



Press Release 10/12/19

Crawford Art Gallery announces it's 250,000 visitor in 2019.

Loved by Corkonians and now established as a go-to attraction for national and international visitors, Crawford Art Gallery expects to welcome over 250,000 visitors in 2019. This is a record for the National Cultural Institution even eclipsing the previous all-time high figure when Cork was European Capital of Culture in 2005.

In explaining the steadily growing visitor numbers Mary McCarthy, Director of Crawford Art Gallery had this to say;

"We are grateful to our audiences who contributed to a great year at Crawford. We had a high number of first time visitors for our Summer exhibition *Seen Not Heard*. Sunday openings have been a significant success for Crawford Art Gallery with an average of 700 visitors on Sunday's. We will continue to work with Department of Heritage Culture and Gaeltacht , Fáilte Ireland and Cork City Council to extend our impact and to continually improve the visitor experience"

As well as visitor numbers being on the rise, Crawford Art Gallery is also becoming known for championing new voices in the Arts and delivering a consistently high quality programme. This year's big summer exhibition of 2019 *Seen, not Heard* and play space *Seen, and Heard*, saw families flock to the gallery and won them the top spot in Ireland's Family Friendly Awards 2019.

Mary Houlihan, Programme Manager Fáilte Ireland commented 'Crawford Art Gallery is a visitor gem in Ireland's Ancient East. It has done great work to attract tourists from our core overseas markets and I'm delighted to see it reach this milestone number. At Fáilte Ireland we have a range of plans in place to drive visitor growth and revenue into Cork and having top-class attractions like the Crawford Art Gallery are key to achieving this.'

Now firmly established as the go-to city cultural experience, what does 2020 hold in store for Crawford Art Gallery? Early in 2020 and in conjunction with the National Gallery, Crawford Art Gallery brings 'The Zurich National Portrait Prize' and affiliated 'Zurich Young Portrait Prize' to Cork City for the first time. 2020 will also see the Canova casts which form the basis of the Collection since 1819, featuring on BBC with classist Mary Beard. Crawford will also be the only Irish venue to showcase 'Rembrandt in Print' from the renowned Ashmolean Museum in the summer of 2020. Director Mc Carthy also wants to increase visitor numbers again in 2020, she acknowledges that "it is by working collaboratively with other important cultural

organisations in the city like The Glucksman , Nano Nagle, Cork Film and Midsummer festival that the Gallery continues to reach out to diverse audiences.

As well as a very full exhibitions and education programme in 2020 Crawford is currently readying itself for a multi-million euro refurbishment, with the support of Project Ireland 2040. Work on this should commence in the next 2 years and once completed will deliver an even more impactful visitor experience for locals and visitors alike.

In a recent visit to the Gallery, Minister Josepha Madigan T.D., Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, noted and welcomed the important role played by the Crawford as the only National Cultural Institution located in its entirety outside Dublin and congratulated them on the success of their Sunday openings and new family friendly schedule which sees the gallery open to the public seven days a week.

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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. Now welcoming over 250,000 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