



**Press Release 25/03/19**

## **Andrew Kearney: Mechanism**

Exhibition: 15 March – 3 June, 2019

Crawford Art Gallery erect a large visually arresting installation on the Gallery façade

*Mechanism* is a light and sound installation responsive to the environment by artist Andrew Kearney.

The visitor's first encounter with Kearney's work takes place on the outside of the building with a large visually arresting installation. Overlooking the public plaza, Emmet Place, a mirrored circular 'mandala' presents itself as a portal to the inside of the gallery through the eighteenth-century façade. Responding directly to the whims of nature and the movement within the public space it creates a wealth of reflections and sounds reacting to the changing conditions on any one day.

*Mechanism* comprises of electronic, industrial and theatrical components that combine to respond, listen and react to the everyday life of Cork city centre where the gallery is located.

As you enter the first floor of the Crawford Art Gallery an eight-metre-long light and sound assemblage floats off four high wires. Functional yet vulnerable in its exposed state, it alters sounds, captured outside the building by a microphone, to create - through unseen algorithms – a continuous dialogue between the building’s external and internal spaces.

Two other elements vie for the viewer’s attention, a nine-meter-long shell of a fallen tree, truncated, hollowed out, its skin made of black AstroTurf being dragged, back and forth, across the room and a mesmeric three-meter mirror-chrome inflatable satellite, orb constantly rotates on a high wire, inviting the viewer to occupy its centre as it continues in its cyclical motion.

The installation continues Kearney’s evolving work that builds on his exploration of the layered experience of space. He scrutinizes how buildings function within a given landscape, how people circulate through spaces and the historical and contemporary power relations that underpin the evolution of architecture<sup>1</sup>.

Kearney’s work also examines the role of public space and as a counterpoint to the high-tech interior installations the artist will construct a rectangle of black stretched netting over part of the building, within sits a five-metre circler-ring of mirror-chrome camouflage material. Seen as a portal to the inside space through the eighteenth century façade, overlooking the gallery’s garden and the public plaza, Emmet Place. The installation responds directly to the whims of nature and the movements of the public space creating a feast of reflections and sounds reacting to the changing breeze and light on any one day.

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<sup>1</sup> Joanne Laws, *The Permeable Institution-A response to Andrew Kearney’s ‘Mechanism’ at the Dock*, 2017

Cork, Ireland.  
T12 TNE6

### **More about Crawford Art Gallery**

Located in the heart of Cork city and free to enter, Crawford Art Gallery, is home to a collection of national importance and is a must see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 230,000 visitors a year the Gallery is open seven days a week and delights in all visitors young and old.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's customs house, (when Cork was one of Europe's most important trading ports), the Gallery is described by many visitors as an "Oasis" offering the tranquillity and atmosphere only a building with such history and beauty can provide. As well as offering a stunning place for reflection, Crawford Art Gallery is right in the middle of a vibrant shopping, cultural and hospitality area. As well both historic and modern exhibition spaces, the Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings serving fresh local produce for which cork is famous.

Crawford Art Gallery is home to an expansive collection featuring works from the 18th century to present which are of key national importance and tell a compelling story of place and history. It is also home to the famous 'Canova Casts', which were gifted to the city of Cork nearly two centuries ago. Well-known and loved works by 20th century Irish artists such as Seán Keating, Harry Clarke, John Lavery, Jack B. Yeats, Norah McGuinness, Mainie Jellet, Gerard Dillon and Muriel Brandt feature in the gallery's historic collection, while the modern collection features work by contemporary artists such as Eilis O'Connell, Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Maud Cotter and Hughie O'Donoghue. The Gallery hosts numerous temporary exhibitions by local, national and international artists showcasing visual art, film.

### **Opening Hours**

**Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm**

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm

**Sundays and Bank Holidays**

Gallery: 11am - 4pm

### **More about the artist**

While the artist defines the parameters, assembles the technology, and creates mesmeric objects, these components relinquish control so that each spectator generates, through their personal routine, a counterpoint to the prevailing record and history of the setting. For Andrew Kearney, his interest lies with what the work does – always regenerating, never predetermining, constantly seeking new information to create new sounds and visual possibilities.

Andrew Kearney is an Irish artist based in Limerick and London. Recent exhibitions include Mechanism, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and The Dock, Carrick On Shannon (2017); On Arriving, Watts Artist Village and Gallery, Surrey (2016); Tell Me Something Limerick City of Culture (2014) and SKYLUM, Justice Lipsius Council, Brussels and Nuit Blanche, Toronto (2012/13) and Embrace the Place, TATE Britain (2011). [www.andrewkearney.net](http://www.andrewkearney.net)

### Learn and Explore

For details on the Learn & Explore programme guided tours, access and education, please visit our website: [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)

**DOCK**



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of  
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht