

Artworks and artist featured in *This is Ireland*. Graphic by Emma Dwyer

Crawford Supported Studios and Cork County Council present *This is Ireland*

The exhibition features the work of 16 disabled artists

Crawford Supported Studios and Cork County Council's LHQ Gallery present *This is Ireland*, a vibrant group exhibition of artists working within supported studio settings. Running from Friday, 6th March to Friday, 24th April 2026, the exhibition features the work of 16 disabled artists and offers a powerful perspective that challenges stereotypes.

This is Ireland explores how identity is shaped through storytelling, popular culture, local landscape and shared rituals. Among the depictions of Irish culture included, there are members of Kneecap enjoying a pint, a pair of mummers wearing straw head-pieces and familiar street scenes reflecting threads of connection and belonging. This exhibition offers fresh perspectives on what defines Irish culture and the artwork demonstrates a fresh approach to materials



and technique that undermines the easy assumptions that are made about artists with a disability.

The exhibiting artists include Íde Ní Shúilleabháin who has exhibited in Kilkenny, Columbia and New York, Yvonne Condon whose artwork was exhibited on a billboard in Temple Bar, and Tom O'Sullivan who was awarded the inaugural Visibility Bursary Award from Cork City Council and the Arts Council, along with Judit Bakos, Ailbhe Barrett, Angela Burchill, David Connolly, Bríd Heffernan, Eoin O'Brion, John Keating, Mary Rose Marshall, Rosaleen Moore, Nicola Moran, Stephen Murray, Marie Sexton, and Katie Whelan. All have developed their practice through Crawford Supported Studios which provides a sustained creative art space through technical, artistic support, access and networks.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley announced the exhibition, saying, "We are delighted to present this exhibition at Cork County Council's dedicated exhibition space LHQ Gallery. We recognise the importance of the work that Crawford Supported Studios does for these artists and we celebrate an opportunity to bring their work to new audiences. *This is Ireland* presents playful, unapologetic and brave work that we encourage all to see."

This is Ireland opens on Friday, 6th of March and runs until Friday, 24th April at LHQ Gallery. An opening reception will take place on Friday, 6th of March at 1pm, and all are welcome to attend. There will be a programme of events as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival in conjunction with this exhibition (more information below). LHQ Gallery is open Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm, except for public holidays.

LHQ Gallery is managed by the Library and Arts Service at Cork County Council, supported by the Arts Council. Crawford Supported Studios is a partnership between MTU Crawford College of Art & Design and Crawford Art Gallery, with support from Cork City Council Arts Office.

CRAWFORD
SUPPORTED STUDIOS

Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



ENDS

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For further images, **please click here**

Exhibition events:
As part of the Cork lifelong Learning Festival there will be an opportunity to Meet the Artists of Crawford Supported Studios.

Wednesday 22nd April
11am – 12.30pm
LHQ Gallery, Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, T12 K335
Meet the artist Rosaleen Moore, who will outline her memory-palace approach to drawing, inviting participants to draw a special place from memory or a photograph. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

Thursday 23rd April
11am – 1pm
MTU Crawford College of Art & Design, 46 Grand Parade Campus, Cork City, T12 VN56
Meet members of Crawford Supported Studios and their art studio. Explore an exciting selection of fresh artwork by disabled artists.
Drop in, no booking required.
For further information on either event, contact:
emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie

About Crawford Supported Studios
A supported studio is a sustained creative art space that provides technical, artistic support, access, networks and audiences outside of health and social care settings.

Crawford Supported Studios is a unique initiative within the Irish context, the project is anchored by a long-term partnership between MTU Crawford College of Art & Design and Crawford Art Gallery, with support from Cork City Council Arts Office.

Crawford Supported Studios is a legacy project. The studios aim to honour and sustain the remarkable supported studio established by Artist and Nurse, Hermann Marbe, at the John Birmingham Day Care Centre, Cork, in 2009.

For more information see visit crawfordartgallery.ie



About Crawford Art Gallery
Crawford Art Gallery is currently closed to the public for a major redevelopment; Transforming Crawford Art Gallery.

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish National Cultural Institution (NCI) dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it also houses a collection of national importance which tells the compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's Custom House, the gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries ago. Featured in the gallery's collection of over 3,500 objects are contemporary Irish and international artists Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Isabel Nolan, Kathy Prendergast, Sean Scully, and Nedko Solakov, as well as much-loved works by artists James Barry, Mainie Jellett, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Harry Clarke, Seán Keating, John Lavery, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Mary Swanzy and Jack B. Yeats.

About Transforming Crawford Art Gallery
Crawford Art Gallery is closed to the public and currently undergoing an exciting capital redevelopment project: Transforming Crawford Art Gallery.

This multi-million euro investment will increase gallery space by almost 50%, preserve and protect three centuries of existing built heritage, and create a cultural legacy for a new century as Cork continues to grow.

The project is a Government of Ireland 2040 project funded by the Department of Culture, Communication and Sport in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The award-winning Grafton Architects have worked on a redevelopment design that include a new Learn & Explore facility for public engagement, significant storage for the National Collection, a new entrance, and a dramatically improved public realm including new café facing onto Half Moon Street as well as additional exhibition spaces. The building's entrance will be reoriented to Emmet Place in line with the original Custom House layout dating to 1724. A large new public gallery space will create a new vantage point for visitors to view city centre landmarks including St Anne's, Shandon and St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

For all the latest news on Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, sign up to the newsletter on www.crawfordartgallery.ie or follow the gallery's social media.