



Image (left): Edith Somerville, *Character Sketches*, c.1890. Collection Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.  
Image (right): Patrick Scott, *Diptych* (detail). Collection Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. © the artist's estate.

## Press Release 30/09/2021

### **Patrick Scott and Edith Somerville exhibitions open at Crawford Art Gallery as part of its new Autumn programme**

*Patrick Scott: meditations* and *Edith Somerville: observations* will run in the Gallery's storied old drawing rooms from 2 October until 5 December.

***Patrick Scott: meditations*** will present five of Scott's works from Crawford Art Gallery's collection, meditations from five different decades in the artist's long career.

This year is the centenary of the late Patrick Scott (1921-2014), one of Ireland's most celebrated abstract artists.

Scott, who was born in Kilbrittain, County Cork on 24 January 1921, had his first exhibition when he was just 23 years old, but would only become a full-time artist in 1960. Having spent fifteen years working as an architect, Scott's compositions often incorporated geometry and impeccable design. He represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale (1960) and, although ostensibly abstract, his works ranged from the nuclear protest of *Diptych*, a 1960s 'Device' painting, to his harmonious 'Gold Paintings' that reveal his interest in Zen Buddhism.

Fellow artist Brian O'Doherty considers that "Scott's landscapes tremble on the edge of non-recognition, and then go over. His circles – sun, cell, seed, blot – always elevated to the top half of the canvas over an horizon line, said that your associations are your own, but insisted that I am just a picture. As he went on to his mature gold and unprimed canvases, this insistence became as much part of the painting as the paint."

Curator Michael Waldron says: "We are fortunate at Crawford Art Gallery to have a concentration of works by numerous artists, including Patrick Scott and Edith Somerville. Pairing them in parallel exhibitions this autumn may not be an immediately obvious choice but, as artists, they were each in their own way formed by growing up in West Cork. The expression in their respective work, however, could not be more different. While the exhibition titles might mirror each other, they also speak to two diverse approaches in art: outward observation and inward

meditation. The Patrick Scott exhibition borrows its title from a body of work by the artist earlier this century."

It is the first time that the Gallery will show all of its Scott and Somerville works together, offering a great opportunity for visitors to gently immerse themselves in two different art practices.

***Edith Somerville: observations*** will mark the recent acquisition of an ink study for *The Goose Girl* (1888), a beloved painting by Edith Somerville, this exhibition draws together all seven of the artist's works in the collection.

Born on the island of Corfu, Edith Anna Ænone Somerville (1858-1949) was an Irish writer, farmer, organist, huntswoman, and suffragist. Although she is best known for her writing partnership with cousin Violet Martin (1862-1915) – Somerville & Ross – she was also a talented artist with a keen skill for observation. During the 1870s and 80s, she studied in London, Düsseldorf, and Paris – at the Académie Colarossi and Académie Delécluse. She contributed to both *Graphic* and *Lady's Pictorial* as an illustrator and sketched during her travels in Ireland and Europe.

At home in the West Cork coastal village of Castletownshend, Somerville commissioned sculptor Séamus Murphy (1907-1975) to make a memorial bench and Harry Clarke (1889-1931) to create stained-glass windows for her parish church. She also designed a mosaic in memory of Violet Martin.

This exhibition offers a glimpse into Edith Somerville's world and the connections between her drawings, paintings, and writings. Sketches in artists' studios, witty illustrations, and beautifully observed works in oils contribute to our understanding of a woman who, though born into privilege, mastered many of the pursuits upon which she cast her roving eye.

Curated by Michael Waldron.

## **ENDS**

Dyane Hanrahan

Marketing & Communications Manager  
E [dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie)  
M +353 (0) 86 8278151  
W [www.crawfordartgallery.ie](http://www.crawfordartgallery.ie)  
Crawford Art Gallery,  
Emmet Place,  
Cork, Ireland.  
T12 TNE6

### **Current Exhibitions**

REMAINS - Brian Maguire  
17 September 2021 – 9 January 2022

Rembrandt in Print  
17 September - 9 January 2022

Artists' Film International  
24 September - 23 January 2022

Menagerie: Animals by Artists

until 6 March 2022

Recasting Canova  
ongoing

**Notes to the editor**

For further details and supporting materials:

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/menagerie-animals-by-artists/>

For further imagery contact:

[dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie](mailto:dyanehanrahan@crawfordartgallery.ie)

New protocol for visitors <https://crawfordartgallery.ie/visit/>

Exhibitions currently on display

<https://crawfordartgallery.ie/exhibitions/>

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

**More about Crawford Art Gallery**

Crawford Art Gallery is an Irish national cultural institution, dedicated to contemporary and historic visual art, located in a significant heritage building in the heart of Cork city. Home to a collection of national importance, it tells a compelling story of Cork and Ireland over the last three centuries, while also offering a vibrant and dynamic programme of temporary exhibitions.

Originally built in 1724 as the city's Customs House, the Gallery is home to the famous Canova Casts, gifted to Cork two centuries

ago. Featured in the gallery's collection of over 3,000 objects are well-known and much-loved works by Irish artists James Barry, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Seán Keating, Daniel Maclise, Norah McGuinness, Edith Somerville, and Jack B. Yeats, as well as contemporary artists Gerard Byrne, Maud Cotter, Dorothy Cross, Eilis O'Connell, and Hughie O'Donoghue.

An oasis of calm and tranquillity, Crawford Art Gallery is open seven days a week, free to enter, and a must-see for locals and tourists alike. Welcoming over 265,000 visitors annually, the Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

**Opening Hours** Monday–Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm  
Late opening Thursdays until 8.00pm Sundays and  
Bank Holidays Gallery: 11am - 4pm

### **Crawford Gallery Café & Garden Café**

The Gallery boasts an award-winning Café in stunning surroundings, serving fresh local produce for which Cork is famous.

For opening hours

[www.crawfordgallerycafe.com](http://www.crawfordgallerycafe.com)



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