



Image: Harry Aaron Kernoff, *The Forty Foot, Sandycove*, 1940. © The Artist's Estate.

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Odysseys (22 January – 3 April 2022)

An exhibition celebrating the centenary of James Joyce's famed *Ulysses*, and his overlooked connections to Cork, at Crawford Art Gallery.

ODYSSEYS marks the centenary of James Joyce's modernist masterpiece *Ulysses*, which was published in Paris on 2 February 1922 - the Irish writer's 40th birthday. Much talked about yet little read, *Ulysses* holds many parallels with Homer's *Odyssey*, which details its hero's epic voyage home to Ithaca. Joyce transforms this into Leopold Bloom's day-long journey across Dublin, popularly celebrated as Bloom's Day every 16 June.

Joyce himself embarked on a lifelong journey as a writer outside of Ireland, living variously in Trieste, Pola, Rome, Zürich, London, and Paris. The exhibition offers an exploration of these and other journeys through art, from Ancient Greece to 1920s Samoa, with a special focus on Joyce's own often overlooked relationship with Cork.

Co-curator of the exhibition, Dr Flicka Small says: "What many people do not know is that James Joyce's family hailed from Cork. It is said that he had a lilting Cork accent, which can be heard in recordings of his voice. And, in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, he even wrote about his childhood visit to the city with his father in 1894, when it became necessary to sell their properties in the South Parish."

Dr Small continues: "In the novel, Joyce's alter-ego Stephen Dedalus describes their wanderings around Cork, visiting his father's old haunts. They stayed in the Victoria Hotel, walked to the Mardyke and Queen's College, now UCC, and talked with characters in the pubs and markets."

James Joyce: Framed in Cork, a chapter from the new documentary from director Marcella O'Connor, accompanies the exhibition and features Small, as well as Cork writer Cónal Creedon and local historian, the late Ronnie Herlihy.

Aside from the Joyce connection, ODYSSEYS embraces the wider sense of journeys in art, from the mythic to the everyday, and from leisurely travel to necessary migration. Through works from the national collection at Crawford Art Gallery, it considers the ways journeys shape our identities, express our desires, and define our existences.

Co-curator of the exhibition, Dr Michael Waldron explains: "In addressing a theme as big as 'odysseys', we have been keen to tell more than just the adventures of a privileged few, but also consider what Impact travel may have on an artist's work, how being nomadic or peripatetic may define a culture, and the genuine trauma and peril that may face the migrant."

Curated by Dr Flicka Small and Dr Michael Waldron, ODYSSEYS runs at Crawford Art Gallery from 22 January until 3 April. Open daily and entry to the exhibition is free.

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More about Odysseys:

ODYSSEYS is curated by Dr Flicka Small and Dr Michael Waldron. The exhibition features works from the national collection at Crawford Art Gallery by artists James Barry, Alfred Bendiner, Henry Bishop, Alicia Boyle, John Carr, Patrick Collins, Aoife Desmond, Rita Duffy, Agnes Frost, Robert Gibbings, John Gilbert, Beatrice E. Gubbins, Derek Hill, Seán Keating, Raymond Kelleher, Harry Aaron Kernoff, Louis le Brocqy, William John Leech, Mahrea Cramer Lehman, Daniel Maclise, Brian Maguire, Alice Maher, Yvonne Mariotte, Norah McGuinness, Cormac Moore, Walter A. Mulligan, Peter Nash, Isabel Nolan, Pádraig O'Conchubhair, Roderic O'Connor, Robert Lowe Stopford, Mary Swazy, and John Verling.

More about James Joyce's family:

James Joyce's father, John Stanislaus Joyce, was born and raised at Anglesea Street in the South Parish of Cork. He was the only child of Ellen O'Connell and John Augustine Joyce who married in SS Peter and Paul's Church (close to what is now Crawford Art Gallery). Salt merchants, they owned properties in the South Terrace, Douglas Street, White Street, and Dunbar Street area. Through his mother Ellen O'Connell, John Stanislaus was also related to Daniel O'Connell. He was educated at St Colman's in Fermoy and Queen's College (UCC) and, following his father's death, he moved to Dublin with his mother in 1874. He married in 1880 but was

almost bankrupt through profligate living by 1894. This ultimately prompted the sale of his Cork properties.

More about James Joyce: Framed in Cork (2020):

Directed by Marcella O'Connor, this documentary short follows Dr Flicka Small as she traces James Joyce's family connections in Cork. It also features writer Cónal Creedon, Darrell O'Connor as Stephen Dedalus, and local historian, the late Ronnie Herlihy.

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.

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

Odysseys

22 January - 3 April 2022

Saturation: the everyday transformed

29 January - 8 May 2022

The Port of Cork Collection

26 February – 28 August 2022

Zurich Portrait Prize 2021 & Zurich Young Portrait Prize 2021

23 April – 17 July 2022



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