

Press Release: Wednesday 2 November, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Garrett Phelan

## A VOODOO FREE PHENOMENON-FILM

November 25, 2016 – March 18, 2017

[www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)



Photography – Shane McCarthy.  
Image Courtesy/© the Artist

Crawford Art Gallery is delighted to present *A Voodoo Free Phenomenon – Film* (2014) by Garrett Phelan as part of its continuing screening programme featuring Irish and International artists.

Drawing on the ambiguous relationship between fact and fiction, Phelan's short film is divided between a simple, effective storytelling monologue by the artist and a dramatically filmed grouping of ambiguous luxuriant undiscovered golden artefacts.

Phelan's documentary style examination of the gold objects of an indeterminate provenance amplifies the phenomena of meaning and purpose we still project onto ancient monuments and ritualisation amidst the avalanche of ever-present technology questioning the paradox of power that such relics can hold over us.

In the second part of the film, lurching from dark comedy to remorseful empathy, Phelan recalls his journey with his mother in his endeavor to reach the prehistoric New Grange before the winter sunrise of the solstice as a young man. His recollection of his anxious behaviour during his journey to the site and his enduring regret for not getting her a place through the lottery-run admissions system, are almost as powerful as his remembrance of the event itself.

Garrett Phelan's film touches upon a deeper exploration of personal politics and the desire to decipher the world and the limitation of understanding that even with technology can we ever really be free from history and inherited social practices and rituals?

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## EDITOR NOTES

### About the Artist

Garrett Phelan (1965 Dublin), has developed a distinctive visual language & mode of engagement through ambitious, site-specific projects that include independent FM radio broadcasts, sculptural installations and animation. Recent solo projects include: HEED FM, a 28 day, 24 hour licensed radio broadcast portrait presenting participants from a generation whose opinions and beliefs are rarely heard in the public sphere (2016); A VOODOO FREE PHENOMENON, Project Arts Centre, Dublin (2015) and *New Faith Love Song*, IMMA, Dublin (2012). Group projects include: *What We Call Love: From Surrealism to Now*, IMMA, Dublin (2015); *Agitationism*: EVA International Biennial, Limerick (2014); *Changing States: Contemporary Irish Art*, Bozar, Bruxelles (2013); *Soundworks* ICA, London (2012) and *A Terrible Beauty is Born – 11 Biennale*, Lyon (2011).

### About the Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is a National Cultural Institution and regional art museum for Munster, dedicated to the visual arts, both historic and contemporary. The permanent collection comprises over 2500 works, ranging from eighteenth century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations. At the heart of the collection is a collection of Greek and Roman sculpture casts, brought to Cork in 1818 from the Vatican Museum in Rome. Through its temporary exhibitions, publications and education programmes, the Crawford Art Gallery is committed to fostering recognition, critical assessment, and acknowledgement of historical and contemporary Irish and international art practice. Located in the heart of Cork city, the gallery is a critical part of Ireland's cultural and tourism infrastructure, welcoming over 200,000 visitors a year.

### How to get to the Crawford Art Gallery

Crawford Art Gallery is located in the heart of Cork City centre, adjacent to Cork Opera House and Opera Lane, just off Patrick Street. Ten minutes walk from Cork's Kent Train Station and five minutes walk from Cork Bus Terminus. Disabled parking zones are available at the front entrance of the gallery at Emmet Place and Academy Street.

### Access & Education

For details on guided tours, access and education contact: [emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:emmaklemencic@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
[www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie/education.html)

### Admission / Opening Hours

Admission to the Crawford Art Gallery and the screening *A Voodoo Free Phenomenon* is free  
Monday - Saturday: 10 am - 5pm (last entry 4:45pm); Thursday: 10 am - 8pm  
closed Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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