Gailearaí Ealaíne
Crawford
Art Gallery

Preasráiteas
Press Release

Photograph courtesy of Basil Al- Rawi

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Artist Announced for Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to announce visual artist **Basil Al-Rawi** as the recipient of the inaugural Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award.

Basil Al-Rawi will become the first Gibson Travelling Fellow following a highly competitive open-call selection process, which sought to identify a clear vein of innovation, experimentation and impact.

Al-Rawi's practice explores the landscapes of personal and cultural memory, hybrid identity, and the digital mediation of reality. He will use the award to support an extended period of self-determined enquiry across Lebanon, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and France.

The Cork-based Irish-Iraqi artist was selected from a shortlist by a panel of experts working in the field of contemporary art: Dragana Jurišić (Artist and Educator), Megs Morley (Director and Curator, Galway Arts Centre), Paul McAree (Curator, Lismore Castle Arts), and chaired by Mary McCarthy (Director, Crawford Art

Gallery). Impressed by the high quality of applicants, they ultimately determined that Al-Rawi's proposal most closely articulated the spirit and scope of the Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award and has the potential for significant personal and professional transformation on the artist.

The **Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award** aims to support professional visual artists at a self-determined crucial stage in their careers. This €25,000 triennial award acknowledges the need of visual artists to replenish their practice in an innovative, process of exploration, research and connection.

Mary McCarthy Director, Crawford Art Gallery said:

'Basil Al-Rawi's clear proposal and considered approach articulated an openness and opportunity to enrich his own practice. Addressing contested histories, memory, and the politics of visibility, the proposed professional travel could not be more timely or relevant and will allow the artist to expand his horizons. We believe he is a very deserving inaugural winner and we look forward to being a support institution to his practice through this Fellowship. The Gallery is grateful to Culture Ireland for its support and the diligent care of our assessment panels'.

The panellists added:

'We were very impressed by the quality and high calibre of artists who applied for this award. It highlighted to us the need for more developmental opportunities for artists that are flexible, open ended, and not outcome dependent. It is critical for Irish artists to be mobile, to develop their international networks and experience and to replenish their practices through self-directed and self-reflective opportunities'.

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Notes to Editor: for hi-res captioned images, please click here.

About Basil Al-Rawi
Basil Al-Rawi is an Irish-Iraqi multidisciplinary artist working across photography, film, VR, and sculptural installation. His practice explores the landscapes of

memory, identity, and the digital mediation of experience—often drawing from personal and collective archives to reimagine how memory can be spatialised and shared. His recent work engages participatory methods to reconstruct photographic and mnemonic moments from Iraqi diaspora, resulting in projects such as the Iraq Photo Archive and the immersive VR experience *House of Memory* / بيت الذاكرة. Basil holds degrees in English, sociology, cinematography, a Masters in photographic studies, and completed a practice-based PhD at The Glasgow School of Art in 2023. He has exhibited widely, including at Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Photographers' Gallery, The LAB, and the Lahore Biennale, and his work is held in public and private collections. He is currently supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and continues to explore *memoryscapes* through hybrid forms of storytelling and digital media.

About Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award
In recognising the importance of creating space and time for research, thinking, and creativity through an immersion in a different culture, country, or international institution, the Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award is a triennial opportunity for artists to gain international mobility and networking opportunities for furthering their research, artistic enquiry, and practice.

Assessed through an open submission process, the Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award is a legacy of one of the most significant gifts to Crawford Art Gallery. In 1919, Joseph Stafford Gibson (1837-1919) bequeathed his collections and a fund to enrich the holdings of Crawford Art Gallery and to provide a travel scholarship to talented artists in Munster.

This €25,000 award aims to deliver on one of the gallery core strategic priorities of supporting artists' practices. In reflecting Crawford Art Gallery's ability to adapt, replenish and evolve, the Gibson Travelling Fellowship Award seeks to create a potentially positive and transformative impact on the recipient's practice and career.

Basil Al-Rawi was selected from a shortlist of six artists who included Chloe Austin, Ursula Burke, Amanda Dunsmore, Niamh McCann and Deirdre O'Mahony.

About Crawford Art Gallery
Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish National Cultural Institution (NCI) dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Offering a dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions, it also houses a collection of national importance which tells the compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's Custom House, the gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries ago. Featured in the gallery's collection of over 3,500 objects are contemporary Irish and international artists Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Isabel Nolan, Kathy Prendergast, Sean Scully, and Nedko Solakov, as well as much-loved works by artists James Barry, Mainie Jellett, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Harry Clarke, Seán Keating, John Lavery, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Mary Swanzy, and Jack B. Yeats.

The gallery is currently closed to the public to enable a major redevelopment plan.

About Transforming Crawford Art Gallery
Crawford Art Gallery closed to the public in September 2024 to undergo an exciting capital redevelopment project: Transforming Crawford Art Gallery.

This multi-million euro investment will increase gallery space by almost 50%, preserve and protect three centuries of existing built heritage, and create a cultural legacy for a new century as Cork continues to grow.

The project is a Government of Ireland 2040 project funded by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The award-winning Grafton Architects have worked on a redevelopment design that include a new Learn & Explore facility for public engagement, significant storage for the National Collection, a new entrance, and a dramatically improved public realm including new café facing onto Half Moon Street as well as additional exhibition spaces. The building's entrance will be reoriented to Emmet Place in line with the original Custom House layout dating to 1724. A large new public gallery space will create a new vantage point for visitors to view city centre landmarks including St Anne's, Shandon and St Fin Barre's Cathedral.

For all the latest news on Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, sign up to the newsletter on www.crawfordartgallery.ie or follow the gallery's social media.

Grianghraf le caoinchead Basil Al- Rawi

PREISEISIÚNT 17/06/2025

Ealaíontóir Fógartha do Dhámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson

Tá áthas ar Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford an t-amharc-ealaíontóir Basil Al-Rawi a fhógairt mar fhaighteoir Dhámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson.

Beidh Basil Al-Rawi ar an gcéad Chomhalta Taistil Gibson tar éis próiseas roghnúcháin glao-oscailte an-iomaíoch , a rinne iarracht féith shoiléir nuálaíochta, turgnamh agus tionchair a aithint.

Déanann cleachtas Al-Rawi iniúchadh ar thírdhreacha na cuimhne, na féiniúlachta agus na hidirghabhála digití taithí. Bainfidh sé úsáid as an dámhachtain chun tacú le tréimhse fhada d'fhiosrúchán féinchinntithe ar fud na Liobáine, an UAE, na hAraibe Sádaí, na hÉigipte agus na Fraince.

Roghnaigh painéal saineolaithe a bhí ag obair i réimse na healaíne comhaimseartha an t-ealaíontóir Éireannach-Iarácach atá lonnaithe i gCorcaigh ó ghearrliosta. Ba iad baill an phainéil: Dragana Jurišić (Ealaíontóir agus Oideoir), Megs Morley (Stiúrthóir agus Coimeádaí, Ionad Ealaíon na Gaillimhe), Paul

McAree (Coimeádaí, Ealaíona Chaisleán Lios Mór), agus faoi chathaoirleacht Mary McCarthy (Stiúrthóir, Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford). Mar gheall ar ardchaighdeán na n-iarratasóirí, chinn siad ar deireadh gur chuir togra Al-Rawi spiorad agus raon feidhme Dhámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson in iúl go han-dlúth agus go bhfuil sé d'acmhainn aige claochlú suntasach pearsanta agus gairmiúil a dhéanamh ar an ealaíontóir.

Tá sé mar aidhm ag **Dámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson** tacú le hamharc-ealaíontóirí gairmiúla ag céim ríthábhachtach féinchinntithe ina ngairmeacha beatha. Aithníonn an dámhachtain thríbhliantúil €25,000 seo an gá atá le hamharc-ealaíontóirí a gcleachtas a athlánú i bpróiseas nuálach, taiscéalaíochta, taighde agus naisc.

Bhí an méid seo le rá ag Mary McCarthy, Stiúrthóir Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford:

'Chuir an togra soiléir ó Basil Al-Rawi agus an cur chuige breithnithe uaidh in iúl oscailteacht agus deis chun a chleachtas féin a shaibhriú. Agus aghaidh á tabhairt ar stair chonspóideach, ar chuimhne agus ar pholaitíocht na hinfheictheachta, ní fhéadfadh an taisteal gairmiúil atá beartaithe a bheith níos tráthúla ná níos ábhartha agus cuirfidh sé ar chumas an ealaíontóra a léargas ar an saol a leathnú. Creidimid gur buaiteoir tionscnaimh an-luachmhar é agus táimid ag tnúth le bheith ina institiúid tacaíochta dá chleachtas tríd an gComhaltacht seo. Tá an Gailearaí buíoch de Chultúr Éireann as a thacaíocht agus as cúram dícheallach ár bpainéal measúnaithe'.

Chuir na painéalaithe an méid seo a leanas leis:

'Bhí muid an-tógtha le caighdeán agus le hardchumas na n-ealaíontóirí a chuir isteach ar an dámhachtain seo. Chuir sé in iúl dúinn go bhfuil gá le níos mó deiseanna forbartha d'ealaíontóirí atá solúbtha, oscailte, agus nach bhfuil ag brath ar thorthaí. Tá sé ríthábhachtach d'ealaíontóirí na hÉireann a bheith soghluaiste, a líonraí agus a dtaithí idirnáisiúnta a fhorbairt agus a gcleachtais a athshlánú trí dheiseanna féintreoraithe agus féinléiritheacha'.

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Nótaí don Eagarthóir:
Le haghaidh íomhánna fotheidealaithe ardtaifigh, cliceáil anseo.

Maidir le Basil Al-Rawi

Is ealaíontóir ildisciplíneach Éireannach-Iarácach é Basil Al-Rawi a bhíonn ag obair i ngrianghrafadóireacht, scannánaíocht, VR agus suiteáil dealbhóireachta. Déanann a chleachtas iniúchadh ar thírdhreacha na cuimhne, na féiniúlachta agus na hidirghabhála digití taithí – ag tarraingt go minic ó chartlanna pearsanta agus comhchoiteanna chun athshamhlú a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi ar féidir an chuimhne a spású agus a chomhroinnt. Leis an obair a rinne sé le déanaí, fostaítear modhanna rannpháirtíochta chun cuimhneacháin fhótagrafacha agus mhonónacha ó dhiaspóra na hIaráice a athchruthú, mar aon leis an taithí thumthach VR ar thionscadail *Iraq Photo Archivein* amhail an بيت الذاكرة. Tá céimeanna ag Basil sa Bhéarla, sa tsocheolaíocht, sa chineamatagrafaíocht, agus tá Máistreacht bainte amach aige sa chineamatagrafaíocht, agus tá PhD bunaithe ar chleachtas curtha i gcrích aige i Scoil Ealaíne Ghlaschú in 2023. Tá taispeántais fhorleathana déanta aige, lena n-áirítear ag IMMA, Gailearaí na nGrianghrafadóirí, The LAB, agus Biennale Lahore, agus tá a shaothar i mbailiúcháin phoiblí agus phríobháideacha. Tá tacaíocht á fáil aige faoi láthair ó Chomhairle Ealaíon na hÉireann agus leanann sé ag fiosrú scéalta cuimhneacháin trí chineálacha hibrideacha scéalaíochta agus meán digiteach.

Maidir le Dámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson

Agus aitheantas á thabhairt don tábhacht a bhaineann le spás agus am a chruthú don taighde, don smaointeoireacht agus don chruthaitheacht trí thumadh i gcultúr, i dtír nó in institiúid idirnáisiúnta eile, is deis thríbhliantúil é Dámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson d'ealaíontóirí deiseanna soghluaisteachta agus líonraithe idirnáisiúnta a fháil chun a dtaighde, a bhfiosrú ealaíonta agus a gcleachtas a chur chun cinn.

Déantar measúnú air trí phróiseas aighneachta oscailte, is oidhreacht é Dámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson de cheann de na bronntanais is suntasaí do Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford. Sa bhliain 1919, thiomnaigh Joseph Stafford Gibson (1837-1919) a bhailiúcháin agus ciste chun sealúchais Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford a shaibhriú agus chun scoláireacht taistil a chur ar fáil d'ealaíontóirí cumasacha i gCúige Mumhan.

Is é is aidhm don dámhachtain €25,000 seo ceann de phríomhthosaíochtaí straitéiseacha an ghailearaí a bhaint amach, is é sin tacú le cleachtais ealaíontóirí. Agus léiriú á thabhairt ar chumas Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford oiriúnú, athshlánú agus forbairt a dhéanamh, féachann Dámhachtain Comhaltachta Taistil Gibson le tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith dearfach agus claochlaitheach a chruthú ar chleachtas agus ar ghairm bheatha an fhaighteora.

Roghnaíodh Basil Al-Rawi as gearrliosta de sheisear ealaíontóirí a raibh Chloe Austin, Ursula Burke, Amanda Dunsmore, Niamh McCann agus Deirdre O'Mahony ina measc.

Maidir le Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford
Is institiúid chultúrtha náisiúnta é Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford atá suite i bhfoirgneamh oidhreachta suntasach i gcroílár chathair Chorcaí, agus atá tiomnaithe do na hamharc-ealaíona, idir stairiúil agus chomhaimseartha. Agus é ag cur clár fuinniúil taispeántas sealadach ar fáil, tá bailiúchán náisiúnta tábhachtach faoina dhíon freisin a insíonn scéal spéisiúil Chorcaí agus na hÉireann le trí chéad bliain anuas.

Tógadh ar dtús i 1724 é mar Theach Custaim na cathrach agus tá Múnlaí cáiliúla Canova ar taispeáint sa Ghailearaí, a bronnadh ar Chorcaigh dhá chéad bliain ó shin. I measc bhailiúchán an ghailearaí, tá os cionn 3,500 saothar ó ealaíontóirí comhaimseartha na hÉireann agus idirnáisiúnta Isabel Nolan, Gerard Byrne, Joy Gerrard, Rula Halawani, Kathy Prendergast, Dorothy Cross, Sean Scully, agus Nedko Solakov mar aon leis na saothair ó na healaíontóirí a bhfuil an-tóir orthu James Barry, Mainie Jellett, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Harry Clarke, Seán Keating, John Lavery, Evie Hone, Patrick Scott, Mary Swanzy, agus Jack B. Yeats.

Tá an Gailearaí dúnta faoi láthair don phobal chun plean mór athfhorbartha a chur i gcrích.

Maidir le Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford

Tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dúnta ó Mheán Fómhair 2024 chun tabhairt faoi thogra athfhorbartha caipitil a bheidh go hiontach ar fad: Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.

Cuirfidh an infheistíocht, ar fiú na milliúin euro é, beagnach 50% breise le spás an ghailearaí, agus déanfaidh sé trí chéad bliain d'oidhreacht thógtha a chaomhnú agus a chosaint, agus cruthófar oidhreacht chultúrtha don ghlúin amach romhainn de réir mar a bheidh Corcaigh ag leanúint ag fás.

Is togra de chuid Thograí Rialtas na hÉireann 2040 é atá ag fáil maoiniú ón Roinn Cultúir, Cumarsáide agus Spóirt i gcomhar le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí (OPW).

Tá Ailtirí Grafton, a bhfuil gradaim bainte acu, tar éis obair a dhéanamh ar dhearadh athfhorbartha lena n-áirítear áis Foghlama agus Fiosraithe nua le rannpháirtíocht ghníomhach, stóráil shuntasach don Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta, bealach isteach nua, agus spás poiblí a bheidh feabhsaithe go mór lena n-áirítear caifé nua ar Shráid na Leathghealaí chomh maith le spásanna taispeántais breise. Beidh bealach isteach an fhoirgnimh curtha ar ais go Plás Emmet de réir leagan amach Theach an Chustaim a chuaigh siar go 1724. Cruthófar spás mór gailearaí nua, a chruthaíonn radharc do chuairteoirí chun féachaint ar shainchomharthaí i lár na cathrach lena n-áirítear Ardán San Anna, An Seandún agus Ardeaglais Naomh Fionnbarra.

Chun níos mó eolais rialta a fháil ar Chlaochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, is fearr clárú do nuachtlitir an ghailearaí ar www.crawfordartgallery.ie nó lean muid ar mheáin shóisialta an ghailearaí.