



George Mounsey Wheatley Atkinson, *Sailing Ship off Haulbowline, Cork Harbour*, c.1845.

**Press Release** 24/02/2022

### **Historic maritime collection goes on display at Crawford Art Gallery**

A new exhibition of paintings from the Port of Cork Collection is set to open in Cork following their donation to Crawford Art Gallery.

These unique maritime artworks were gifted by The Port of Cork Company in November 2021 and will be displayed free to the public from 26 February 2022 for the first time since their acquisition.

Now visitors will have the opportunity to encounter a selection of paintings from the Port of Cork Collection, including works by Irish artists George Mounsey Wheatley Atkinson (1806-1884), Henry Albert Hartland (1840-1893), Robert Lowe Stopford (1813-1898), and Seán Keating (1889-1977).

Curator of the exhibition, Dr Michael Waldron says: "Although not attending to certain social or political realities of late nineteenth-century Ireland, these artworks do act as a visual reminder of that time. They also underscore Cork Harbour's links with empire, its international significance for commerce and trade, and ever-present story of migration."

Waldron continues: "Some of these paintings are astonishingly beautiful or contain historical insights, and glimpses of half-remembered histories are framed within these heritage views of Cork Harbour. Each artist provides an insight into the Port of Cork's operations, from Atkinson's extraordinary rendering of naval vessels to Hartland and Stopford's depictions of commercial shipping and leisure craft. Perhaps unexpectedly, Keating's elevated *View of the Port of Cork* draws us into Cork City itself and remembers the busy working quays of recent memory."

Among the exhibited works is *View of the Port of Cork* (c.1960), which offers an unusual, elevated perspective over the Cork docks upriver to the city. It is a rare example of Seán Keating's landscape painting.

Visitors are invited to explore *The Port of Cork Collection* on the gallery's top floor and to take in panoramic views of Cork Harbour from times long past. Turn back the clock on locations ranging from Monkstown and Cobh to Blackrock Castle and Haulbowline, and learn of the variety of seagoing vessels, including the famed SS *Sirius*.

*The Port of Cork Collection* runs from 26 February until 28 August at Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. Entry to the exhibition is free.

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**Notes to the editor:** for additional imagery click [here](#)

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### **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 more than 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 Aideen Barry, 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.

### **More about The Port of Cork Collection**

Donated to Crawford Art Gallery in 2021 by the Port of Cork Company, this collection consists of 17 maritime paintings, including works from George Mounsey Wheatley Atkinson, Henry Albert Hartland, Robert Lowe Stopford, and Seán Keating. It also features a Ship's Register (1912) from The Cork Harbour Commissioners which includes a page showing the *Titanic* and *Lusitania*, an illuminated address to Charles Stewart Parnell (1889), and a silver Admiralty Oar (1686). Eleven of the maritime paintings are by George Mounsey Wheatley Atkinson, a former ship's carpenter who painted marine views and seagoing vessels that provide great insights into the shipping of the time and glimpses of a thriving harbour.

### **Opening Hours**

**Open daily | Free entry**

**Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm**

**Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm**

**Sundays and Bank Holidays**

**Gallery: 11am - 4pm Entry Free**



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta

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