

# **Mr. and Mrs. Krab's Utopia**

***A new work by artist Amanda Dunsmore***

*A temporary public artwork commissioned by Clare County Arts Office under the Ground Up programme of art in rural contexts.*

*The Courthouse Studios and Gallery, Ennistymon, Co. Clare  
Friday 30th March – 13th April*

To coincide with the official opening of the Courthouse Studios and Gallery in Ennistymon, Co. Clare a new work by artist Amanda Dunsmore titled Mr. and Mrs. Krab's Utopia, commissioned under the Ground Up programme of art in rural contexts, will receive its first public showing at the new Gallery.

This audio/visual art work is, in the artist's words "an intimate, honest and often humorous meditation on contemporary rural life in Ireland from a 'outsiders' point of view. The participants were asked 'Why did they relocate to start a new life in Ireland. Were they looking for a kind of Utopia?' The resulting conversations touched on many rural issues such as the weather, family, time, roads, drugs, cars, wealth, houses and the future."

Dunsmore will also show a second work called sevaw, a DVD work originally filmed on super 8 that questions the illusion of the representation. The viewer watching this film of sea waves gradually realises that the sea is running back to front and upside down. This strange motion produces an optical illusion which has an unsettling effect.

Amanda Dunsmore is a visual artist based in Ireland. Her work explores concepts linked to social & historical issues using; installation, photography, sound and video. Currently she is working on the Keeper and Plan Projects. Plan consists of 900 enamel street signs from Weimar, Germany. and was recently exhibited at the Motorenhalle Gallery in Dresden, Germany. The first exhibition from the The Keeper Exhibition Series took place at the Triskel Gallery for Cork 2005 European City of Culture. Future exhibitions will take place at The Void Gallery, Derry, Northern Ireland. The Musée international de la Croix-Rouge, in Switzerland. The Holden Gallery in Manchester, England. Amanda is a lecturer in Sculpture & Combined Media, at the Limerick School Art & Design, LIT. She is currently exhibiting at the Galway Arts Centre, a solo show titled Keeper Series #3.

*For more information please see <http://www.shiftingground.net/Utopia.htm> or the artist's own website [www.lit.ie/dunsmore](http://www.lit.ie/dunsmore)*

*Contact Fiona Woods, project curator, for more information or details on 00 353 65 7071292 or e-mail [ennistymonarts@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:ennistymonarts@clarelibrary.ie)*