



Crawford Art Gallery



Image: School tour in Menagerie: Animals by Artists, photo courtesy of Julie Forrester.

Press release for Year in Review 2021

21/12/21

While 2021 was a difficult year for Irish and international art practices, Crawford Art Gallery looks back on a challenging but successful year.

Though closed for the first four months of the year and offering exclusively online content to its public, the Gallery reopened its doors to visitors on 10 May 2021.

Despite the setbacks of early 2021, the gallery welcomed over eleven new exhibitions, presenting a wide mix of national and international programming, from the powerful **REMAINS - Brian Maguire** to the iconic, cherished works of **Rembrandt in Print**, from the experimental **Artists' Film International** to the whimsy and intimacy of **Laura Fitzgerald: I have made a place** and the darkly comic **Doug Fishbone: Please Gamble Responsibly**.

In a year where international visitors were virtually non-existent in the city centre, the Gallery continued to thrive, offering a naturally socially-distanced experience to young and old. Mary McCarthy, Director of the Gallery, noted: "The Gallery remains indebted to the artists we work with on exhibitions and

on our Learn & Explore programmes. They continue to inspire us and create meaningful relevant experiences for our audiences to engage with online and in-person in the gallery.

A real highlight of 2021 was the expansion of the National Collection through the Covid Acquisition fund, the gift of paintings from the Port of Cork and other purchases and notable donations. These acquisitions build the foundations for future exhibitions and research. 2021 has been extremely busy but rewarding, as we have the ongoing pleasure of working with Grafton Architects to plan the renewed Gallery – it's a truly collaborative and inspiring process.”

A number of captivating exhibitions based on the gallery's vibrant National Collection were also hosted, including: **Menagerie: Animals by Artists, NEW THREADS: Acquisitions 2021, Patrick Scott: Meditations, Edith Somerville: observations** and **PHANTOMS & PHANTASIES: Harry Clarke Watercolours** showcasing some of the highlights of the collection, as well as works rarely seen by the public. Many of these exhibitions are also available to explore online using our Virtual Tour tool.

New Threads displayed more than 20 artworks that have recently come into public ownership at the Gallery, a step that has been made possible through major acquisitions funding from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media this year. In this scheme alone, 225 artworks by 39 contemporary artists were added to Crawford Art Gallery's collection. This helped to support living artists working in Ireland during a very challenging year. These works will now sit in the National Collection of Crawford Art Gallery, to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Citizen Nowhere | Citizen Somewhere: The Imagined Nation and **Dara McGrath: For Those That Tell No Tales** both commemorated defining moments in Ireland's history. The exhibitions focused respectively on the centenary of the death of Terence MacSwiney (1879-1920) and his international legacy and the unmarked sites where lives were lost in Cork during Ireland's War of Independence between 1919 and 1921.

Crawford Art Gallery's most visited exhibition this year has been **Rembrandt in Print** – a landmark event which invited visitors to encounter the astonishing work of Rembrandt van Rijn in the heart of Cork City. The exhibition continues until 9 January, after which time the works will return to storage to be rested in the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. The exhibition presented fifty of the finest works from the Ashmolean Museum's world-class collection of over 200 etchings and drypoints by the seventeenth-century Dutch Master.

Another highlight of this year saw An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin and Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin T.D. announced that the contract for the design of the redevelopment of Crawford Art Gallery's historic building had been awarded to Grafton Architects. The overall plan provides for the major investment in the redevelopment of the 300-year-old building over the next four years. Crawford will continue with a full year's programme of exhibitions in 2022 as this is a long-term project .

Throughout the year, Crawford has invited visitors to explore the gallery through an alternative lens, championing new voices and delivering a consistently high-quality programme of exhibitions and events. This included working in partnership with Cork Harbour Festival, Quiet Lights Festival, Cork Midsummer Festival, Cork International Film Festival and SEODA - Culture Ireland's Global Online Arts Festival. To celebrate Cork Pride 2021, a LGBTQ+ Gallery Trail was created for visitors to follow.

Crawford Art Gallery and MTU Cork School of Music have continued their long-standing partnership throughout the year with the musical ensemble **Music at Midday**. These performances have delighted visitors, delivering a lively set full of playfulness, drama and humour.

In addition, the gallery hosted a series of In Conversation events, both online and in-person, with artists and cultural commentators. These included **The Last Crit with Laura Fitzgerald and John Strutton**, as well as public conversations between **Dara McGrath** and **Tanya Kiang**, Director and Co-Curator of the Gallery of Photography, **Brian Maguire** and **Professor Nuala Finnegan**, head of the Department of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies at University College Cork and **Doug Fishbone** and curator **Dawn Williams**.

Artist Film International artist **Clare Langan** and curator **Dawn Williams** also participated in a panel discussion hosted by the **Moscow Museum of Modern Art**.

In 2021, the Gallery's **Learn & Explore programmes** included workshops, tours, talks, large- and small-scale events and long-term community and health-based partnership projects. This year the Learn & Explore team held a second week-long **Online Animation Camp for Kids** and invited everyone to **Follow Your Nose into Drawing** with step-by-step guides and videos, made in collaboration with young people.

The **Learn & Explore team** also continued to facilitate the work of Crawford Supported Studio, a sustained creative environment that fosters and supports

the art practice of individuals with specific health or social needs. For example, Yvonne Condon, a member of Crawford Supported Studio, created a public artwork on a meter box on Cork's Princes Street as a part of the broader 'Reimagining Cork City' initiative.

Crawford's **Marketing and Communications team** were named winners in two categories - Best in Content Creation and Best Use of Instagram in a Company with fewer than 20 employees - at the Cork Digital Marketing Awards 2021. The team was also awarded the title of Overall Digital Marketing Legends.

Despite the ups and downs of 2021, Crawford Art Gallery flourishes as the only National Cultural Institution located in its entirety outside Dublin.

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For additional imagery please click [here](#).

Notes to the editor:

Exhibitions currently on display

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/exhibitions/>

Social Media:

Twitter@CrawfordArtGall

FacebookCrawfordArtGallery

Instagram CrawfordArtGallery

Website :www.crawfordartgallery.ie

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 over 3,000 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 Aideen Barry, Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Brian Maguire, 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. The Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

Upcoming Exhibitions

Danny McCarthy: Found Sound (Lost at Sea) 11.1.11

11 January 2022

Saturation: the everyday transformed

29 January - 8 May 2022

The Port of Cork Collection

26 February – 28 August 2022

Zurich Portrait Prize 2021 & Zurich Young Portrait Prize 2021

23 April – 17 July 2022

Opening Hours

Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm Late opening Thursdays until
8.00pm Sundays and Bank Holidays Gallery: 11am - 4pm

Christmas Opening Hours

Friday 24 December 2021 Christmas Eve

10am - 4pm

Saturday 25 December 2021 Christmas Day

Gallery Closed

Sunday 26 December 2021 St. Stephen's Day

Gallery Closed

Monday 27 December – Thursday 30th December 2021

10am - 5pm

Friday 31 December 2021 New Year's Eve

10am - 4pm

Saturday 1st January 2022 New Year's Day

Gallery Closed

Sunday 2 January 2022

11am to 4pm

Monday 3 January 2022

10am to 5pm

Open late until 8:00pm on the 10th and 17th of December

Crawford Gallery Café & Garden Café

The Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

For opening hours

www.crawfordgallerycafe.com



**An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán**
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media