

Too Early For Vacation

e v+ a 2008 OPEN / INVITED

7th March - 25th May 2008

Ireland's pre-eminent annual exhibition of contemporary art,
Curated by **Hou Hanru**.

- [1] **e v+ a** Opening, Dates and Venues
- [2] The artists participating are:
- [3] **e v+ a** Tour: March 8th at 11.30am
- [4] In Conversation: Hou Hanru and Annie Fletcher: March 8th 3pm – 5pm
- [5] About the Curator: Hou Hanru
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[1] The **e v+ a** committee are delighted to invite you to the opening of the 32nd annual exhibition of visual+ art, on March 7th at 8pm in Limerick City Gallery of Art.

e v+ a 2008 Too Early For Vacation will open in the other 8 venues, throughout **Limerick City**, on **Saturday March 8th**. The 9 venues are: Limerick City Gallery of Art, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick City Hall, The Hunt Museum, Cathedral Place, King Johns Castle, Murray O Laoire Offices on Steamboat Quay, Brooks Properties on 15 Henry Street and the ex Motor Tax Office on Lower Mallow Street.

Curator **Hou Hanru** has selected the work of 44 artists (27 OPEN and 17 INVITED) drawn from 17 countries of Continental Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, to participate in this years exhibition Too Early For Vacation. **Hanru's** title refers jointly to the pressing issues that confront us globally and to growing vacation culture.

'vacation has a double implication: holidays and vacating (escaping) from reality. Instead, it must be actions of engagement... Pressing issues related to the transformation of today's globe such as border crossing, migration, travel, exchange with the 'other', cultural and geopolitical confrontation and dialogue, etc. are obviously the issues that occupy the centre of this kind of local-based intervention'.

Hou Hanru

[2] *The artists participating are:*

Alan **Bulfin** (Ireland), Jennifer **Allora** & Guillermo **Calzadilla** (Puerto Rico), Mark **Clare** (Ireland), Martina **Cleary** (Ireland), Common Culture (David **Campbell**, Mark **Durden**, Ian **Brown**)(UK), Angela **Darby** & Robert **Peters** (Northern Ireland), Allan **de Souza** (Kenya/UK/USA), Aideen **Doran** (Ireland), Latifa **Echakhch** (Morocco/France), Malachi **Farrell** (Ireland/France), Seamus **Farrell** (Ireland/France), James **Gormley** (Ireland), Ailbhe **Greaney** (Ireland), Fiona

Hackett (Ireland), Henna-Rikka **Halonen** (Finland/UK), James **Hayes** (Ireland), Catherine **Hearne** (Ireland), Ni **Haifeng** (China/Netherlands), Nina **Höchtl** (Austria), Emma **Houlihan** (Ireland), Sarah **Hurl** (Ireland), Yang **Jiechang** (China/France), Ian **Kiaer** (UK), Ruth **LeGear** (Ireland), Tricia **McCarthy** & Vertigo **Smyth** (Ireland), Mairéad **McClellan** (Ireland), Maeve **McElligott** (Ireland), Dara **McGrath** (Ireland), David **O'Kane** (Ireland), Terry **Markey** (Ireland), John **Reardon** (UK), Chen **Shaoxiong**, Gimhongsok & Tsuyoshi **Ozawa** (China/Korea/Japan), Shazia **Sikander** (Pakistan/USA/Germany), Taro **Shinoda** (Japan), Adrian **Paci** (Albania/Italy), Chen **Wenbo** (China), Hague **Yang** (Korea/Germany).

e v+ a 2008 Events:

[3] e v+ a Tour: March 8th at 11.30am

Starting at Limerick City Gallery of Art, the tour will leave at 12am to visit the 8 other exhibition venues throughout the city. A bus will be available to travel between venues.

[4] In Conversation: Hou Hanru and Annie Fletcher : March 8th 3pm – 5pm

e v+ a 2008 and Limerick City Gallery of Art, in collaboration with the national Sculpture Factory, presents **e v+ a** curator **Hou Hanru**, in conversation with Cork Caucus co-cordinator **Annie Fletcher**, discussing the relationship between contemporary art and cultural and social change. The discussion will be hosted at the Dominican Bible Institute, corner of Cecil and Dominic Street (Near LCGA).
ADMISSION FREE

Annie Fletcher is an Irish independent critic and curator who lives and works in Amsterdam. Recent projects include *Be(com)ing Dutch in the Age of Global Democracy* at Van Abbemuseum (co-curated with **Charles Esche**) *If I Can't Dance - I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution* (co-curated with **Frederique Bergholtz**) and Cork Caucus: on art, possibility and democracy with **Charles Esche, Tara Byrne & Sean Kelly** (! NSF) and *Art/Not Art in Cork*, Ireland 2005
www.corkcaucus.org

The National Sculpture Factory is committed to being a national resource, and thus are delighted to collaborate with e v+ a on this occasion and present part of our programme outside of Cork. This event launches a special series of Cork Caucus legacy events, and is in association with the NSF Lecture Programme 2008.
www.nationalsculpturefactory.com

[5] About the Curator:

Internationally prominent critic and curator **Hou Hanru** was born in 1963 in China. He moved to Paris in 1990s is now based in Paris/San Francisco. In 2007 Hanru curated both the 10th Istanbul Biennale and the Chinese Pavilion at the Venice

Biennale. He is Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs and Chair of Exhibition Studies and Museology at San Francisco Art Institute. Hanru is an Advisor (professor) at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam, Netherlands, visiting Professor at HISK, Hoger Instituut voor Shone Kunsten, Antwerp, Belgium, a Member of Advisory Committee of De Appel Foundation, Amsterdam, and French correspondent of "Flash Art International". He was also a member of Global Advisory Committee of Walker Arts Centre, Minneapolis.

[6] Too Early For Vacation - A short introduction by Hou Hanru:

Conventionally, Ireland has been seen as an exotic, idyllic and even somehow a spiritual destination for a vacation... Limerick, a 'remote' city situated in the Mid-West of the country, is certainly one of the most desired places on the tourist map. For the last decade, this city and the surrounding region, like the whole country itself, have entered a process of renaissance, thanks to their embracing of new technologies and their integration into the global economy. But, few have imagined that this rather small city can be a vibrant site of production of contemporary art. However, for the last three decades, Limerick has been holding the most significant contemporary art event in Ireland. Over the years, **e v+ a** has become a major and unique international exhibition. Yet as an event it has remained persistently rooted in the local context, at once modest, intimate, ambitious and generous as it constantly negotiates global influences including new ideas, projects and energies that have been brought in by artists and curators from different parts of the world.

The fundamental change in the nature of contemporary art from quasi-underground, activist and avant-garde activities in the 1970s when **e v+ a** was founded to becoming a part of the late-Capitalist and consumerist cultural establishment has actually launched an intellectual, ethic and even political challenge to the art world itself. Then, what's the real social significance of contemporary art today? How can a firmly grass-rooted event like **e v+ a** still make sense in the age of globalisation, dominated by certain established but limited models of production, representation and consumption, and yet continue, as well, to engage itself in the transformation of local! reality?

In this context, coming to work for, visit and appreciate **e v+ a** today needs an even more intimate and active engagement with the local reality, both physical and cultural, both personal and social. Certainly it involves travels from different parts of the world and contacts with various forms of creation. However, it's by no means merely a simple vacation to be spent in this beautiful town of Ireland – a vacation has a double implication: holidays and vacating (escaping) from reality. Instead, it must be actions of engagement... Pressing issues related to the transformation of today's globe such as border crossing, migration, travel, exchange with the 'other', cultural and geopolitical confrontation and dialogue, etc. are obviously the issues that ! occupy the centre of this kind of local-based intervention. Welcome to Limerick. But, it's too early for vacation... or - it'll never be a vacation.

[7] The e v+ a story:

A group of Limerick artists began e v+ a in 1977 as a way of bringing their work as contemporary artists into mutual close encounters with audiences. The intention was

to join together in finding sense and meaning of the shared world. More than three decades on e v+ a is still an artist centered exhibition and has become the Republic of Ireland's premier annual exhibition of contemporary art. Previous e v+ a curators include Klaus Ottmann (2007), Katerina Gregos (2006), Dan Cameron (2005), Zdenka Badovinac (2004), Virginia Perez-Ratton (2003), Apinan Poshyananda (2003), Salah M. Hassan (2001), and Rosa Martinez (2000).

[8] For further details:

www.eva.ie

Contact e v+ a administrator Paul O'Reilly-
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e v+ a 2008 is Supported by:

The Arts Council, Limerick City Council, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Sisk, Fáilte Ireland, The Belltable Arts Centre, The Hunt Museum, St. Mary's Cathedral, Philips Ireland, MOLA, Brooks Properties, Clancy Co. Ltd, DC Electrical, Pearse Properties, The Austrian Embassy, FRAME

Limerick City Gallery of Art

In addition to its contemporary exhibition programme, an extensive range of the Limerick City Gallery of Art's Permanent Collection is always on display. The collection includes fine examples of Irish Art, including Sean Keating, Paul Henry, William Orpen, Jack B. Yeats, Grace Henry and Camille Souter.

LCGA Opening Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm, Thurs: 10am-7pm, Sat: 10am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-5pm

Admission is FREE

LCGA offers free tours to schools and groups.

For further information, or to book a tour, please telephone: **+353 (0)61 310633**
or email: artgalleryeducation@limerickcity.ie

Limerick City Gallery of Art is part of Limerick City Council and is supported by The Arts Council, Fáilte Ireland, The Heritage Council and Fás.