Paul La Rocque, *In Her Own Garden*, 1998. Collection Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. © the artist.

PRESS RELEASE: 24/06/2025

Grá is in the air this summer in West Cork!

Visitors missing Crawford Art Gallery will be delighted to hear of a significant exhibition of the collection at Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen.

Titled **Grá**, this exhibition will celebrate love in all its forms and includes more than 50 works from the National Collection of Crawford Art

Gallery. The exhibition curated by Salt & Pepper (LGBTQI+ art collective) will include responses from the group.

Uillinn – alongside Salt & Pepper – has partnered with artist Toma McCullim to curate a unique exhibition of some of Crawford Art Gallery's most loved works for summer 2025.

Ann Davoren, Director of Uillinn says: "We are thrilled to present Grá at Uillinn this summer in collaboration with Salt & Pepper and artist Toma McCullim. At a time when Crawford Art Gallery is undergoing its transformation, we are honoured to share these remarkable pieces with our rural communities, fostering meaningful connections through art. We look forward to welcoming everyone to experience this unique and inclusive showcase."

In collaboration with Dr Michael Waldron (Curator of Collections & Special Projects at Crawford Art Gallery), Salt & Pepper has explored the collection to shape a diverse, inclusive showcase for Uillinn, accompanied by a rich programme of talks, tours, workshops, and events over the summer months.

Artist and activist Toma McCullim says: "It's been a joy to work with my Salt & Pepper community in creating this inclusive exhibition. Our diverse programme ranges from the Discovery Box to the Grá Choir, films, talks, and dance - we welcome all to share in the grá with us."

Mary McCarthy, Director of Crawford Art Gallery added: "This partnership with Salt & Pepper and Uillinn has been dynamic and deeply engaged. They've explored the collection thoughtfully and selected a remarkable group of works. We're excited to see how audiences respond and to view

the collection in this fresh context. With the gallery temporarily closed for our major redevelopment; Transforming Crawford Art Gallery, making the collection accessible through our Touring and Sharing programme, to other venues—like the National Gallery of Ireland and the National Museum of Ireland—is a key priority."

Grá will feature key works from the 20th and 21st centuries, including the iconic *Portrait of Fiona Shaw* (2002) by Victoria Russell, *The Red Rose* (1923) by John Lavery, and Patrick Hennessy's *Self Portrait and Cat* (1978), as well as Paul La Rocque's *In Her Own Garden* (1998) and the photographic series *Hi, Vis* (2020-21) by Dragana Jurišić. The exhibition also includes works by, among others, Sara Baume, Margaret Clarke, Tom Climent, Gerard Dillon, Stephen Doyle, Mainie Jellett, Harry Kernoff, Janet Mullarney, Isabel Nolan, John Rainey, Patrick Scott, Edith Somerville, Niamh Swanton, and Mary Swanzy.

Grá opens at Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen on 12 July 2025 and will run until 20 September 2025.

ENDS

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

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, Communication 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.

About Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre

Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre is a publicly funded arts facility established in 1985, dedicated to providing the people of West Cork with opportunities to access and engage with high-quality local and global arts practices. Located in the heart of Skibbereen, Uillinn offers a dynamic arts programme within the Centre and through outreach activities across the county. The Centre primarily focuses on contemporary visual art while also fostering a growing contemporary dance programme.

As a vital cultural resource for the West Cork region, Uillinn has built a strong reputation through its commitment to contemporary arts programming, community engagement, and creative learning. Since moving into its purpose-built facility in 2015, Uillinn has continued to flourish, celebrating two significant milestones this year: 40 years since the Centre's founding and 10 years in its current home.

Uillinn plays an active role in supporting education and community programmes, bringing the arts into schools, hospitals, and communities throughout West Cork. The Centre is also involved in commissioning new work, publishing, arts education, and developing collaborative programmes with various partners. Committed to innovation and best practice, Uillinn seeks to address challenges in audience development, participation, and creating opportunities for artists, with a particular focus on those living in rural areas.

About Salt & Pepper (LGBTQI+ art collective)

Salt & Pepper is a group of LGBTQI+ elders who met on the park benches of West Cork during COVID. Over the past few years, these conversations on park benches have grown into deep collaborations, workshops, an award-winning film I'm in Love with Mother Nature, and exhibitions: a living testament to queer connection, creativity, and resilience.

About Toma McCullim

Toma calls herself an ''artivist", that is an activist- artist. Rooted in community collaboration, her site-responsive projects reimagine memory, identity, and resistance through embodied storytelling. Her films are calls for creative, political, and ecological change making.

Upcoming Grá events

Grá Choir
Saturday 12 July
14.00
Free to attend, no booking required
A highlight of the exhibition is the formation of the *Grá Choir* led by singer-songwriter Liz Clark in collaboration with Salt & Pepper. The choir will perform

Beloved, a choral piece composed by Carol Nelson for her wife Deborah—a moving tribute to enduring love.
The first performance will take place at the opening of the Grá exhibition at 2.00pm on Saturday 12 July at Uillinn, and a second performance will take place at St Barrahane's Church, Castletownshend later in July.

Grá Gallery Talk and Tour with Dr Michael Waldron (Curator of Collections & Special Projects at Crawford Art Gallery)
Thursday 24 July and Thursday 18 September
13.00 – 14.00
Free to attend, no booking required

Seen - Unseen
Friday 18 July
16.00
Free, but booking essential, please contact Clare McLaughlin
claremclaughlinemail@gmail.com

Screenings from the Crawford Art Gallery Collection at Uillinn

Aideen Barry's *Not to be Known* (single channel film, 5.5 mins)
Friday 1 August
10.00 – 16.30
Free Entry

Clare Langan's *The Heart of a Tree* (HD digital film, 12 mins)
Saturday 23 August
10.00 – 15.30
Free Entry

Paul La Rocque, *In Her Own Garden*, 1998. Bailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, Corcaigh. © an t-ealaíontóir

PREASRÁITEAS: 24/06/2025

Táimid lán le grá an samhradh seo in Iarthar Chorcaí!

Beidh áthas ar chuairteoirí a airíonn uathu Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford scéal a chloisteáil faoi thaispeántas suntasach den bhailiúchán in Uillinn: Ionad Ealaíon Iarthar Chorcaí, an Sciobairín.

Is é **Grá** an teideal a bheidh ar an taispeántas seo agus déanfaidh sé ceiliúradh ar an ngrá de gach cineál agus beidh níos mó ná 50 saothar ann ó Bhailiúchán Náisiúnta Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford. Beidh an taispeántas

á choimeád ag Salt & Pepper (comhghrúpa ealaíne LADTAI+) agus beidh léargais ón ngrúpa sin mar chuid den taispeántas.

Tá Uillinn – in éineacht le Salt & Pepper – i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an ealaíontóir Toma McCullim chun taispeántas uathúil a léiriú de chuid de na saothair is mó a bhfuil grá ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford dóibh do shamhradh 2025.

Dúirt Ann Davoren, Stiúrthóir Uillinn: "Tá lúcháir orainn Grá a chur i láthair ag Uillinn an samhradh seo i gcomhar le Comhghrúpa Ealaíne Salt & Pepper agus leis an ealaíontóir Toma McCullim. Tráth a bhfuil Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ag claochlú, is mór an onóir dúinn na píosaí iontacha seo a roinnt lenár bpobail tuaithe, ag cothú naisc bhríocha tríd an ealaín. Táimid ag tnúth le fáilte a chur roimh gach duine chun blaiseadh a fháil den taispeántas uathúil cuimsitheach seo."

I gcomhar leis an Dr Michael Waldron (Coimeádaí na mBailiúchán & na dTionscadal Speisialta i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford), rinne Salt & Pepper iniúchadh ar an mbailiúchán chun taispeántas ilghnéitheach, cuimsitheach a mhúnlú d'Uillinn, mar aon le clár saibhir cainteanna, turas, ceardlann agus imeachtaí i rith mhíonna an tsamhraidh.

Bhí an méid seo a leanas le rá ag Toma McCullim, ealaíontóir agus gníomhaí: "Is cúis áthais dom a bheith ag obair le mo phobal Salt & Pepper chun an taispeántas cuimsitheach seo a chruthú. Cuimsíonn ár gclár éagsúil ón mBosca Fionnachtana go dtí an Cór Grá, scannáin, cainteanna agus damhsa - cuirimid fáilte roimh chách páirt a ghlacadh sa ghrá linn."

Chuir Mary McCarthy, Stiúrthóir Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford an méid seo a leanas leis: "Bhí an chomhpháirtíocht seo le Salt & Pepper agus Uillinn

dinimiciúil agus an-ghníomhach. Rinne siad iniúchadh ar an mbailiúchán go tuisceanach agus roghnaigh siad grúpa iontach saothar. Táimid ar bís a fheiceáil cén fhreagairt a bheidh ag an lucht féachana agus iad ag féachaint ar an mbailiúchán sa chomhthéacs úr seo. Agus an gailearaí dúnta go sealadach dár n-athfhorbairt mhór, Claochlú Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford, is príomhthosaíocht dúinn é an bailiúchán a chur ar fáil trínár gclár Camchuairte agus Comhroinnte, d'ionaid eile—cosúil le Gailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann agus le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann."

Beidh príomhshaothair ón 20ú agus ón 21ú haois i nGrá, lena n-áirítear *Portrait of Fiona Shaw* (2002) le Victoria Russell, *The Red Rose* (1923) le John Lavery, agus *Self Portrait and Cat* le Patrick Hennessy (1978), chomh maith le *In Her Own Garden* (1998) le Paul La Rocque agus an tsraith ghrianghrafadóireachta *Hi, Vis* (2020-21) le Dragana Jurišić. Áirítear sa taispeántas freisin i measc ealaíontóirí eile saothair le Sara Baume, Margaret Clarke, Tom Climent, Gerard Dillon, Stephen Doyle, Mainie Jellett, Harry Kernoff, Janet Mullarney, Isabel Nolan, John Rainey, Patrick Scott, Edith Somerville, Niamh Swanton, agus Mary Swanzy.

Osclaíonn Grá ag Uillinn: Ionad Ealaíon Iarthar Chorcaí, an Sciobairín an 12 Iúil 2025 agus beidh sé ar siúl go dtí an 20 Meán Fómhair 2025.

CRÍOCH

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Nótaí don Eagarthóir:

Le haghaidh íomhánna fotheidealaithe ardtaifigh, cliceáil anseo.

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 Chlaochlú 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.

Maidir le hUillinn: Ionad Ealaíon Iarthar Chorcaí

Is áis ealaíon é Uillinn: Ionad Ealaíon Iarthar Chorcaí a mhaoinítear go poiblí agus a bunaíodh i 1985, atá tiomanta do dheiseanna a chur ar fáil do mhuintir Iarthar Chorcaí rochtain a fháil ar chleachtais ealaíon áitiúla agus dhomhanda ar ardchaighdeán agus dul i ngleic leo. Lonnaithe i gcroílár an Sciobairín, cuireann Uillinn clár dinimiciúil ealaíon ar fáil laistigh den Ionad agus trí ghníomhaíochtaí for-rochtana ar fud an chontae. Díríonn an tIonad go príomha ar an amharc-ealaín chomhaimseartha agus ag an am céanna cothaíonn sé clár damhsa comhaimseartha atá ag dul i méid.

Mar acmhainn chultúrtha ríthábhachtach do réigiún Iarthar Chorcaí, tá cáil mhór tógtha ag Uillinn trína thiomantas do chláir ealaíon comhaimseartha, rannpháirtíocht an phobail, agus foghlaim chruthaitheach. Ó bhog sé isteach ina shaoráid saintógtha in 2015, lean Uillinn ag bláthúh, agus dhá gharsprioc shuntasacha á gceiliúradh aige i mbliana: 40 bliain ó bunaíodh an tIonad agus 10 mbliana ina theach cónaithe reatha.

Tá ról gníomhach ag Uillinn i dtacú le cláir oideachais agus phobail, ag tabhairt na n-ealaíon isteach i scoileanna, in ospidéil agus i bpobail ar fud Iarthar Chorcaí. Tá baint ag an Ionad freisin le saothar nua a choimisiúnú, le foilsitheoireacht, le hoideachas ealaíon, agus le cláir chomhoibríocha a fhorbairt le comhpháirtithe éagsúla. Agus é tiomanta don nuálaíocht agus don dea-chleachtas, féachann Uillinn le haghaidh a thabhairt ar dhúshláin maidir le forbairt lucht féachana agus éisteachta, rannpháirtíocht, agus deiseanna a chruthú d'ealaíontóirí, agus béim ar leith á leagan orthu siúd atá ina gcónaí i gceantair thuaithe.

Maidir le Salt & Pepper (comhghrúpa ealaíne LADTAI+)

Is grúpa seanóirí LADTAI+ Salt & Pepper a tháinig le chéile ar bhinsí páirce Iarthar Chorcaí le linn COVID. Le blianta beaga anuas, tá na comhráite seo ar bhinsí páirce tar éis fás ina gcomhoibrithe doimhne, ina gceardlanna, ina scannán a bhfuil duaiseanna buaite aige *I'm in Love with Mother Nature*, agus ina dtaispeántais: léiriú beo ar nasc aerach, ar chruthaitheacht agus ar athléimneacht.

Maidir le Toma McCullim

'Gníomhaí-ealaíontóir' a thugann Toma uirthi féin, nó ealaíontóir gníomhach. Agus í fréamhaithe i gcomhoibriú pobail, déanann a tionscadail a fhreagraíonn don láithreán cuimhne, féiniúlacht agus frithsheasmhacht a athshamhlú trí scéalaíocht chorpraithe. Is glaoch ar athrú cruthaitheach, polaitiúil agus eacnamaíoch iad a cuid scannán.

Imeachtaí Grá atá ag teacht aníos

Cór Grá
Dé Sathairn, 12 Iúil
14.00
Saor in aisce agus ní gá áirithintí a dhéanamh.
Ar bhuaicphointe an taispeántais tá bunú *Chór Grá* faoi stiúir Liz Clark, amhránaí agus scríbhneoir amhrán, i gcomhar le Salt & Pepper. Léireoidh an cór *Beloved*, píosa córúil a chum Carol Nelson dá bean chéile Deborah—ómós don ghrá síoraí. Beidh an chéad léiriú ar siúl le linn oscailt thaispeántas Grá ar 2.00in Dé Sathairn 12 Iúil ag Uillinn, agus beidh an dara léiriú ar siúl in Eaglais Naomh Barrahane, Baile an Chaisleáin níos déanaí i mí Iúil.

Caint agus Camchuairt Grá leis an Dr Michael Waldron (Coimeádaí na mBailiúchán agus na dTionscadal Speisialta i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford)
Déardaoin, an 24 Iúil agus Déardaoin, an 18 Meán Fómhair
13.00 – 14.00
Saor in aisce agus ní gá áirithintí a dhéanamh.

Seen - Unseen
Dé hAoine, an 18 Iúil
16.00
Saor in aisce, ach is gá áirithintí a dhéanamh, déan teagmháil le Clare McLaughlin
claremclaughlinemail@gmail.com

Ar an Scáileán ó Bhailiúchán Ghailearaí Ealaíne Crawford in Uillinn

Not to be Known le Aideen Barry (scannán ar chainéal amháin, 5.5 nóiméad)
Dé hAoine, an 1 Lúnasa
10.00 – 16.30
Saor in aisce

The Heart of a Tree le Clare Langan (scannán digiteach ard-dlúis, 12 nóiméad)
Dé Sathairn, an 23 Meitheamh
10.00 – 15.30
Saor in aisce