



Dylan is ainm dom... mixed media on board (oil and neon glass), courtesy of Stephen Doyle.

Press Release

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The work of a rising young Irish artist joins Crawford Art Gallery's collection

The work of Irish artist Stephen Doyle is acquisitioned into and immediately exhibited as part of Crawford Art Gallery's collection.

The work, called *Dylan is ainm dom...* was shortlisted for the prestigious Zurich Portrait Prize 2018 at the National Gallery of Ireland and is thought to be the first artwork in the national collection that openly discusses transgender identity.

"The acquisition of the work means so much to me as an artist and even more as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Growing up, Crawford Art Gallery was a safe and inspirational space for me, so to have my work alongside Le Brocquy,

Hennessy, Clarke is just an unimaginable concept for me to process," says artist Stephen Doyle.

"Yet, what I am most proud of is the fact that queer people, especially trans people will have someone in the gallery collection they can relate to. LGBTQ+ people from Cork and all over Ireland finally have visual representation of our voices within the state collection. That is fierce."

Doyle hopes that "any transgender individual who sees the work will be able to connect with it and know that they belong". It explores contemporary concerns with self-identity in modern Ireland. To date the representation of any LGBTQ+ culture has been repressed and hidden, yet as Irish society moves toward a more inclusive future, we are expanding on what it means to be Irish. We are starting to see gender beyond what is simply assigned to us at birth. Individuals like Dylan are at the forefront of an important era in our history. This portrait is not only a declaration of self-identity, but is also about national identity.

The setting is a park near Dylan's home in Lucan, Co. Dublin. The familiar landscape gives the sitter an immediate connection to his heritage. The medium of oil paint extends this sense of tradition, while the use of bold neon implies an 'otherness'.

Crawford art gallery collection comprises almost 4,000 works, ranging from eighteenth-century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations.

Mary McCarthy, Director of Crawford Art Gallery states, "It is important the Crawford aims to reflect contemporary life and our audiences and to support artists at all stages of their careers. We are delighted to work with Stephen Doyle and we appreciate his generosity to Crawford Art Gallery. It's a perfect opportunity for us to immediately exhibit the work, as we relook at portraiture and representation through a rehang of some works from our Collection and in conjunction with our collaboration with the NGI Zurich Portrait Prize and Zurich Young Portrait Prize."

Dylan is ainm dom... will be on display at Crawford Art Gallery from 28th January 2020.

ENDS

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More about the artist

Stephen Doyle is an Irish visual artist. He graduated from Crawford College of Art (2017) and is currently based in Backwater Studios in Cork, Ireland. Queer identity and queer culture are at the core of Doyle's practice often expressed through drawing, painting, and installation. In fact, he has portrayed only, LGBTQ+ individuals within his work in an effort to establish a queer narrative within the visual arts.

Doyle was the recipient of the Student of the Year Award in his graduating year thanks to the Lavitt Gallery. He is the recipient of two international art awards, The Ashurst Emerging Artist Prize and The Sunny Art Prize. Furthermore, he is credited with having the first piece to openly discuss transgender identity on the walls of the National Gallery of Ireland after being shortlisted for the Zurich Portrait Prize. The Irish Times has selected Doyle as one of the 'Top 50 People to Watch' in 2019.

He recently returned from a residency with Harmony Art Gallery in Shanghai, China which was partially funded by Cork City Council under the Twinning Grant.

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 265,000 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 Jellett, 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, Kathy Prendergast 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



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