



CENTRE CULTUREL  
IRLANDAIS

PARIS

## De l'émergence du Phénix

From 25 November 2011 to 20 January 2012

Opening 24 November 6.30pm – 8pm, free

Group exhibition with works by

**Rhona Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Mark Garry, Jaki Irvine, William McKeown & Dennis McNulty**

Curator: **Caroline Hancock**

A fantastical bird which rises back to life from the ashes of its own demise, the Phoenix conjures up notions of unreality, entrapment and freedom, regeneration and emergence. Within this open premise and the context of Ireland's economic crisis, six of the country's leading contemporary artists have been invited to show work at the Centre Culturel Irlandais. **An ode to the generative power of artistic creation, the exhibition includes video, photography, painting, and sculptures.** A dialogue emerges between the grand fictional firebird and familiar, more humble birds.

**Dorothy Cross** often works with animals she finds on the shore of Western Ireland where she lives. *Gannet* (2005), known as the albatross of the North, emerges in full flight from a pop-up screen. The merging of reality and projection presents wonder. *Three Finches* (2008) in bronze lie on their backs appearing wounded. On their breasts, the small folds of female genitalia suggest the reproductive potential of nature.

**Jaki Irvine** filmed *Guanajuato 14* (2010) at that address in Mexico City as the hummingbird flits between a mundane and symbolic space of life, fertility and joy, oblivious to, but embedded in, the working environment beyond. Time and space are in an in-between state, multiplied and overlapping.

**Mark Garry** recycles fallen sycamore leaves, patiently folding them into origami birds. Combining tradition and current awareness, his interests lie in haptic practices, in the repetitive and endlessly creative process of making pieces from ephemeral, simple materials. New forms appear and inhabit space.

Also modular, **Dennis McNulty's** *flexible units/still* (2009) combines manufactured polypropylene tiles into an abstract vortex or thrust full of future potential. Pure plastic materiality is given movement and intention. Three-dimensional geometric strategies open the possibility of an expanded engineering and architectural application. A sculpture becomes a structure. A structure becomes a sculpture.

Produced specifically for this exhibition, **Rhona Byrne's** three photographs were taken in a crematorium in Dublin; they explore the materiality of the cremation process. *Narrating land, sky and sea* (2011) is a poignant visual essay on the capacity for transformation and potentiality. Both personal and universal in its poetry, this series refers to disappearance and resurgence.

**William McKeown's** small abstract painting, *Starlings* (2008), shares the experience of a private moment: the sight of a fleeting passage of birds that also are certain to return. The pulsating central brushstrokes are a camaïeu of greys. A master of colour, space and light, known for his highly sensitive installations, William McKeown is also the author of the discrete tonal change in the gallery space.

The designated paint for the gallery was kindly sponsored by Farrow & Ball.

This exhibition received the support of Culture Ireland.

**LIST OF WORKS →**

## LIST OF WORKS

### From left to right :

#### **Dennis McNulty**

born in 1970 in Ireland; lives and works in Dublin and Berlin

*flexible units/still*, 2009

Polypropylene tiles, cable ties, photographic tape, metal and rope

Courtesy of the artist and Green on Red, Dublin

#### **William McKeown**

born in 1962 in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland; died on 25 October 2011 in Edinburgh, UK

*Starlings*, 2008

Oil on linen

Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

#### **Dorothy Cross**

born in 1956, Cork, Ireland; lives and works in Connemara, Ireland

*Gannet*, 2005

Gannet and screen

Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

*Three Finches*, 2008

Bronze

Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

#### **Mark Garry**

born in 1972, Mullingar, Ireland; lives and works in Dublin

*Afterwards*, 2011

Sycamore leaves and origami

Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

#### **Rhona Byrne**

born in 1972, Dublin, Ireland; lives and works in Dublin

*Narrating land, sky and sea*, 2011

3 Ultrachrome prints

Courtesy of the artist

#### **Jaki Irvine**

born in 1966, Dublin, Ireland; lives and works in Dublin

*Guanajuato 14*, 2010

HD DVD, 4 mins 6 secondes

Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin

### Exhibition opening hours :

Tuesday to Saturday 2pm to 6pm ; opens Wednesdays until 8pm ; Sundays from 12.30 to 2.30.

Closed Mondays and bank holidays.

Closed on 29 and 30 November and from 24 December 11 to 2 January 12.

### Admission Free

[www.centreculturelirlandais.com](http://www.centreculturelirlandais.com)