

IAAH



IRISH ASSOCIATION OF ART HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER - September - December 2009

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Dear Members,

Welcome to the winter Newsletter.

Apologies for its somewhat later-than-usual issue of the Newsletter but the summer ran in rather quickly after the Castletown and Carton House trip. We hope that you will find the three lectures, including the Christmas lecture on the work of Wilhemina Geddes, an engaging and topical mix. Also organized for the members is a tour of *Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty* the major exhibition at the Hugh Lane which celebrates the centenary of Francis Bacon's birth in 63, Lower Baggot Street, Dublin. A projected September trip to Galway to visit some key examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Irish stained-glass in Labane Catholic Church and Loughrea Cathedral has been deferred, however it is being timetabled for early summer next year. Plans are also underway for the spring events and will include a visit to the F.E. McWilliam Gallery & Studio in Banbridge which, time-permitting, could be combined with a visit to the Ulster Museum. The re-opening of the Ulster Museum on 22nd October following its major refurbishment programme is most welcome.

As discussed at the AGM we have started planning for next year's trip and have received ball-park prices for two of the proposed destinations discussed at the meeting – Belgium and Denmark. There is a brief outline of two projected trips on page 3, and we would like to hear if people are interested and which is their preferred destination. Depending on feedback we will complete plans for the country which generates most interest. A final costing and schedule, and of course the all important booking form will be included in the January Newsletter.

Work has been ongoing over the summer on Issue 3 of **Artefact**. On behalf of the membership I would like to thank the Editorial Committee and the external reviewers for all their hard work. Thanks also to all who submitted articles for consideration. Following a rigorous review process five essays and a number of book reviews are currently being edited and prepared for publication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the two out-going committee members Ciaran Woods and Olive Knox for their tremendous commitment to the IAAH and their wonderful work during their time on the committee. They will be missed at the meetings but I'm sure they will still be regulars at the events. At the same time I would like to welcome on board three new committee members - Audrey Nicholls, a PhD candidate at UCD, Hilary Sexton, a recent graduate of the MPhil programme at the Irish Art Research Centre (TRIARC), and Audrey Whitty, Curator of the Ceramics, Glass and Asian Collections at the National Museum - who are already proving valuable contributors to the committee's work.

With best wishes

Carla

Chair	Secretary	Treasurer
Carla Briggs, c/o School of Art History & Cultural Policy, UCD, Belfield	Dr Patricia McCabe, 10 Cherbury Gdns, Boosterstown, Co Dublin.	Una Duffy, Threeways Cottage, Sallins, Co Kildare.

**The Magnificent Mughals,
*Albums of Painting & Calligraphy made for the Emperors Jahangir & Shah Jahan***
Dr Elaine Wright, Curator of Islamic Art, Chester Beatty Library
Thursday 22nd October @ 6.30pm
Newman House

The Chester Beatty Library's Islamic collections are internationally renowned for the range and high quality of the holdings. Dr Elaine Wright, Curator of Islamic Art, will examine albums of painting and calligraphy made for the Emperors Jahangir & Shah Jahan, examples from the Library's Mughal-era Indian Collection which encompasses some of the finest examples of painting produced under the guidance of the emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan.

***Prints & Drawings in the National Gallery of Ireland:
Acquisitions since 2000***
Anne Hodge, Curator of Prints and Drawings, NGI
Thursday 26th November @ 6.30pm
Newman House

Anne Hodge, Curator of Prints and Drawings, will deliver a lecture offering an insight into recent additions to the National Gallery of Ireland's collection of works on paper, which numbers in excess of 8,000 drawings, pastels, watercolours, prints and miniatures.

Francis Bacon Centenary Exhibition – Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty
Tour

Jessica O'Donnell, Head of Collections, Dublin City Gallery – The Hugh Lane
Saturday 7th November @ 11.00pm
Dublin City Gallery – the Hugh Lane

PLACES ARE LIMITED – please complete & return enclosed form.

Jessica O'Donnell, Head of Collections, will give us a tour of *Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty* the exhibition which celebrates the centenary of Francis Bacon's birth. Comprising paintings, drawings, photographs, unfinished works and slashed canvases this exhibition will afford a new look at Bacon. Included in this reappraisal are a number of paintings which have not been on public exhibition for many years and previously unseen selection of items from Bacon's Studio.

Christmas Lecture & Party

'Wilhelmina Geddes (1887-1955), artist of the "finest, the most sincerely, passionately religious stained glass of our time"'

Dr Nicola Gordon Bowe, National College of Art and Design

Thurs, 10th December, 6.00pm

Newman House

Booking form enclosed – members €10 / guests €15

Nicola Gordon Bowe, director of the MA Course in the History of Design and the Applied Arts, NCAD, has written and lectured extensively on Arts and Crafts Movement, of nineteenth and twentieth-century applied arts and architectural arts, particularly stained glass, and in ideologies of design and material culture. She is currently completing a book on Ulster-born Wilhelmina Geddes, who not only had an international career as a stained glass artist, but also as an illustrator, designing book-jackets, posters, and illustrated books.

MEMORIES OF CHICAGO

IAAH Trip 2009

This year's trip to Chicago saw a small but perfectly formed group brave the late winter/early spring chill of the Windy City! As ever Alan Benson of Sadlier Travel did great work on our behalf, coping brilliantly with the usual flurry of arranging & rearranging, & working some magic with some sites which had yet to 'open' for the season. We were met at O'Hare airport by Beverley Livingston, our excellent guide, who would share with us the history of Chicago & its wonderful artistic & architectural treasures. Over the 6 days we saw a succession of highlights.



As well as paintings, sculptures, decorative arts & stained glass in various museums, we experienced a series of architectural & sculptural gems on the streets of Chicago – within 5 minutes of the hotel were monumental public sculptures by Picasso, Miro, Chagall & Dubuffet. Beverley treated us to a full day tour of Chicago's architectural riches – among them the Auditorium Building, the Rookery, the Chicago Board of Trade Building and Mies Van Der Rohe's Federal Centre. With Beverley we also took in the Frank Lloyd Wright Museum & Home, & his Robie House in Hyde Park, though rain meant the plan to walk the Oak Park neighbourhood viewing the 25 homes Wright designed did not come to fruition. We also journeyed out to Mies' icon of 20th century modern architecture, Farnsworth House in Plano. Though still closed for the winter months we were privileged that Whitney French, the Director, opened up the house and give us a tour.

A day-and-a-half was set aside for taking in the rich & vast collection of the Chicago Art Institute and the exhibition *Becoming Edvard Munch: Influence, Anxiety, and Myth*. The Smith Museum, rather curiously housed among the varied entertainments on Navy Pier, was an unexpected delight. The first museum in the US dedicated solely to stained glass windows its display showcased both secular & religious works, most originally installed in Chicago area residential, commercial & religious buildings. We had opportunity to take in large-scale stained glass works in the form of the ceiling on the 5th floor of the old Marshall Field's Department Store [now Macy's], the largest unbroken example of Tiffany Favrile glass in the world, and in the Chicago Cultural Centre we encountered not only the world's largest Tiffany stained-glass dome but also an unexpected treat in the form of a concert.

We had plenty of occasions for contemporary art visiting, for example, the Museum of Contemporary Art & also the award-winning Millennium Park where, braving melting snow & the cold, we saw Frank Gehry's *Jay Pritzker Pavilion*, the interactive *Crown Fountain* by Jaume Plensa, & Anish Kapoor's iconic *Cloud Gate*.

Aside from the small disappointment of the organized tour of the Smart Museum failing to materialize all seemed to go well & we even had some down-time over drinks in the Signature Lounge on the 96th floor of the John Hancock Center, & in the delightful grandeur of the Beaux-Arts lobby of the Palmer House Hotel. Thanks to all on the trip for their enthusiasm.

Proposals for the IAAH trip - 2010

We are looking for expressions of interest for either Belgium OR Denmark. We will proceed to finalise plans for the country which garners most interest & will circulate full details in the January newsletter.

1. **Belgium – €1,050 [approx. – twin accommodation].** Finalized cost will include flights, taxes, 4-star accommodation [6 nights], coach, tours, and entrances. Proposed itinerary would take in Brussels, home for example to the the Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts and also to splendid examples of Art Nouveau architecture; the van Eyck *Altarpiece of the Lamb* in Ghent; Rubens in Antwerp; various highlights of Bruges including the Groeningemuseum, the Hospitaal museum, & Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna*; the Museum of Fine Arts in Tournai; and the 'Groot Begijnhof' & the St Pieterskerk Treasury in Louvain.

1. **Denmark – €1,300/€1,400 [approx. depending on whether 3 or 4 star – twin accommodation].** Finalized cost will include flights, taxes, 6 nights' accommodation, coach, tours, and entrances. Proposed itinerary would see us based in Copenhagen where sights include the Amalienborg Palace, the Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek & the Thorvaldsens Museum. Trips outside of the capital could take us to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art; the ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum; & the Gothic Cathedral & Viking Museum in Roskilde.

ALTERNATIVE EVENTS

DUBLIN

The National Gallery of Ireland

October, Thursday evenings @ 6.30pm: *The Story of the Great Masters Lecture and Supper Series 2009*

- This year's speakers are Christine Riding, Curator of 18th and 19th-century British Art, Tate Gallery, Dr. Nicholas Penny, Director National Gallery who will deliver the W.D Finlay Lecture, Dr. Shulamith Behr, Senior Lecturer in 20th-century German Art, Courtauld Institute of Art and Dr. S. Brian Kennedy, Art Historian, Author & Lecturer. The lectures are followed by supper in the Wintergarden. Tickets, €35 [include lecture & supper] available from the Gallery Shop. A Season Ticket €130 is available for the entire series.

19 Sept–6 Dec: *Edmund Munch Prints* - an exhibition featuring 40 works spanning the artist's career. Admission €5 Concessions €3.

Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane

28 Oct 2009 – 7 Mar 2010: *Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty* - an exhibition celebrating the centenary of Francis Bacon's birth

The Irish Museum of Modern Art

Until 4 Apr 2010: *Between Metaphor and Object: Art of the 90s from the IMMA Collection*: an exhibition featuring a range of works from the IMMA Collection, primarily sculptures and installation works from the 1990s.

Chester Beatty Library

14 Sept - 25 Oct: *Chinese Snuff Bottles* - snuff bottles were among Chester Beatty's earliest acquisitions and this exhibition includes some 600 bottles of jade, porcelain, crystal, lacquer, glass and many other materials dating mainly from the Manchu Qing dynasty (1644-1911).

Conferences

Sat., 17 Oct: *Familiar but Unknown – Irish Women Artists and Artisans: methods and methodologies of remembering and recovery* – a symposium which is being held in the Emmet Theatre, TCD, 9am – 6pm. No charge. Further information on <http://www.triarc.ie>

Sat., 14 Nov: *Asian Art & Ireland Conference* - the programme consists of a series of talks addressing some of the themes touched on in the Albert Bender exhibition. Booking essential - tickets: €20 & €15. For further information contact the Education & Outreach Department: Tel: 01 6486 453 / Email: bookings@museum.ie

CORK

The Crawford Gallery

20 Nov 2009 – 28 Feb 2010: *Terror and the Sublime, Art in the Age of Anxiety* – an exhibition featuring the work of over forty artists, from the late 18th-century to the present, whose subject-matter has been influenced by, or reflects, the spirit of their times.

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery

Until 25 Oct: *Then + Now: Evolving Art Practices* - an exhibition featuring selected artists from the University College Cork Art Collection.

LIMERICK

Limerick City Gallery of Art

Until 8 Nov: *Noughties but Nice: 21st Century Irish Art* – an exhibition surveying the extensive terrain of art made in Ireland during the first decade of this millennium.

BELFAST

Ulster Museum

23 Oct 2009 – 14 Feb 2010: *Sean Scully* – an exhibition in the soon to reopen Ulster Museum bringing together over 60 paintings & additional works on paper providing an authoritative celebration of Scully's career.

DERRY

Gordon Gallery

25 Sept – 31 Oct: *Reflections in Form* - Sculpture by Maurice Herron.