

Critic's Guide: Dublin

FEBRUARY 11, 2016 *by Gemma Tipton*



In this new series, we ask a critic to select the best shows currently on view in their city. Here, Gemma Tipton selects her highlights from Dublin. A new show will be posted every day this week.

Nick Miller and the studio of Edward McGuire
Irish Museum of Modern Art
19 November – 3 April

For those unfamiliar with the gritty makings of art, the artist's studio is a place of mystery and wonder. They may not realize the fascination that studios also hold for other artists. Following the donation of 130 items from the studio of portrait artist and still life painter Edward McGuire (1932–86) to IMMA, Nick Miller responded by creating an installation through a series of rooms that pair portraits by both artists, and highlight objects from McGuire's collection. The results are a meditation on painting and on the meaning of time. McGuire would frequently take years to complete a portrait, while Miller prefers to complete works in days. A McGuire painting of Wanda Ryan-Smolin as a child features her holding a toy doll. Miller's painting of her as an adult is displayed alongside, next to the doll itself, now in a vitrine. Each has become ageless: the doll devoid of its once sentimental value, the paintings now subject to the vicissitudes of taste.