a new Learn & Explore facility for public engagement, significant storage for the National Collection, a new entrance, and a dramatically improved public realm including new café facing onto Half Moon Street as well as additional exhibition spaces. The building's entrance will be reoriented to Emmet



Place in line with the original Custom House layout dating to 1724. A large new public gallery space will create a new vantage point for visitors to view city centre landmarks including St Anne's, Shandon and St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

For all the latest news on Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, sign up to the newsletter on [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie) or follow the gallery's social media.



CAG.2343 Elizabeth Magill, Blue Constrictor, 2006, ola ar chanbhás, 153 x 183 cm. Ceannaithe, 2008. © an t-ealaíontóir

**Tugtar talamh, cuimhne agus féiniúlacht le chéile sa taispeántas nua seo ó Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford agus ó Ghailearaí Highlanes, Droichead Átha.**

*To Land: Living Roots Awaken* á chur i láthair ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford agus Gailearaí Highlanes idir an 23 Bealtaine agus an 9 Lúnasa.

Bunaithe ar an mbailiúchán saibhir de shaothair ealaíne chomhaimseartha atá le fáil i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, sa taispeántas seo scrúdaítear an tslí a bhfuil féiniúlacht á múnlú ag ár gcuidreamh leis an talamh, le stair agus le cuimhne. Is ar oileán atáimid lonnaithe, áit a forbraíodh mar thoradh ar réabhadh agus ar athnuachan, áit atá frémhaithe i gcultúir ársa



ach atá ag athrú de shíor tar éis ré na coilíneachta. Sa taispeántas seo tugtar chun beochta dianseasmhacht na staire san am i láthair. Ag sní go ciúin trí na saothair ealaíne tá téamaí cosúil le díláithriú agus an fonn a bhí ar dhaoine fréamhacha a chur síos.

Tá na saothair ealaíne atá ar taispeáint roghnaithe ag Grúpa Coimeádaíochta Highlanes a bhfuil Ealaíontóirí-Múinteoirí-Taighdeoirí páirteach ann, faoi threoir an Dr Michael Waldron, Coimeádaí Bailiúchán agus Tionscadal Speisialta i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.

Bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag Aoife Ruane, Stiúrthóir Ghailearaí Highlanes; “Bhí muid ag súil go mór le bheith ag obair le Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ar an taispeántas mór seo tráth a bhfuil ceiliúradh á dhéanamh againn ar 20 bliain ó bunaíodh Gailearaí Highlanes. Don taispeántas seo, tá scrúdú déanta ar bhailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ag ár bPainéal Coimeádaíochta Ealaíontóirí-Múinteoirí-Taighdeoirí agus bhí siad ag díriú ar chleachtas ealaíne comhaimseartha. Is é seo an cúigiú taispeántas coimeádaithe atá eagraithe ag an bPainéal ó 2022, agus an taispeántas is mó go dtí seo. Ag tacú leis an bpróiseas tumthach taighde agus fiosrúcháin bunaithe ar an mbailiúchán le dhá bhliain anuas bhí Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford agus an Dr Michael Waldron, agus is fianaise é an taispeántas seo ar acmhainn luachmhar, spreagúil agus shaibhir, ina dtugtar léargas ar shaothar fiúntach agus a bhfuil ábhar machnaimh ann atá cruthaithe ag ealaíontóirí uailmhianacha éagsúla, bunaithe ar théamaí éagsúla ar féidir le daoine dul i ngleic leo.”

Bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag an Dr Michael Waldron: ‘Ba mhór an pléisiúr é am a chaitheamh i gcomhluadar na nEalaíontóirí-na Múinteoirí-na dTaighdeoirí fad is a bhí scrúdú á dhéanamh acu ar bhailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford de shaothair ealaíne chomhaimseartha Éireannacha agus fad is a bhí taispeántas á chruthú acu atá chomh



hábharta is atá do shaol an lae inniu ann. Spreagfaidh agus cuirfidh an éagsúlacht meán agus cleachtas atá le feiceáil in *To Land: Living Roots Awaken* daoine ar a suaimhneas, agus is fianaise atá ann gur acmhainn ríthábhachtach chun tacú le machnamh, fiosrúchán agus cruthaitheacht é an bailiúchán náisiúnta.'

Agus bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag an Dr Waldron chomh maith: 'Is maith an scéal é freisin, tríd an taispeántas seo, go bhfuil Gailearaí Highlanes ag cur an oiread sin saothar ealaíne ar fáil don phobal fad is atá mórfhorbairt ar siúl i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.'

Fad is a bheidh Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta, beidh sé ag obair le comhghleacaithe san earnáil músaem agus gailearaí ar oileán na hÉireann chun an Bailiúchán Náisiúnta a thabhairt ar camchuairt agus a roinnt.

Trí shaothair phéinteáilte, déanamh priontaí, teicstílí, líníochtaí, saothair cheirmeacha agus dealbha a thabhairt le chéile, sa taispeántas seo scrúdaítear an nasc atá againn leis an dúlra agus ceistítear an nasc atá againn leis an domhan mórthimpeall orainn sa lá inniu ann.

Le feiceáil sa taispeántas seo tá saothair ealaíne chomhaimseartha atá cruthaithe ag na healaíontóirí seo a leanas: Dorota Borowa, Tom Climent, Karen Conway, Barrie Cooke, Dorothy Cross, Stephen Doyle, James Hayes, Katie Holten, Anthony Haughey, John Keating, Fiona Kelly, Anne Kiely agus Mary Palmer, Elizabeth Magill, Alice Maher, Frieda Meaney, Ciara O'Connor, Nuala O'Donovan agus John Rainey.

Seo a leanas baill Ghrúpa Coimeádaithe Ealaíontóirí, Mhúinteoirí agus Thaighdeoirí Ghailearaí Highlanes: Eileen Brennan, Kieran Gallagher, Bairbre Geraghty, Veronica Lavin, Ciarán Power agus Roisin O'Sullivan. Tá



saorchead isteach chuig an taispeántas agus tá clár cainteanna, turas agus ceardlann ag tacú leis.

## CRÍOCH

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Le haghaidh íomhánna fotheidealaithe ardaifigh, [cliceáil anseo](#).

### **Imeachtaí:**

Seen/Unseen leis an ealaíontóir Fiona Kelly. Dé hAoine, an 12 Meitheamh, Gailearaí Highlanes

Comhrá leis an ealaíontóir Fiona Kelly agus le hAoife Ruane, Dé hAoine, an 12 Meitheamh, Gailearaí Highlanes

Gheofar breis eolais faoi na himeachtaí seo ar [crawfordartgallery.ie](http://crawfordartgallery.ie)

### **Maidir leis an Gailearaí Highlanes:**

Is spás úrscothach do na hamharc-ealaíona é Gailearaí Ealaíne Bardasach Highlanes agus é ag freastal ar Dhroichead Átha agus ar réigiún thoir thuaidh na hÉireann. Cuireann sé clár ilghnéitheach ar siúl de thaispeántais shealadacha agus de thaispeántais de shaothair ó Bhailiúchán Ealaíne Cheantar Bardasach Dhroichead Átha.

Is san iarSheipéal Proinsiasach ar Shráid San Labhrás atá an gailearaí ealaíne lonnaithe agus tugadh mar bhronntanas é do mhuintir Dhroichead Átha in 2000, tráth ar chuir na Proinsiasaigh deireadh leis an tréimhse 760 bliain a bhí caite sa bhaile acu. Téann an Bailiúchán féin siar go dtí an seachtú haois déag.

Beidh 20 bliain ann in 2026 ó bunaíodh Gailearaí Highlanes agus é ag leanúint leis i mbun clár leanúnach de thaispeántais agus de thionscnaimh rochtana a reáchtáil chun nua-ealaín agus ealaín chomhaimseartha a chur chun cinn. Le haghaidh breis eolais, tabhair cuairt ar [highlanes.ie](http://highlanes.ie).



**Maidir le Grúpa Coimeádaithe Ealaíontóirí, Mhúinteoirí agus Thaighdeoirí  
Ghailearaí Highlanes:**

D'eascair Grúpa Coimeádaithe Ealaíontóirí, Mhúinteoirí agus Thaighdeoirí Ghailearaí Highlanes as caidrimh idir múinteoirí agus mic léinn ealaíne ag Oideachas Dara Leibhéal agus Tríú Leibhéal. In 2016, chuir Gailearaí Highlanes tús le tionscadal coimeádaíochta ina ndearnadh iniúchadh ar Bhailiúchán Chomhairle na Breataine agus ar Bhailiúchán Ealaíne Bardasach Dhroichead Átha le dhá scoil atá lonnaithe i nDroichead Átha - Coláiste Pobail Naomh Oilibhéar i nDroichead Átha agus Coláiste Mhuire, na Glaschnoic. Mar thoradh ar an tionscadal bliana seo, bhí taispeántas dar teideal [In Sense of Place](#) in 2017.

Ó 2021 i leith, tá an gailearaí ag obair le healaíontóirí-múinteoirí (ag Oideachas Dara Leibhéal) ó gach cearn den tír, agus le léachtóirí ó Fhoireann an Chláir Oideachais Tosaigh do Mhúinteoirí Ealaíne agus Deartha, Scoil Ealaíne agus Deartha Luimnigh agus TUS - Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Sionainne: Lár Tíre, An tIarthar Láir, ina ndéantar iniúchadh ar bhailiúcháin phoiblí ealaíne lena n-áirítear Bailiúchán Chomhairle na Breataine, LUX, an Chomhairle Ealaíon, Éigse Éireann, Gailearaí Chathair Luimnigh, agus Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford. I measc na dtaispeántas coimeáda tá [A Thread Between Us](#) (2025), [file:///Embracing Vision/Celebrating 100 Years of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland](#) (2024), [TRAce](#) (2023), agus [We Are Here](#) (2022).

Nasc na coimeádaithe smaointe éagsúla, ghlac siad páirt in idirphlé criticiúil, agus chruthaigh siad iliomad téamaí, peirspictíochtaí agus léamha de shaothar ealaíne éagsúil laistigh de na bailiúcháin. Mar chuid den phróiseas atriallach seo, thug siad cuireadh d'ealaíontóirí taispeántas a dhéanamh mar chuid de na taispeántais théamacha.

Agus é ag obair níos dlúithe le healaíontóirí-múinteoirí-taighdeoirí, tá léargas níos fearr tugtha ag Gailearaí Highlanes ar bhealaí straitéiseacha chun tacú leis an earnáil seo, agus ó 2022 i leith, tá laethanta Forbartha Gairmiúla Leanúnaí forbartha ag an ngailearaí, a ritheann trí huaire sa bhliain agus a nascann an ealaín stairiúil agus chomhaimseartha ag an ngailearaí le suíomhanna tábhachtacha ealaíne agus seandálaíochta sa réigiún amhail Sí an Bhrú, Cnóbha agus Cros Mhuireadach, chun ceardlanna praiticiúla faoi stiúir ealaíontóirí a chur ar fáil mar aon le cainteanna neamhfhoirmiúla agus tarraingteacha ealaíontóirí/coimeádaithe, chun deiseanna nasctha agus líonraithe do thaighdeoirí ealaíontóirí-múinteoirí a chur ar fáil ar fud an oileáin.

In 2025, d'fhorbair Gailearaí Highlanes agus Scoil Ealaíne agus Deartha Luimnigh Gradam Intéirneachta Céimithe do chéimithe mac léinn Baitsiléara Oideachais chun am agus spás a cheadú chun leanúint dá gcleachtas gairmiúil mar ealaíontóir-múinteoir-taighdeoir a fhorbairt.

**Maidir le Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford:**

Tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta don phobal faoi láthair le haghaidh athfhorbartha mhóir; Claochlú 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, idir stairiúil agus chomhaimseartha. 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.

Tógadh ar dtús i 1724 é mar Theach Custaim na cathrach agus tá Múnlaí cáiliúla Canova ar taispeáint sa Ghailearaí, a bronnadh ar Chorcaigh dhá chéad bliain ó shin. I measc bhailiúchán an ghailearaí, tá os cionn 3,500 saothar ó ealaíontóirí comhaimseartha na hÉireann agus idirnáisiúnta Isabel Nolan, Gerard Byrne, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Kathy Prendergast, Dorothy Cross, Sean Scully agus Nedko Solakov mar aon leis na saothair ó na healaíontóirí a bhfuil an-tóir orthu James Barry, Mainie Jellett, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Harry Clarke, Seán Keating, John Lavery, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Mary Swanzy agus Jack B. Yeats.

### **Maidir le Chlaochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford**

Tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta don phobal agus tá tionscadal athfhorbartha caipitil spreagúil ar bun aici faoi láthair: Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford a chlaochlú.

Cuirfidh an infheistíocht, ar fiú na milliúin euro é, beagnach 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 Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt i gcomhar le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW).

Tá Ailtirí Grafton, [a bhfuil gradaim bainte acu, tar éis obair a dhéanamh ar dhearadh athfhorbartha](#) lena n-áirítear áis Foghlama agus Fiosraithe nua le rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach, stóráil shuntasach don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta, bealach isteach nua, agus spás poiblí a bheidh feabhsaithe go mór lena n-áirítear caifé nua ar Shráid na Leathghealaí chomh maith le spásanna taispeántais breise. 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 mór gailearaí nua, a chruthaíonn radharc do chuairoteoirí chun féachaint ar shainchomharthaí i lár na cathrach lena n-áirítear Ardán San Anna, An Seandún agus Ardeaglais Naomh Fionnbarra.

Chun níos mó eolais rialta a fháil ar Chlaochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, is fearr clárú do nuachtlitir an ghailearaí ar [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie) nó lean muid ar mheáin shóisialta an ghailearaí.