



**crawford art gallery cork**  
áiléar crawford chorcaigh

Press Release 16/03/18

**PHILLIP TOLEDANO**

**Maybe: Life & Love**

**16 March – 24 June**

**Exhibition explores the subject of ageing and dying.**

Phillip Toledano's exhibition *Maybe: Life & Love* explores our innate fascination to envisage our own futures whilst providing a platform to discuss the often difficult subject of ageing and dying. The exhibition brings together two key bodies of work by New York based artist, *Days with my Father* (2010) and *Maybe* (2015), in which Toledano balances the emotional pull of his photographic documented decline of his

father's illness with dementia, with his obsessive exploration of potential scenarios of his own future.

*Days with my Father* and the artist's corresponding texts, poignantly detail his father's dementia whom Toledano struggles to protect. In using the camera, father and son created a different relationship and provided the artist with a way of communicating and coping with his father's dementia. Toledano recalls, "The first year was incredibly hard figuring out how to live with his dementia trying to make him happy, also living with the idea that he was going to die. I was thinking about mortality all the time".

Having experienced the death of close family members in the span of a few years, preceded by his sister's premature and tragic death, Phillip Toledano became consumed and distracted by his own mortal fears of a dismal and despondent future. Over three years (2012-2015), the artist created *Maybe* confronting such fears in excruciating detail, aided perhaps with a healthy dose of narcissism. Having tested his DNA, visited psychic and fortune tellers for potential end game scenarios, he teamed up with a makeup and prosthetics specialist to create masks and scenes that envisaged all the possible ways he thought the next forty years of his life could be realised. Toledano is a sweating, balding drunk, a wheelchair-bound octogenarian, and a stroke victim – his DNA analysis predicted he has a high possibility of having a stroke in his life. In bringing these dark scenarios to life – there is no reference to his wife and daughter - Toledano also assimilates the viewer's own apprehension of the future. *Maybe* deliberates upon Toledano's concept that "that life is so full of right angles - there are so many possibilities ahead of you - but you have no sense of what they are like."

In an effort to reassure, the viewer - and himself - that his worst-case scenarios for living and dying are not the only scenarios available, Toledano states "my idea of the future was very bleak so perhaps by acting out these bleak attempts, I try to expunge them from myself, trying to get rid of all the dark stuff, so that everything will be beautiful but unknown, but it's okay that it's unknown".

The exhibition also features the short film *The Many Sad Fates of Mr. Toledano* by Joshua Sefter, which documents the *Maybe* project from concept to realisation.

## ENDS

Dyane Hanrahan  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
E [dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
T +353 (0) 21 4907856  
M +353 (0) 86 8278151  
W [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)  
Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place,  
Cork, Ireland.

Alison Redmond  
Marketing and Communications Executive  
E [marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:marketing@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
T +353 (0) 21 4907 865  
W [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)  
Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place,  
Cork, Ireland.

## Events around exhibition

**Masterclass:** 10am – 4pm, Thursday 12 April

Phillip Toledano: 1pm, Friday 13 April – **public talk**

Theresa Nanigian: 1pm, Thursday 10 May– **public talk** (in partnership with Beáltaine Festival)

Padraig Spillane: 5:30 pm, Thursday 31 May, responds to *Maybe: Love & Life* – **public talk**

## More about the artist

Phillip Toledano was born in 1968 to a French Moroccan mother and an American father. He grew up in London and Casablanca and lives and works in New York City. Toledano's work is socio-political and often draws on his personal experience working with a variety of medium including photography, film and installation. He has

exhibited widely, including solo shows at The Deutsche Hygiene-Museum, Dresden (2016); Diechthallen, Hamburg (2015) and East Wing Gallery, Dubai (2015). His work has appeared in Vanity Fair, The New York Times Magazine, Le Monde, Wallpaper amongst others.

**More about the Crawford art gallery:**

Located in the heart of Cork city, The Crawford Art Gallery, a national cultural Institution is a must see for locals and tourists alike, welcoming almost 200,000 visitors a year.

The Crawford Art Gallery is home to an expansive collection featuring works from the 18th Century to present. 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 20th century Irish artists such as Seán Keating, Harry Clarke, John Lavery, Jack B. Yeats, Norah McGuinness, 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, Maud Cotter and Hughie O'Donoghue. The Gallery hosts numerous temporary exhibitions by local, national and international artists showcasing visual art, performance and installations.

The architecture of the building combining the modern new galleries with the historical, gives a breath-taking backdrop to a collection of great national importance.

**Learn and Explore – Schools programme**

For details on guided tours, access and education, please visit our website:

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)