



PRESS RELEASE: 08/09/21

Writers Danielle McLaughlin and Alannah Hopkin in conversation at Crawford Art Gallery, as part of the citywide book club *One City One Book*.

Cork City Libraries' One City One Book is an initiative that invites both the curious and dedicated book lovers to read, discuss and enjoy a special book as part of a city-wide book club.

This year's book *The Art of Falling* by Danielle McLaughlin revolves around a fictional sculptor, while art works inspired by animals thread through her narrative. In this filmed conversation, Danielle will discuss her book, the artwork in the exhibition *Menagerie*, and consider how animals remain an intuitive and curious touchstone in her writing. The Crawford Art Gallery partner with Cork City Libraries to bring this conversation to the public within the exhibition *Menagerie: Animals by Artists*.

Danielle also celebrates this connection between her book and the exhibition ***'Each time I've visited this exhibition, some new detail has captured my attention. It's been an absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to talk about these amazing artworks.'*** She says. ***'In my stories, I've found myself time and again drawn to writing about animals, so it's fascinating to see all the different ways in which animals have been featured in these artworks.'***

The filmed conversation is freely available to watch from home at <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/once-city-one-book/> from today.

Anne Boddeart, Curator at Crawford Art Gallery comments " **Crawford Art Gallery is thrilled to partner with Cork City Libraries and have the opportunity to host this special conversation between Alannah and Danielle within our exhibition Menagerie: Animals by Artists. Animals function as rich imaginative symbols in Danielle's writing and so much of the art in the gallery is about telling stories.**"

Alannah Hopkin who led the conversation in the gallery with Danielle says, "**Danielle and I discovered strong links to her novel *The Art of Falling* when we visited the exhibition together. We greatly enjoyed the wide variety of animal paintings and sculpture on show, from the sophistication of Patrick Hennessy's *Self Portrait and Cat* to the sheer love of life in Finola Leane's *Circus Animals* and the lively animal sketches by the *Fifth Class at Blarney Street Boys National School.*"**

One City One Book hosts a range of open creative events, and on Culture Night (Friday 17 September) visitors to *Menagerie* at Crawford Art Gallery can pick up a postcard of writing prompts to jump-start their own writing. Everyone is encouraged to share their flash fiction with the Crawford Art Gallery or at Cork City Library. All participants will be in with a chance to win a free signed copy of *The Art of Falling*, One City One Book choice, 2021.

Cork City Libraries' One City, One Book initiative now in its 6th year gives a platform to the work of local writers and has included books by Frank O'Connor and Billy O'Callaghan. '**There is a wealth of new writing in the city,**' says Patricia Looney Senior Executive Librarian with Cork City Libraries, '**One City One Book has developed organically and since 2019 it now showcases the debut novels of Cork based writers including Catherine Kirwan, Tadhg Coakley and this year Danielle McLaughlin. These novels which are based in the city have really captured the imagination of Cork people not only those living in the city but also Cork people living abroad, who can follow the protagonists through familiar streets of the city.'**

ENDS

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Notes to the editor

For further information see

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/once-city-one-book/>

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/menagerie-animals-by-artists/>

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 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.

On the 17th of September, Rembrandt in Print and REMAINS: Brian Maguire will be opening. Rembrandt in Print will present over 50 of the finest works from the Ashmolean's world-class collection of over 200 etchings and drypoints by Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669). REMAINS: Brian Maguire exhibits his most recent bodies of work directly confronting issues of migration, displacement and human dignity in the face of the current global unrest.

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.

Social Media:

Twitter@CrawfordArtGall

FacebookCrawfordArtGallery

Instagram CrawfordArtGallery

Website : www.crawfordartgallery.ie

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

Sundays and Bank Holidays

Gallery: 11am - 4pm

Entry Free



LIBRARIES
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Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017-2022



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs