

This lasted until dawn...

A group exhibition of paintings from the Collection of the Irish Museum of Modern Art

at Wexford County Council
21 May – 31 July 2015

For further details or to book a place on the workshops please contact the following library branches:

Bunclody Library – 053 9375466
Enniscorthy Library – 053 9236055
Gorey Library – 053 9421481
New Ross Library – 052 421877
Wexford Library – 053 9196760

For further information on the exhibition please contact Philip Knight, Staff Officer, The Arts Department, Wexford County Council, Carricklawn, Wexford on 053 9196369 or email philip.knight@wexfordcoco.ie.



This lasted until dawn... explores the language of painting and the nature of perceptual experience. It links to our individual experiences of the world, including memory, personal awareness and how we process information. Each painting questions our perception of place, space and human physicality. This is reinforced by the large scale of the work.

The title of the exhibition, *This lasted until dawn...*, is taken from 13th century Icelandic mythology relating to the Battle of Clontarf. This legend which influenced the work of artist Hughie O'Donoghue, also connects to an important aspect of this selection of contemporary work; a sense of heightened human experience. It highlights the intense emotional charge and energy that subtly links this collection of paintings.

The Arts Department of Wexford County Council in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre and the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) are very pleased to host an exhibition of celebrated contemporary Irish paintings this summer. *This lasted until dawn...* features the work of many notable Irish painters including Basil Blackshaw, Oliver Comerford, Barrie Cooke, Diana Copperwhite, William Crozier, Elizabeth Magill, Michael Mulcahy and Hughie O'Donoghue. The exhibition will be situated in the County Buildings, and along with a series of talks and workshops in Wexford's public libraries, are definitely events to mark in your cultural calendar.

which complements the County Buildings, and has the potential to question the relationship between man, nature and the elemental world. Visceral physicality is a connecting force between the works, offering an alternate experience of this world through the personal style of each artist. Whether this is the burning intensity of Hughie O'Donoghue's work or the secluded pathos of Elizabeth Magill; this exhibition creates a sensory activating, thought provoking display of prominent Irish work. As custodians of the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, IMMA's Collection firmly represents current visual art practices and concerns, national and international; frequently updated with important and relevant new work. Through the purchase, commission, donation and loan of notable work, it is a crucial resource to contemporary visual art in Ireland. The summer exhibition in the County Buildings is made possible through the generous support and loan of work from this essential Collection. IMMA's National Programme, now in its fifteenth year, is designed to promote the widest possible involvement with the Museum's Collection and programmes, through creating access opportunities to the visual arts in a variety of situations and locations in Ireland. Wexford County Council Opening Hours: 9.00a.m. - 5.00p.m. Admission to the exhibition and workshops are free of charge.

Basil Blackshaw

Basil Blackshaw is the foremost Northern Irish painter of his generation. He studied at the Belfast College of Art and he is best known for his post-expressionist landscape paintings, portraits, equine and animal paintings. His style has transformed over his remarkable career, and although often profoundly ingrained in Northern Ireland remains refreshingly free of conflict or sectarian violence. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland organised a retrospective of his work in 1995 and the Ulster Museum held a major exhibition of his work in 2002. The F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio and the Royal Hibernian Academy both held exhibitions to mark the artist's 80th birthday.

Oliver Comerford

Oliver Comerford's practice and research has included many solo exhibitions and group exhibitions of national and international standing and his work is held in public collections such as the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, Office of Public Works and Lewis Glucksman Gallery. His research is heavily engaged with place, and the changing nature of place, addressing the interface between the local and the global. The landscape plays a supporting role as the transient backdrop to the journey in Comerford's work, and his subject matter is not the landscape as destination, but the momentary awareness of a timeless world existing outside the windows of a speeding car. Comerford's work has been described by Patrick Murphy as a 'blue note of melancholy' deriving from 'the truck stops, bends, and airports of our itinerant lives'.

Barrie Cooke

Born in Cheshire, England, Barrie Cooke studied Art History at Harvard University and moved to Ireland in 1954. He held his first solo exhibition in Dublin the following year. Cooke's frequent trips to countries such as New Zealand, Borneo and Malaya have permeated his expressionist, semi-abstract paintings with a wide range of naturalistic influences. This connects with his engagement in the water-rich landscape of Ireland and his interest in marine life and fishing. Cooke has exhibited widely throughout Europe, the US and Canada. Major retrospectives of his work were held at the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin in 1986 and at the RHA in 1995. Cooke exhibited at IMMA in 2008. His work is represented in public and private collections worldwide.

Diana Copperwhite

Diana Copperwhite lives and works in Dublin. She attended the National College of Art & Design, Dublin and the Winchester School of Art and Design, Barcelona. She has exhibited at Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin and the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris. Copperwhite was awarded the AIB Prize in 2007. Noel Kelly, Director of Visual Artist Ireland has described Copperwhite's work as focused on how "the human psyche processes information, and looks at the mechanisms of how we formulate what is real. With her work, she is fully aware that such realities may only hold validity for an instant, and that we are constantly processing and changing what we logically hold as experience and memory. Copperwhite's canvases become worlds in which the real is unreal and this unreality is in a constant state of reforming."

William Crozier

Born in Glasgow to Irish parents, Crozier was an Irish-Scottish contemporary still-life and landscape artist. Crozier first studied drawing and fine art painting at the Glasgow School of Art, after which he spent time in Paris and other European cities in the early 1950s. Earlier in his career, Crozier was influenced by contemporary European art throughout the 1950s and 1960s, rather than with the more fashionable American abstract artists. This developed towards a series of paintings which pre-dated the 'New Expressionist' German painters of the 1980s, and which were shaped by Crozier's visits to the death camps of Auschwitz and Belsen. In his abstract landscape painting and still-life pictures Crozier utilizes sumptuous colour in order to convey an unusual emotional intensity.

Elizabeth Magill

Born in Canada, Elizabeth Magill grew up in Northern Ireland, and now lives and works in London. She attended the Belfast College of Art and the Slade School of Art, University College London. She often integrates photographic materials and processes into her paintings, and a principal theme of Magill's work is her "hauntingly distressed paintings of the landscape". Her first major solo exhibition was at the Arnolfini Gallery, Bristol, in 1990. In the same year she was included in the seminal 'British Art Show'. Group exhibitions at IMMA include the Glen Dimplex Artists Awards Exhibition, 2001 and 'Time out of Mind', 2012. Her work is held in collections including The Arts Council of Great Britain and Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane.

Michael Mulcahy

Irish painter Michael Mulcahy (born 1952) attended the Crawford Municipal School of Art, Cork, and the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. In the 1970's Mulcahy was a street performer and it was not until the 1980's that he became known as an artist with his vibrant, colourful and vigorous paintings. He is now one of the artists most prominently associated with Neo-expressionist painting in Ireland. Mulcahy has travelled extensively, particularly in North and West Africa where he lived with local communities. His semi-abstract paintings make reference to those groups, such as the Dogon in Mali, with which he has engaged. Mulcahy represented Ireland at the Sidney Biennale in 1984. He is an elected member of Aosdána.

Hughie O'Donoghue

Born in Manchester in 1953 and now based in Co Kilkenny, Hughie O'Donoghue has been exhibiting internationally, in solo and group exhibitions since 1982, gaining a reputation as one of the leading painters of his generation. His familial connection to the stark Irish scenery with its accompanying sense of tragedy, derived from the days of The Great Famine, found later expression in O'Donoghue's art. 'Hughie O'Donoghue: Recent Paintings and Selected Works from the American Ireland Fund Donation' was held at IMMA in 2009. His paintings are included in important public collections, including the National Gallery, London; the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester; and the Arts Council of England. O'Donoghue was elected as a member of the Royal Academy in 2009.

WORKSHOPS

To coincide with this incredible exhibition, a series of workshops in Wexford's public libraries will take place through the summer months. These interactive workshops will encourage the public to visit the show in the county building, while also promoting a better understanding of and interaction with the work displayed. These talks and workshops will further highlight the practises and processes of professional artists working in Ireland today. Through these workshops, form, colour, texture and themes associated with the exhibition will be explored connecting the public with contemporary Irish art.

In response to the IMMA collection, the workshops will encourage participants to think about how they see their immediate space/area. Through the varied use of materials, the workshops will allow those taking part to highlight what they like and perhaps dislike about their area through the use of texture, colour and form. This could be visually abstract, but like many of the paintings featured in the show, it could connect to the environment in a sensory and emotive way.

EXHIBITION TALK

New Ross Library: Tuesday 7th July at 7pm

Dr. Alice Panel will present a talk on modern Irish paintings touching upon many of the artists included in the exhibition. Dr. Panel holds a PhD in Franco-Algerian Contemporary Art and is currently Deputy Editor of the Fine Art Journal Middle East.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

Wexford Town Library: Wednesday 10th June, 11am-12pm
Wednesday 8th July at 2pm

Bunclody Library: Thursday 11th June, 9.45am-10.45am
Wednesday 8th July at 11am

New Ross Library: Thursday 11th June, 12pm-1pm

Gorey Library: Wednesday 10th June at 2pm
Wednesday 7th July at 11am-12pm

Enniscorthy Library: Wednesday 7th July at 2pm-3pm