



Sheila Pomeroy *Feral (Detail)* Oil on panel, 63.5 cm x 84.4 cm Courtesy of artist and the Molesworth Gallery

Press Release 17 June 2019



## ***Seen not Heard***

28 June – 28 October 2019

Large Scale exhibition & an immersive experimental playspace ensure children are seen and heard this summer at Crawford Art Gallery

*“All grown-ups were children ...but only a few of them remember it.”* The Little Prince,  
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

*Seen not Heard* at Crawford Art Gallery, a large-scale group exhibition seeks to spark conversations about how children are made visible in Ireland today.

Conceived over two years ago this innovative exhibition and playspace gives visitors a glimpse into how children have long been an important subject matter in art. *Seen not Heard* encourages the audience to reflect on their own ideas of childhood and on the place of children in society today.

Presenting a multi-faceted selection of artworks spanning across the centuries from the 18th century right up to the present day, the exhibition will feature selected works from private collections, museums and contemporary Irish artists.

Children have long been an important subject matter in art, often as passive subjects. *Seen not Heard* encourages the audience to reflect on their representation.

Based on the three core themes of *Power*, *Perception* and *Play*, the exhibition will examine how representation of childhood has evolved historically in Ireland, featuring commissioned aristocratic portraits, depictions of children in various socio economic settings and works capturing glimpsed moments of everyday life.

The visitor sees works by Vik Muniz, channelling the child as investigative collector in *Portrait of Alice Liddell, after Lewis Carroll* Collection: IMMA. Children will also be represented by Walter Osborne, fully immersed in a world of their own (*Boy Blowing Bubbles* Collection: National Gallery of Ireland) and *the Goldfish Bowl* (Collection: Crawford Art Gallery)

The outdated expression that ‘a child should *be seen and not heard*’ is one that the Gallery admonishes, recognising that young people drive great change in society. The importance of play in a child’s development is now widely recognised and the significance of Play between generations is to be encouraged. To make this happen an entire Gallery is dedicated to play for a period of four months.

On the first floor, the experimental *Seen and Heard Playspace* provides a place for children and adults alike to play, make, read, dream and even draw on the wall.

*The Playspace will feature Will Sliney* well known comic books artist. (Marvel's Fearless Defenders & best selling graphic novel Celtic Warrior), Downtcha Puppets, Danielle Sheehy, stop-motion animations with Julie Forrester, Cork Printmakers and Eamon O’Kane’s *Fröbel Studio: Institute for Creativity*.

As an extension of the exhibition a series of key talks and essays will expand the conversation and respond to the concepts from *Seen not Heard* over the duration of the exhibition.

*Seen not Heard* is co-curated by Anne Boddaert of Crawford Art Gallery and Victoria Evans. The Project has been made possible with the support of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Cork City Council.

**ENDS**

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### **Artists represented :**

Artists featured: Catherine Barron, William Gerard Barry, Robert Ballagh, Muriel Brandt, , Cristina Bunello Julia Margaret Cameron, Otto Dix, Bernadette Doolan, Evie Hone, Michael Healy, Harry Aaron Kernoff, Louis Le Brocquy, Les Levine, Charles Lamb, Alice Maher, Daniel MacDonald, Colin Middleton, Vik Muniz, Walter Osborne, Paula Rego, Vera Klute, Sheila Pomeroy, Patrick Redmond, and Debbie Godsell, amongst others.

### **Programme of events for Seen and Heard Playspace**

#### **July**

Dowtcha Puppets have been invited to deliver a series of puppet-making workshops and create an interactive environment with puppet play areas. The playroom will become a landing site for Spaceship Dowtcha. Expect alien encounters, building rovers, space suits, rockets and much more!

#### **August**

The space will be transformed yet again, this time with opportunities to create cardboard box houses made with Danielle Sheehy and create stop-motion animations with Julie Forrester. At the end of the month, Cork Printmakers will be our guest for workshops exploring the relationship between geometric form and printed matter, converting the space into an evolving, user-led 3-D visual composition.

#### **September**

We will present Eamon O’Kane’s *Fröbel Studio: Institute for Creativity*, an interactive installation, making direct visual and conceptual reference to educational play objects devised by educator and inventor of kindergarten, Friedrich Fröbel. The Institute for Creativity is designed as a platform for developing creativity, to be experienced by adults and children alike, as well as teachers and schools.

#### **October**

We are looking forward to Will Sliney’s takeover in October, when the gallery will become home to a colourful cast of superheroes, bound to inspire comic book fans and budding illustrators!

### **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 a quarter

of a million 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.

**Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm**

Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm  
(2nd floor closes at 16:45pm)

**Sundays and Bank Holidays**

Gallery: 11am - 4pm

Café: 11am - 4pm

**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)

Image / Logo credit

Michael Healy (1873-1941)

*A Small Girl With Her Hands in Her Pockets*

ink on paper,

19 x 16 cm

Collection of the National Gallery of Ireland

Photo © National Gallery of Ireland



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