



## VISUAL ART

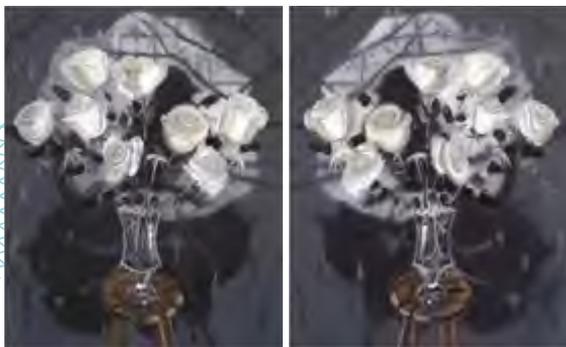
Visiting artists' studios is one of the privileges of being a curator. In the studio one can observe the purposeful decisions artists make; reflect on their intense scrutiny; their tenacity in making and remaking, painting out and painting over... until the point when they decide to lay down their tools.

A PAINTING IS NEVER FINISHED – IT SIMPLY STOPS IN INTERESTING PLACES  
*Paul Gardner*

**Ann Craven's** reworking and re-presenting of stock subject matter makes her dark paintings, and their mirror twins, profoundly affecting. **Nick Miller's** film offers a view of the progress of artist and sitter in the making of a single painting. **Jacco Olivier's** monumental projections register painted images at various stages, altering the scale and the nature of mark-making.

GREAT THINGS ARE DONE BY A SERIES OF SMALL THINGS BROUGHT TOGETHER  
*Vincent Van Gogh*

I have also invited **David Beattie**, **Maria McKinney**, **Michael Thomas Murphy** and **Liam O'Callaghan** to make very specific pieces in some of the architecturally intriguing and hidden spaces of this medieval city. These works are variously playful, transcendent, elegiac, contemplative and surprising, and all are knit together by these artists' singular vision of the possibilities of plain things.



*Roses (Black and White),* *Roses (Black and White, Mirrored)*  
Images all 60"x48", oil on linen, 2010. Courtesy of the artist.

## ANN CRAVEN (US)

YOU DON'T NEED A PRESS RELEASE TO TELL YOU THAT CRAVEN'S SUBJECT ISN'T ROSES AT ALL, IT'S THE FLEETING NATURE OF EVERYTHING: ART, MEMORY, LIFE  
*The New Yorker*, June 2010

**Ann Craven** is an artist whose work features recurring subjects such as flowers, birds and the moon. Working in watercolours and oil, she uses these mediums as a laboratory of psychological exploration, producing works that communicate by means of vibrant colour and virtuosic execution.

She began painting roses some years ago, approaching the subject with a deep, intuitive connection to the symbolism of the rose. In her current series of nearly black-and-white paintings, each work is painted from life and then copied as if seen in a mirror, reversing right and left. Seen together – the originals and the reversals – they raise fascinating questions about perception, repetition and difference. Craven's roses immerse the viewer in a dramatic world of changing perception, while her continual reworking of her images becomes, as *Katie Sonnenborn* in *Frieze Magazine* wrote, a "compelling project" that "engages the most pressing issues of today's art world, including questions of consumption, collection, authenticity value and skill."

Ann Craven is based in New York. Recent exhibitions include Prague Biennial, Czech Republic; Maccarone Gallery, New York; La Fondation d'entreprise Ricard, Paris; Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki; Vilma Gold, London. Karma International, Zurich and Conduits, Milan.

Kilkenny Arts Festival is pleased to present this artist's first project in Ireland.

Castle Yard Studio  
 Mon-Sat 10am-5pm  
Sun 10m-6pm

NICHOLAS MOSSE

## NICK MILLER (Ireland/UK)

In this multimedia piece **Nick Miller** draws our attention to the tradition of the reclining nude in art. Taking his lead from the canon of reclining Venuses from Titian to Manet, Miller replaces the traditional female object of desire with a matter-of-fact male presence, exploring issues of exposure and modesty. The accompanying film, set to 'Trumpet Vibe Cello Piano' by **Kevin Volans** (an internationally-celebrated composer known for his work with artists such as William Kentridge and Jurgen Parteneheimer), offers an intimate view of the collaboration between artist and sitter, and the process and practice of applying paint.

Nick Miller is a painter, based in Co. Sligo, who exhibits regularly in Ireland, Europe and the USA. This year he showed at Concord Art Association in Massachusetts and is currently in a group exhibition at The Douglas Hyde Gallery entitled *Interlude (Aspects of Irish landscape painting)*. His work, whether in landscape or in portraiture, is always concerned with 'being there' and his paintings are directly engaged with the presence of the subject.

Kilkenny Arts Festival is pleased to present these related works for the first time in Ireland.

The Heritage Council, Church Lane  
 Mon-Thurs 9am-5.30pm  
Friday 9am-5pm, Sat & Sun 12-5pm



*Painting Patrick: after Olympia and Venus*, 2011.  
Film still courtesy of the artist.

## JACCO OLIVIER (The Netherlands)

Dutch artist **Jacco Olivier** fuses painting and filmmaking, continually reworking his paintings with generous, casual brushstrokes and photographing each stage of their development. The stages are then combined into projected animations that are both enigmatic and experiential. His recent work has eschewed intimacy in favour of large-scale works closer to the language of painting than that of animation. This shift in scale brings to the fore the viewer's relationship to the work as an object, adding a spatial and physical dimension to the viewing experience.



*Revolution* (2010), HD animation 24 minutes, courtesy of the artist.

Jacco Olivier lives and works in Amsterdam. This year he showed at Galerie Thomas Schulte, Berlin and Ron Mandos, Amsterdam and in 2010 he had solo exhibitions at the Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York; Victoria Miro Gallery, London; Blaffer Gallery, University of Houston, Texas and the Centro de Arte Contemporaneo de Caja de Burgos, Spain. His work featured in the 8th SITE Santa Fe Biennial: *The Dissolve* in 2010-11.

Kilkenny Arts Festival is pleased to present this artist's first major large-scale project in Ireland. The curator thanks Ron Mandos Gallery.

Kilkenny City Courthouse, Parliament Street  
 Mon-Fri 10am-6pm  
Sat 10.30am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm

## DAVID BEATTIE (Ireland)

**David Beattie** is an artist who encourages a sense of curiosity and exploration in his act of displacing quotidian objects, playfully welcoming new links and connections to be made between foreign 'things'. With *Transmitter* (2010), installed in the rarely-seen Monuments Room at St Mary's Hall, the artist investigates lunar exploration through a series of found objects and radar devices. In 1946 Project Diana was the first attempt to 'touch' another celestial body outside of Earth by bouncing radio signals off the surface of the moon. Through *Transmitter* Beattie explores this process of physical investigation; a human desire to reaffirm their place in the world while at the same time searching for something beyond the physical self.

David Beattie is MA in Visual Art Practices, Dun Laoghaire IADT, 2006. Solo shows include Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, Dublin (2011); RUA RED, Dublin (2011); Mattress Factory Art Museum, Pittsburgh, USA (2010); Mercer Union Centre for Contemporary Art, Toronto, Canada (2010).



*Transmitter* (detail), 2010. Image courtesy of the artist.

 **Monuments Room, St Mary's Hall**  
 **Mon-Sun 11am-6pm**



*Horny Grids*, 2009. Image courtesy of the artist.

 **Rothe House, Parliament Street**  
 **Mon-Sat 10.30am-6pm, Sun 12-6pm**

## MARIA MCKINNEY (Ireland)

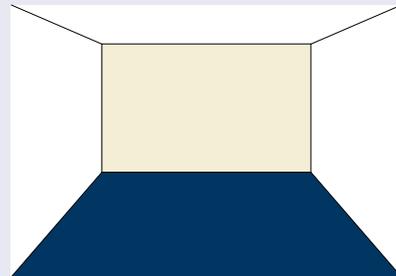
**Maria McKinney** is concerned with ideas of boredom and escapism. She works with familiar objects and materials such as the products or tools of mass consumption; her work aims to draw out an underlying significance through a systematic process of intervention. She considers the physicality of the chosen items as well as their habitual use or purpose. The result is an engrossing enquiry into the ways in which we choose to fill our time with distraction and recreation.

Maria McKinney is BA from University of Ulster in 2005. Solo shows include Mermaid Arts Centre, Wicklow (upcoming November 2011); The Lab, Dublin (2010) and Context Gallery, Derry and Ballina Arts Centre, Co. Mayo (both in 2008).

## MICHAEL THOMAS MURPHY (Ireland)

**Michael Thomas Murphy's** work is multidimensional and multi-layered. The practice incorporates many materials including metal, wood, vinyl, acrylic and paper, which then undergo radical, material-based transformations often deploying flocked surfaces, glitter-encased rocks and reflective pools, to name only a few of his idiosyncratic approaches. The resulting works are derived from iconic influences and mythological narratives which create a meaningful – yet decidedly playful – dialogue between idea and media. His works relate specifically to the spaces they inhabit; seemingly small gestures and accents have the effect of radically altering the nature of places.

Michael Thomas Murphy received a MA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art in 2009. Recent shows include *Trompe Le Monde*, curated by Mary Conlon; *Occupy Space*, Limerick City (2011); and the *panopticon*, as well (2010), curated by Jason Wait for the 4th Biennial of Young Artists in Bucharest.



*what's the matter with you*, 2010.  
Image courtesy of the artist.

 **Kenealy's Art Shop, 25 Lower Patrick Street**  
 **Opening times tbc**

## LIAM O'CALLAGHAN (Ireland)

**Liam O'Callaghan** is "a notably inventive and resourceful artist" (*The Irish Times*) whose playful – even satirical – installations, sculptures and photographs expose the methods or mechanics in their construction and challenge the viewer to construct meanings beyond their constituent parts. *Bit Symphony* is an audio-visual installation constructed from old record players, each one reconfigured to play a specific fragment of music. The result is an extraordinary, immersive experience that fills the rarely-seen Monuments Room at Kilkenny Castle with an evolving symphony of sound.

Liam O'Callaghan studied at Dun Laoghaire IADT until 1990. Solo shows include Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, Dublin (upcoming November 2011) and RascheRipken Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2009). He is an invited artist at Dublin Contemporary 2011.

If you like this then check out *Drums Off Chaos*, featuring vinyl soundscapes from turntable artist Philip Jeck. See p.26 for details



*Bit Symphony*, 2009. Image courtesy of the artist.

 **Monuments Room, Kilkenny Castle**  
 **Mon-Sun 9am-5pm**

## BRUNCH WITH THE ARTISTS

Join the artists for a free, informal brunch on Saturday 6 August from 11.30 to 2pm in Cleere's. There'll be an opportunity to meet the artists, and to hear them discuss their work with special guests including curator **Hugh Mulholland**, art critic **Gemma Tipton** and journalist and playwright **John Waters**. This event is ticketed. To book call the Festival box office.