



Credit: Unknown artist, *View of Cork Harbour from Rostellan, Inisbeg Island (detail)*, 1809. © Crawford Art Gallery

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## STATIO BENE: Art and Ireland's Maritime Haven

from 1 July 2020

### An exhibition celebrating Ireland's maritime haven opens at Crawford Art Gallery.

*Statio Bene* draws together over forty artworks describing the traditions and historic views of Cork Harbour. The exhibition features artworks describing Cork's global connectedness, its harbour and river, shipping and leisure, defence, and mobility of people.

Addressing the maritime traditions of Cork and the south of Ireland, *Statio Bene* considers the concept of a 'safe harbour' as an anchorage in cultural, social, and other terms.

Presented in the Long Room of the city's old Custom House (Crawford Art Gallery), the exhibition is inspired by Cork's motto – *Statio Bene Fide Carinis* (a safe harbour for ships). The exhibition also coincides with the 300th anniversary of the world's oldest established yacht club – Royal Cork Yacht Club.

Dr Michael Waldron, Assistant Curator of Collections at Crawford Art Gallery, says: "Cork, its city and environs have for centuries benefited from the natural maritime haven that is its harbour. Amongst the largest of its kind in the world, Cork Harbour has been a porous site of settlement, migration, international trade, fortification, and leisure, and holds deep cultural and economic relevance."

For the first time, Crawford Art Gallery will also display a selection of prints from Jamie Murphy's series *Albert, Ernest and the Titanic* (2012). "Cork Harbour was the last port of call for the Titanic on its maiden voyage in 1912," Waldron also notes. "It underscores the risk of leaving a safe harbour, and Jamie Murphy's arresting images help us to tell that story. The ink the artist used on the label for this portfolio of prints was even made from coal salvaged from Titanic's wreck site."

Drawn from Crawford Art Gallery's own extensive collection, *Statio Bene* includes works by Willem Van de Velde (1611-1693), Sarah Grace Carr (1794-1837), George Mounsey Wheatley Atkinson (1806-

1884), Robert Lowe Stopford (1813-1898), Norah McGuinness (1901-1980), David Lilburn (b.1950), among others.

The exhibition and associated programmes are made possible with the support of O'Leary Insurance Group, Mainport, and Port of Cork.

**ENDS**

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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 4,000 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.

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**



An Roinn  
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta  
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