



Image courtesy of Lost Studios

Press Release: 06/08/2025

Preserving *The Goose Girl*: Crawford Art Gallery spotlights a National Treasure for Heritage Week

As part of National Heritage Week 2025, Crawford Art Gallery is inviting members of the public to attend two free talks, in-person and online. These talks will explore the conservation of a national treasure, *The Goose Girl* (1888) by Edith Somerville.

As the Gallery undergoes a major redevelopment, this much-loved oil painting is now the subject of conservation treatment through Crawford Art Gallery's new mobile conservation laboratory.

A highlight of the national collection, the painting depicts a young West Cork girl named Mary Ann, barefoot and seated on the floor, as she clutches a favoured goose, perhaps her pet, in her hands. As is evident from Mary Ann's expression, not to mention the vegetables and cooking utensils gathered around her, the goose is destined for a future meal. In the girl's tearful eyes, the artist sensitively



captures the injustice often felt in youth about adult decisions. Somerville's style echoes a form of French Peasant Realism popular during her education in Paris. This historic painting is now in need of crucial conservation work and supported by the Heritage Council through the Heritage Stewardship Fund 2025, this work will ensure the historic painting's future.

The Heritage Week talks will feature expert insights from Dr Chiara Chillè (Conservator), Jean O'Donovan (Registrar), and Dr Michael Waldron (Curator). Together, they will shed new light on the painting, exploring its history along with the background of artist Edith Somerville, explain the innovative use of the mobile conservation lab, and discuss the broader challenges and responsibilities of caring and preserving the National Collection.

Dr Micheal Waldron says; "Although the gallery itself may be closed, we are busy behind the scenes planning, researching, and ensuring the collection is in its best possible shape for when we reopen. We know that people are curious about what we're doing, so these Heritage Week events will be a great way to connect and gain insights into the conservation process. We are stewards of the collection and it's exciting to be able to share new insights into beloved artworks like *The Goose Girl* by Edith Somerville."

Don't miss out on these fascinating Heritage Week talks and discover the art and science behind conserving an Irish masterpiece. For all event details visit Crawford Art Gallery's website: <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/news-events/>

Event Details:

In-Person Talk takes place on the 19 August 2025 at 13.00 in Civic Trust House, Cork City. Register for your spot here: <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/preserving-legacy-enhancing-conservation-at-crawford-art-gallery-in-person/>

Online Talk takes place on the 20 August 2025 at 13.00 online. Register for your spot here: <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/preserving-legacy-enhancing-conservation-at-crawford-art-gallery-online/>



ENDS

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Notes to Editor: for hi-res captioned images, please [click here](#).

Speaker Bios:

Chiara Chillé is an accredited Italian conservator with a PhD in Material Science and Art Conservation from Northumbria University, focusing on laser cleaning treatments for paintings. She has held a research fellowship at the National Research Council (CNR) in Florence, contributing to laser applications in art conservation. Chiara holds an MRes in Nanotechnologies and two MSc degrees in conservation from the University of Palermo. She took part in the Getty Foundation's *Conserving Canvas* initiative at the National Gallery of Ireland. Currently, she is Art Conservator at Crawford Art Gallery, supporting its major redevelopment and the creation of a mobile conservation lab.

Jean O'Donovan has served as Registrar of Crawford Art Gallery since 2015. Prior to this position she was Assistant Registrar at the National Gallery of Ireland. Jean is responsible for the perseverance of the collection – both physical and digitally. Her responsibilities include managing the collection documentation, storage and all incoming and outgoing loans from the gallery.

Michael Waldron is an art historian, writer, and Curator of Collections & Special Projects at Crawford Art Gallery. He holds a PhD from University College Cork (UCC) and his research interests include Irish visual art and literature since 1800. He has curated exhibitions on Harry Clarke, Laura Fitzgerald, Patrick Scott, and Edith Somerville, and co-curated (with Dr Flicka Small) *Odysseys*, a centenary celebration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. He has published on the work of writer Elizabeth Bowen, artists Vivienne Roche (2024), Sylvia Cooke-Collis (2023), John Rainey (2021), John Hogan (2015), and Samuel Forde (2014), as well as the Munster Fine Art Club (2025). His articles have appeared in *Irish Arts Review*, *Museum Ireland*, and *Paper Visual Art*, with essays in *Irish University Review* (2021), *The Routledge Companion to Irish Art* (2025), and *Elizabeth Bowen in Context* (2026). Michael previously taught Art History and English at UCC, where he also worked on the interdisciplinary project, *Deep Maps: West Cork Coastal*



Cultures (2016-17). He is currently a member of *The Elizabeth Bowen Review* editorial board and Deputy Chair of Sample-Studios.

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 [redesign](#) 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.



Íomha le Lost Studios

Preasráiteas: 06/08/2025

***The Goose Girl* a Chaomhnú: Aird á tarraingt ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ar Sheoid Náisiúnta le haghaidh Sheachtain na hOidhreachta**

Mar chuid de Sheachtain Náisiúnta na hOidhreachta 2025, tá Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford ag tabhairt cuireadh do bhaill den phobal freastal ar dhá chaint saor in aisce, caint i bpearsa agus caint ar líne. Fiosrófar sna cainteanna sin caomhnú seoide náisiúnta, *The Goose Girl* (1888) le Edith Somerville.

Agus athfhorbairt mhór á déanamh ar an nGailearaí, tá an phéintéireacht ola úd a bhfuil an-chion uirthi anois faoi réir cóireáil chaomhnaithe tríd an tsaotharlann shoghluaiste nua le haghaidh an chaomhantais atá ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford.

Buaicphointe den bhailiúchán náisiúnta, léiríonn an phéintéireacht cailín óg ó Iarthar Chorcaí darb ainm Mary Ann, í go cosnócht ina suí ar an urlár, agus an ghé is ansa léi ar a baclainn aici, peata b'fhéidir. Mar is léir ó ghnúis Mary Ann, gan trácht ar na glasraí agus na huirlisí cócaireachta atá bailithe thart timpeall uirthi,



tá an ghé ceaptha le bheith ina béile amach anseo. I súile an chailín, tá léiriú íogair déanta ag an ealaíontóir ar an éagóir a bhraith sí go minic ina hóige i leith cinntí daoine fásta. Baineann stíl Somerville macalla as cineál Réadúlachta Tuathánaí sa Fhrainc a raibh tóir uirthi le linn a cuid oideachais i bPáras. Tá obair chaomhnaithe ríthábhachtach ag teastáil anois don phictiúr stairiúil seo agus, le tacaíocht ón gComhairle Oidhreachta tríd an gCiste Maoirseachta Oidhreachta 2025, cinnteoidh an obair seo todhchaí na péintéireachta stairiúla.

Mar chuid de Sheachtain na hOidhreachta, tabharfar léargais ó na saineolaithe: an Dr Chiara Chillè (Caomhnóir), Jean O'Donovan (Cláraitheoir), agus an Dr Michael Waldron (Coimeádaí). I dteannta a chéile, tabharfaidh siad léargas nua ar an bpéintéireacht, déanfaidh siad iniúchadh ar a stair mar aon le cúlra an ealaíontóra Edith Somerville, míneoidh siad úsáid nuálach na saotharlainne caomhnaithe soghluaiste, agus pléifidh siad na dúshláin agus na freagrachtaí níos leithne a bhaineann le cúram agus caomhnú an Bhailiúcháin Náisiúnta.

Arsa an Dr Michael Waldron: “Cé go bhfuil an gailearaí féin dúnta, táimid gnóthach sa chúla ag pleanáil, ag déanamh taighde, agus ag cinntiú go bhfuil an bailiúchán sa riocht is fearr agus is féidir nuair a athosclóimid é. Tá a fhios againn go bhfuil daoine fiosrach faoin méid atá ar siúl againn, mar sin is bealach iontach a bheidh in imeachtaí seo Sheachtain na hOidhreachta chun nascadh le chéile agus léargas a fháil ar an bpróiseas caomhnaithe. Táimid inár maoir ar an mbailiúchán agus tá sé spreagúil a bheith in ann léargas nua a roinnt ar shaothair ealaíne a bhfuil cion orthu ar nós *The Goose Girl* le Edith Somerville.’

Ná caill amach ar na cainteanna suimiúla sin de chuid Sheachtain na hOidhreachta agus faigh amach faoin ealaín agus faoin eolaíocht atá taobh thiar de shárshaothar Éireannach a chaomhnú. Chun sonraí uile an imeachta a fháil, tabhair cuairt ar shuíomh gréasáin Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford:

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/news-events/>



Sonraí na nImeachtaí:

Beidh an chaint i bpearsa á tabhairt ar an 19 Lúnasa 2025 ar 13.00 i dTeach an Iontaobhais Chathartha, Cathair Chorcaí. Cláraigh le haghaidh do spota anseo: <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/preserving-legacy-enhancing-conservation-at-crawford-art-gallery-in-person/>

Beidh an chaint ar líne ar siúl an 20 Lúnasa 2025 ar 13.00. Cláraigh le haghaidh do spota anseo: <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/preserving-legacy-enhancing-conservation-at-crawford-art-gallery-online/>



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Le haghaidh íomhánna fotheidealaithe ardaifigh, [cliceáil anseo](#).

Beathaisnéisí na gCainteoirí:

Is caomhnóir creidiúnaithe Iodálach í **Chiara Chillé** a bhfuil PhD aici in Eolaíocht na nÁbhar agus Caomhnú Ealaíne ó Ollscoil Northumbria, agus díríonn sí ar chóireálacha glantacháin léasair ar phictiúir. Bhí comhaltacht taighde aici ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta Taighde (CNR) i bhFlórans agus í ag saothrú feidhmeanna léasair i gcaomhnú na healaíne. Tá MRes sa Nanaitheicneolaíocht ag Chiara agus dhá chéim MSc aici sa chaomhantas ó Ollscoil Palermo. Ghlac sí páirt sa tionscnamh *Conserving Canvas* de chuid Fhondúireacht Getty i nDánlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann. Faoi láthair, is í an Coimeádaí Ealaíne i nGailearaí Ealaíne Crawford í, agus thacaigh sí lena hathfhorbairt mhór agus leis an tsaotharlann chaomhnaithe shoghluaiste a chruthú.

Tá **Jean O' Donovan** ina Chláraitheoir ar Dhánlann Ealaíne Crawford ó bhí 2015 ann. Roimhe sin, bhí sí ina Cláraitheoir Cúnta i nGailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann. Tá Jean freagrach as an mbailiúchán a chaomhnú — go fisiciúil agus go digiteach



araon. Ar na freagrachtaí atá uirthi tá bainistiú na ndoiciméad bailiúcháin, na stórála agus na n-iasachtaí uile isteach agus amach ón ngailearaí.

Is staraí agus scríbhneoir é **Michael Waldron**, agus is é Coimeádaí na mBailiúchán agus na dTionscadal Speisialta é ag Gailearaí Ealaíne Crawford. Tá PhD aige ó Choláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh agus i measc a chuid spéiseanna taighde tá amharc-ealaín agus litríocht na hÉireann ó bhí 1800 ann. Bhí sé ina choimeádaí ar thaispeántais faoi Harry Clarke, Laura Fitzgerald, Patrick Scott, agus Edith Somerville, agus rinne sé comhchoimeád (i gcohar leis an Dr Flicka Small) ar *Odysseys*, ceiliúradh céad bliain ar *Ulysses* le James Joyce. D'fhoilsigh sé ar shaothar faoin scríbhneoir Elizabeth Bowen, na ealaíontóirí Vivienne Roche (2024), Sylvia Cooke-Collis (2023), John Rainey (2021), John Hogan (2015), agus Samuel Forde (2014), agus faoin Munster Fine Art Club (2025). Tá a cuid alt le feiceáil in *Irish Arts Review*, *Museum Ireland*, agus *Paper Visual Art*, agus tá aistí léi san *Irish University Review* (2021), *The Routledge Companion to Irish Art* (2025), agus *Elizabeth Bowen in Context* (2026). Mhúin Michael Stair na hEalaíne agus an Béarla roimhe seo i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, áit ar oibrigh sé freisin ar an tionscadal idirdhisciplíneach, *Deep Maps: West Cork Coastal Cultures* (2016-17). Tá sé ina chomhalta faoi láthair de bhord eagarthóireachta *The Elizabeth Bowen Review* agus tá sé ina Leas-Chathaoirleach ar Sample-Studios.

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 chuairoteoirí 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.