

Known Unknowns - Press Release

Works by Damien Flood, Nuala O'Sullivan and Daniel Greaney Curated by Simon Fennessy Corcoran

Exhibition opens 2nd November 2017 from 6-8

2017 marks the 80th anniversary of the "First Exhibition of Pictures" which opened on the 23rd of November 1937 in the Savoy Cinema, Limerick. This was the first significant move after the formation of a committee in 1936 of local citizens and artists such as Sean Keating and Dermot O'Brien to form a Municipal Art Gallery in Limerick, similar to those which existed in Dublin and Cork. The works in this exhibition would then form the "nucleus" of the Permanent Collection of Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA).

The exhibition, Known Unknowns takes the collection as it stands in 2017, a moment to pause and reflect on 80 years of collecting. Artists Damien Flood, Nuala O'Sullivan and Daniel Greaney have created new works of art which have been inspired by and are reactions to the connections, relationships, content and history of LCGA's Permanent Collection.

Damien Flood's paintings for Known Unknowns respond to the idea of collections and museums being a grouping of varying languages, approaches and disciplines of art. Gathered across time from acquisitions and donations a wide variety of seemingly unrelated artworks associate and argue with each other. A clashing of cultures, beliefs and emotions can be found, each piece having its own rhythm and dialect. Flood's practice mixes many languages and motifs to create meditative narratives that walk a tight rope between abstraction and figuration. The paintings he has produced here combine different linear rhythms and motifs traced from various works from the collection. The paintings reflect on the slow time found within these works, the frozen spaces of ageless beauty. The viewer is set adrift in a fragmented retelling of the artist's journey through the lesser known corners of the collection, mixing an emotional and cerebral response to the works.

Known Unknowns merges the old and the new, the known and unknowns forging new relationships and narratives which connect the artist's three distinct practices to LCGA's collection of 18th – 21st century artworks. These artistic responses produce an alternative way for LCGA to present its collection while acknowledging this significant anniversary. Known Unknowns is curated by LCGA's Shinnors Scholar (2015-17), Simon Fennessy Corcoran as part of his MA through Research in Curatorial Studies, which explored the public's engagement with the Permanent Collection exhibitions. Corcoran devised an open call and selection panel model culminating in the exhibition, Known Unknowns, with the featured artists, their response to the Permanent Collection.

"As we know, there are known known's; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don't know we don't know" Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defence with George Bush's Cabinet in 2002.