

PRESS RELEASE

Like Life Itself

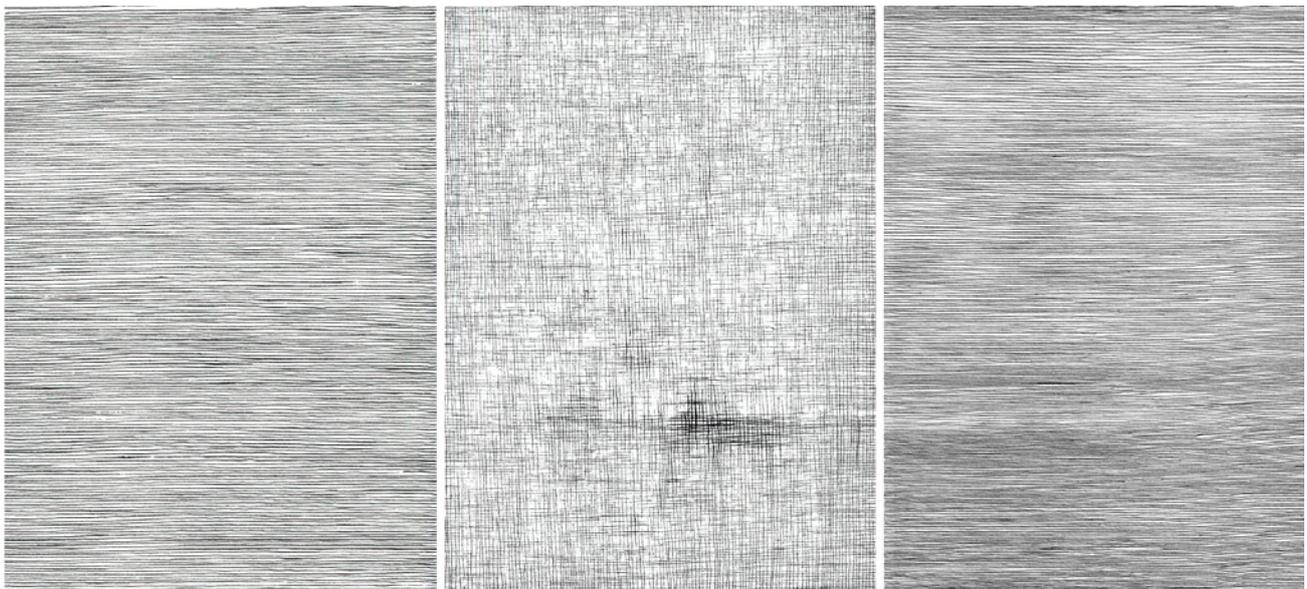
Gerda Teljeur

14th January – 23rd February 2013

Opening launch: Saturday 19th January at 4pm

Guest speaker: poet and gallery owner Denis Collins

Featuring a reading by Dr. Menna Elfyn



Like Life Itself by Irish based artist Gerda Teljeur comprises of over three hundred pen and ink drawings produced over the course of a year. Responding to the intimate nature of the arts centre's upper gallery, Teljeur has substituted her customary large-scale drawings for smaller unframed pieces. Producing a work every day throughout 2011, this exhibition marks a new departure through the artist's explorations into the manipulation of density and space between parallel lines.

Teljeur's practice is significantly influenced by the landscape. Whilst producing this series of works the artist traveled between Ireland and the Netherlands, and the work subtly registers the difference between the two countries; the closely compacted and controlled Dutch landscape contrasting with the relatively unrestrictive spaces to be found in Ireland. A sense of landscape resonates as opposed to being explicitly expressed and the artist works with negative and positive spaces to build rhythmic areas of light and shade.

As with Teljeur's previous work, the exploration of line and space is the material through which other subjects are meditated on or felt. Independent of any reasoning process, the artist adopts a technique which is similar to the act of free form writing. At the beginning of the twentieth century, writers chose to use non-traditional methods of describing phenomena and give a free flow to their emotions. A *stream of consciousness* was a narrative mode adopted to portray the multitudinous thoughts and feelings which pass through the mind. The term was coined by philosopher and psychologist William James in *The Principles of Psychology* (1890), and James Joyce, a chief proponent of this style, used this device to convey the interior monologue of his characters, instead of rendering them in an objective, external portrait. The use of run-on sentences without punctuation or editing is akin to Teljeur's explorations with line. The drawings serve to integrate and touch upon the hidden activity of the subconscious and in doing so form an abstract language.

The artist's repetitive and cumulative process of drawing interrelates with the way in which thoughts and memories occur, and each work has the potential to evoke a complex range of emotions.

Gerda Teljeur came to Ireland in 1967 after studying at the IVKO (now Rietveld Academie) and Normaal School in Amsterdam, and now lives in County Wexford. Recent exhibitions include *Into Irish Drawing*, an exhibition curated by Arno Kramer, which featured twenty-two contemporary artists based in Ireland who specialize in drawing and toured Limerick City Gallery of Art, Civic Arts Centre in The Netherlands, The Irish Cultural Institute in Paris and the Millennium Courts Arts Centre in Belfast in 2009 and early 2010. In 2007, Gerda featured in *Surface Tension*, an Arts Art Council funded initiative curated by Wexford Arts Centre and presented in Broadstone Studios in Dublin, Source Arts Centre in Thurles and Raheen Community Hospital in County Clare. Recent solo exhibitions include *Lines, Layers and Light*, Stone Gallery, Dublin; *Lines of Expression*, Wicklow Council County, Wicklow; *Drawing Room*, Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahealy, Wicklow; and *Lifelines*, Signal Arts Centre, Bray, Wicklow.

This exhibition is funded by Coracle – connecting creativity between South West Wales and South East Ireland which is part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Ireland Wales Programme (INTERREG 4A).

Like Life Itself will run in Wexford Arts Centre from Monday 14th January to Saturday 23rd February, 2013. For further information on the exhibition please contact Catherine Bowe, Visual Arts Manager on 053 9123764 or email catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie. For further information on the Coracle project please visit www.coracle.eu.com.

Gallery hours: Monday – Saturday: 10.00am – 5.30pm.

Workshops and talks can be arranged upon request and tailored to suit the requirements of your group. Our new Saturday Art Club running in the galleries from 11am-12pm, will give older children the opportunity to explore the work on display in the galleries and learn about the technical aspects of art-making while working with practicing artists.

Wexford Arts Centre

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Images:

Gerda Teljeur, *Diary Pages*, pen and ink on paper, 36 x 28cms, 2010/11

