

## **The Space We Occupy**

**An exhibition of work by Irish visual artists Neil Carroll, Ailbhe Ní Bhriain, Colin Crotty, Katie Holten, Fiona Kelly and George Bolster**

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**The Space We Occupy** is a group exhibition of work by six visual artists based in Dublin, Cork and New York City. The artists represent the depth and breadth of contemporary visual art being made across the island of Ireland today and by the many Irish artists who call the U.S. home. The works consider our relationship with place and time; from the macro to the micro—Earth's place in the solar system, humankind's brief time on Earth, the place we occupy in community and the physical relationship between artwork and viewer.

Originally conceived to mark the opening of the New Irish Arts Center building in New York, the exhibition now travels to Washington, D.C., to occupy the spectacular Whittle School and Studios in the North Cleveland Park neighborhood. Formerly used as the U.S. headquarters of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intelsat), the building is known for its futuristic, high-tech architecture. Designed by the Australian architect John Andrews, Intelsat's design became an important model for environmentally conscious and energy saving architecture. At the time of its construction, the new Intelsat headquarters was one of the first green buildings in Washington, D.C.

The exhibition opens at **2pm on Saturday 09 July** and runs until **31 July**, at Whittle School & Studios, 3400 International Dr NW, Washington, D.C., 20008. This exhibition originated at the Irish Arts Center in New York City and is supported by Culture Ireland.

Special thanks to all of the artists and Rachael Gilkey, Director of Programming, Irish Arts Center.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

### Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain works with film, photography and installation to conjure scenarios of dreamlike hybridity. She received her MA from the Royal College of Art in London and was awarded a PhD by practice from Kingston University, UK. Her work has shown widely internationally, with exhibitions at RHA, Dublin; Broad Museum, Michigan; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Paris Photo; Hammer Museum, LA; and Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid among others. Ní Bhriain is represented by Domobaal Gallery, London and public collections of her work include Trinity College, Dublin, Office of Public Works, Ireland, The Arts Council of Ireland, and Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.

### Colin Crotty

Colin Crotty lives and works in Dublin. He studied an MA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art, London and a BA Honours Fine Art, MTU Crawford College of Art & Design. Recent exhibitions include Biennial in Painting, Meštrović Pavillion, Zagreb, Croatia (2021); 100 Years of Change, Glucksman Gallery, Cork, (2021); Moving Spaces, Glucksman Gallery, Cork, (2020); RAUM Galerie, Dusseldorf, Germany (2019); Oonagh Young Gallery, Dublin (2018); Matthias Erngtes Galerie, Düsseldorf, Germany (2017); Sirius Arts Centre, Cork (2016); DROP Beyond Boundaries, Goodman Arts Centre, Singapore (2017); PERIPHERIES, Soul-Beating, Co. Wexford (2017); TULCA Festival of Visual Arts (2015). Recent awards include Art Council Bursary Award (2019); Culture Ireland Travel Award (2019); RHA residency award, Dublin (2016). Public collections include Arts Council of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin Art Collection, University College Cork Art Collection and Office Public Works, Ireland.

### Fiona Kelly

Fiona Kelly is based in Cork and is currently the inaugural Artist in Residence at GannonEco, A Waste Repurposing Plant in the Irish Midlands, funded by the Arts Council of Ireland (2021). Kelly's work has been widely exhibited, most recently in New Perspectives. Acquisitions 2011–2020, National Gallery of Ireland; Overburden (Solo) Triskel Arts Centre, IE; Land of Some Other Order, Lavit Gallery, Cork, IE; Visions of Half-Light, Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, IE; Mouth of a Shark, Edinburgh Printmakers Gallery, Scotland. UK; Field Study, The Auxiliary, UK; The Dirt that Measures All Our Time, (Solo) Mermaid Arts Centre, IE; Sustainable Futures, Sirius Arts Centre, IE; The Great Heap, (Solo) Leitrim Sculpture Centre & The Luan Gallery, IE; I Went to the Woods, the artist as wanderer, GLUCKSMAN Gallery, IE.

Recent notable accomplishments include the acquisition of her work by the Crawford Art Gallery for the National Collection of Ireland and appointment as Assistant Lecturer at MTU Crawford College of Art & Design. She is currently creating work for a solo exhibition at the Sirius Art Centre, Cork, in 2022.

### George Bolster

George Bolster has exhibited in numerous museums and galleries in Europe, America, Korea and Canada. Select solo shows include *Tearing at the Fabric of Your Reality*, Ulterior Gallery, NYC; *You Are Made of Stardust*, Solstice Arts Centre, Navan, Meath; *Tattooine: Sci-Fi Becoming Fact*, Sirius Arts Centre, Cork; and *sociodesic: a space for the three great loves*, Galway Art Centre (2010). Group exhibitions include: *Traveling to the End*, MMCA, Seoul, Korea (2019); *Music +Maker*, Solstice Arts Centre, Navan (2019); *Making Contact: SETI Artists in Residence*, New Museum Los Gatos, California, USA (2016); *Et si on s'était trompé?*, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France (2015); *Tulca: seachange*, Galway (2015); */seconds*, Sharjah Art Foundation, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2014); *These Days: Elegies for Modern Times*, Mass MoCA, Massachusetts, USA (2009). Bolster is the recipient of residencies including: Centre Cultural Irlandais, Paris, France (2019); Elizabeth Foundation for The Arts, New York, USA (2017); and the Robert Rauschenberg Residency, Captiva, Florida, USA (2013).

### Katie Holten

Katie Holten is an artist and environmental activist. Holten represented Ireland at the 50th Venice Biennale. Her work has been exhibited in museums internationally, including solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, New Orleans Museum of Art, Bronx Museum, Nevada Museum of Art, and Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane. Holten has conceived major public commissions including TREE MUSEUM (2009-2010) for New York City's Grand Concourse commissioned by the NYC Parks Department, the Bronx Museum and Wave Hill. Interested in exploring possibilities for multispecies storytelling and creating a way for humans to rethink their place in the Anthropocene, Holten made a Tree Alphabet and the book *About Trees* (Broken Dimanche Press, 2015). During lockdown she made a new Irish Tree Alphabet (Visual Carlow, 2020) and is currently developing an Explorer's Guide to the Irish Tree Alphabet to share with schools across Ireland.

### Neil Carroll

Neil Carroll, based in Dublin, received a MFA from the Ruskin School of Art, Oxford University (June 2016) and a BFA from the National College of Art and Design in Dublin (2010), achieving Distinction in both. In 2020, he exhibited his first institutional solo show at

the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA), in Dublin. He was awarded the Fire Station Sculpture Studio Award, Dublin, in 2019 and the IMMA 1000 studio residency award (Irish Museum of Modern Art) in 2018. In 2017 he was selected to exhibit as part of New Contemporaries in the UK. In 2015 he was the recipient of a fellowship to the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, USA. He has received artist's bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland (2015, 2017, 2018, 2020) and his work forms part of both private and public art collections.

