

# Terra Incognita

dlr Lexlcon

Dun Laoghaire

8th July to 28th August 2016

*Terra incognita* or *terra ignota* (Latin "unknown land") is a term used in cartography for regions that have not been mapped or documented.

Damien Flood started the DLR Visual Art Commission with a question: what is it to know a place? Recorded interviews of personal stories and historical research became a starting point for a series of new paintings which look at how we know a place through the people that live there. These works merge Flood's perception and experience of the interviewing process with the histories gathered, to offer a unique retelling of Dun Laoghaire's legacy through a contemporary lens.

Terra Incognita examines the changing identity of the area as depicted by the vibrant and energetic contributors. A gestural line narrates multiple voices in the paintings and links present contributors to an abstract, psychological landscape. The palette used responds emotively to each encounter, and descriptive shapes, colours and motifs build a new view of Dun Laoghaire.

The title of each work offers a key into a reinterpreted story of place and time, such as 70 year old friendships evoked in 'Playground' and a retiring Harbour Master in 'Captain'. 'Engaged' teases out a duality between communication and society's changing values, while 'Cinder' reflects on the impact of a fire that destroyed a church in the 1960s. Terra Incognita mixes the universal and the personal, the life-changing and the everyday, and asks us to look at the places we know anew.