

LCGA wish you a **Happy New Year!** January is packed full of events with a Panel Discussion, Curators Talk, Schools Events, Family Trail and Excursions Performance Festival. Join us on January 15th as we celebrate the New Year with the launch of our new website and two exciting exhibitions!

1 . Curator's Talk : On Into Irish Drawing

Arno Kramer

Thursday 15th January at 1pm

Arno Kramer, the curator of *Into Irish Drawing* will discuss the context of the exhibition, the choice of artists and the relevance of contemporary drawing in Ireland.

'With the materials they used, the artists in Into Irish Drawing have experienced hundreds of encounters on paper. Light touches, perhaps occasionally violent clashes, or sensitive strokes, but always animated and emotionally charged. The work reflects the substantial development in drawing going on at present, to a much greater degree than in any other art discipline.' **Arno Kramer**

Arno Kramer is based in the Netherlands, he works as a visual artist and independent curator. In 2005 he curated *Into Drawing Contemporary Dutch Drawing*, which travelled to 5 European countries. He was a teacher at the AKI Academy of the Visual Arts and Design in Enschede, the Netherlands for 20 years and a visiting lecturer internationally. He publishes texts on the visual arts and poetry. His work has been displayed in the Netherlands, Ireland, England, the USA, Sweden, and Germany.

Admission is Free. Booking Advised.

2 . Launch : New Limerick City Gallery Website

Launched by **Mayor Councillor John Gilligan**

Thursday 15th January at 7pm

Limerick City Gallery of Art is delighted to announce that our *new website* will soon go live. Mayor of Limerick, **Councillor John Gilligan** will officially launch the website at a reception in the Carnegie Building, Pery Square on Thursday 15th January at 7pm.

In the age of global communications and accessible information, **LCGA** is intent on providing the best possible online experience to gallery users through our new easy-to-use website and regular e-news bulletins. The new website will be fully accessible and searchable, with easy-to-use navigation.

The website will include exhibition archives, events listings, media section and informative listings of many of the highlights of the gallery's vast collection. The website is often the first point of contact visitors have with the gallery to determine upcoming exhibitions and events of interest, research the collection or browse gallery publications. Designed by Fluidedge, the site has a fresh contemporary appearance with user accessibility held at a paramount, reflecting the gallery's ethic.

The Limerick City Gallery intends to extend its new site later in 2009 to contain a full database of the gallery's extensive collection with thumbnails, large images, medium, dimensions, dates and easy to understand introduction to the work. This database of the

gallery's permanent collection will be fully searchable, providing visual and text information to the public on the important collection.

We hope you enjoy your online experience at www.limerickcitygallery.ie from 15th January 2009.

Admission is Free

3 . Exhibition Opening : The Ice Above, The Fire Below and Other Works

Clare Langan

Thursday 15th January at 7pm

Internationally acclaimed artist **Clare Langan**, presents a major exhibition, the most comprehensive of Langan's work in Ireland to date, of exceptional video & film installations, including her most recent films and will premier her latest work, a three screen presentation of *The ice above, the fire below*.

The ice above, the fire below is a film of the sea, shot using a high speed digital Phantom Camera. The camera enables the use of extreme slow motion otherwise not possible with a regular camera. The idea is to create a wall of water in the space emulating the effect of being in the middle of, or surrounded by a tidal wave. The exhibition space offers a unique opportunity to project the videos in an immersing panoramic way, something that would not be possible with a traditional cinema setting. It is pushing the boundaries of cinema and challenging the audiences' ideas of perception. It puts the audience in a position that normal vision would not allow. It is intended to be a submersive, sensory experience of sound and vision.

Langan's films are a contemporary meditation on the **Romantic Landscape** in its entire beautiful, haunting and melancholic splendor. **Traces of Caspar David Friedrich's** images may be found in the immaculately framed and dramatic staging of violence, deluge and the constant threat of man's obliteration. The broken desolation of the barrenness of a post-apocalyptic disaster is suggested. Langan, a very gifted film maker skilled in both traditional and technological means, takes us on a journey through multiple geographical locations both real and constructed, allowing us access to dreamlike visions of the potential chaos that exists in nature and in our cinematic memories.

The hand of the film-maker is somewhere complicit in this, the whim of the artist to unleash an epic tale. There is a suggestion of uncertainty as to how the images are constructed. How the storms, wind, ice and signs of natural disaster were discovered, filmed and captured as they batter the landscape into catastrophe. Identification with the disaster is replaced by ambiguity as to its reality. The emotional response is assuaged by the realization of the deception of twenty-first century trickery.

Langan creates a magical effect through composition, colour and skill. The icy cold blues and harsh whites and tones from hand painted filters offer a sense of immersion. Some of the film scenes' are generated through the construction of miniature scenes onto which disaster is then unleashed. Streams of water flood, freeze and destroy.

'These are extraordinary works that explore these convergences of time, as well as the crossover of reality and fiction, memory and history.' **Rachael Thomas** IMMA Senior Curator: Head of Exhibitions

Admission is Free

4 . Exhibition Opening : Into Irish Drawing

Curated by **Arno Kramer**

Thursday 15th January to February 22nd 2009

Stephen BRANDES Claire CARPENTER Gary COYLE Timothy EMLYN JONES Brian FAY Mark FRANCIS David GODBOLD Anita GROENER Katie HOLTEN Alice MAHER Niamh MCCANN Eoin MCHUGH Bea MCMAHON Nick MILLER Tom MOLLOY Isabel NOLAN Eamon O’KANE Niamh O’MALLEY Kathy PRENDERGAST Jim SAVAGE Gerda TELJEUR Martin WEDGE

‘Image-making begins with interrogating appearances and making marks. Every artist discovers that drawing-when it is an urgent activity - is a two-way process.

To draw is not only to measure and put down, it is also to receive’

John Berger

Into Irish Drawing showcases the work of twenty-two Irish artists who specialize in drawing and will be officially opened by **Professor Mícheál O’Súilleabháin**, Chair of Culture Ireland.

The choice of the artists to participate was largely determined by whether or not drawing forms more or less the mainstay of their oeuvre, or even is sometimes the only discipline they practice. **Arno Kramer**, the curator of *Into Irish Drawing* comments that frequently something occurs in a drawing ‘*by chance*’, an event that the artist did not know was going to happen. The artist may have nurtured a vague idea about how to start off or perhaps they had a clear plan, but then discovered at a certain moment that the work began to demand something from them and was beginning to move in a direction that they had not been initially expected. Nevertheless, the artist followed that route and it turned out to be the right one. To a certain extent, the artist can evoke this situation by influencing the moment in question by means of a particular manoeuvre in the drawing, or more prosaically, by ! changing the music in the studio, by choosing a different environment, or even different silences. Occasionally, creating a drawing is an attempt to gain control over such a moment, over life itself even. When the artist is drawing, a link forms between his hand and an image.

Into Irish Drawing displays the final results of testing and experimenting on both large and small scales. The fascination of drawing is captured in the visibility of the process, of the record of the changes involved as the page holds evidence of the actions of the artist.

The exhibition is accompanied by a full colour catalogue with text from Caroline Hancock (Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin), **Arno Kramer** and **John Berger**. *Into Irish Drawing* will be shown in AkkuH , Hengelo, The Netherlands, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France and the Millennium Court Arts Centre in Portadown Northern Ireland. The exhibition is supported by Culture Ireland.

Admission is Free

5 . Schools : Gesture and Action Drawing

Gillian Kenny

16th Friday January 2009

Limerick City Gallery of Art is delighted to offer a full and exciting Programme of Schools’ events for Spring 2009, beginning with a Secondary School ‘*Meet the Artist*’ event. Local artist **Gillian Kenny** will utilise a life-drawing session to develop the students drawing skills, encouraging a loosening of controlled styles. Working on large pages, the ‘*Gesture & Action Drawing*’ workshop focuses on fast, expressive drawings which challenge the students to work intuitively. Techniques in mark-making are explored through the session, as students experiment with pencil marks, graphite and conté.

These '*Gesture & Action Drawing*' sessions are aimed at secondary school art-students with a particular interest in drawing. Three sessions are scheduled 10-10.50am, 11-11.50am and 12-12.50pm on Friday 16th January. *Art teachers should contact the gallery for further information.*

Gillian Kenny is a Limerick based painter. Recent visits to Canada and Mexico have informed her practice. Gillian has worked extensively with **Ballymun Regeneration**, **Limerick Youth Service** and with a variety of other community groups. She will have a major solo exhibition at Limerick City Gallery of Art in June followed by a solo exhibition in Toronto, Canada .

Admission is Free. Booking Required.

6 . Festival : Excursions Performance Festival

Artists Include : **Ania BAS John DUMMETT Lisa FLYNN Rachel GOMME William HUNT Aileen LAMBERT Aine O'DYWER Eva WEAVER**

Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th January

Excursions is an interdisciplinary performance festival that will take place in Limerick City from Thursday 22nd to Saturday 24th January 2009. The festival acts as a platform for contemporary performance artists and will include Irish artists' performances alongside international invited artists. This year the festival received an unprecedented level ! of proposals, in the coming week the coordinators will announce the full schedule of the festival.

Excursions 2009 will be curated by **Sheila Deegan** Limerick City Arts Officer, **Pippa Little** Curator Audience & Access Limerick City Gallery of Art, **Susan Holland** Curatorial Fellow Limerick City Gallery of Art and **Joanne O'Beirne** Artistic Director Belltable Arts Centre.

This festival is funded by The Arts Council and Limerick City Council with the support of Limerick City Gallery of Art, Belltable Arts Centre and Daghdha.

Admission is Free.

7 . Family Day : Performance Trail

Led by **Patrick Keaveney**

Saturday 24th January Leaving LCGA at 11.30am

This **Family Day** will take a new route, exploring new and exciting ways of art making. On arriving at the gallery children will each get a map of the city with treasure areas marked out. Children and parents will then join the **Performance Trail**, led by local artist **Patrick Keaveney**. The trail will guide the children in an exploration of performance art, meeting different artists through the trail.

Some of the artists: John Dummett invites children to draw on his house, **Eva Weaver** wraps a bridge in red wool, **Ania Bas** asks visitors to speak to her different languages while **Aileen Lambert** marks the litter in the market with helium filled balloons.

Wrap up warm – Family Day will be an outside trail. Leaving the gallery at 11.30am.

Admission is Free. Booking Advised

8 . Panel Discussion : Into Irish Drawing

Chaired by **Jim Savage**

Wednesday 28th January 1.30pm

This Panel Discussion brings together a selection of the artists participating in the Into Irish Drawing exhibition. The artists will discuss the processes they employ in drawing and the context of contemporary drawing in Ireland and internationally. Chairperson **Jim Savage** is himself exhibiting in the *Into Irish Drawing* exhibition.

Refreshments will be served at 1.30pm. The Panel Discussion begins at 2pm.

Admission is Free. Booking Required.

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.

Admission is FREE.

LCGA Opening Hours : Mon-Fri: 10am-6pm, Thurs: 10am-7pm, Sat: 10am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-5pm, Closed Bank Holidays.

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, The Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland and Fás