

## **Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane**

Seminar: *Artist as Witness - Migrations*

Wednesday 24th May 14:00 – 17:00

*Artist as Witness - Migrations* is a seminar in response to the exhibition *Port Life - Eugeen Van Mieghem*. Invited speakers will take Mieghem's work as a starting point to explore the idea of the 'Artist as Witness' in society and will expand into broader contemporary issues, such as climate change, labour migration and globalisation challenging the world today.

For centuries various forms of art practices have responded to real world experiences and artists have consciously taken on the role of witness to events - from the intimate to the historical in scale - across human society. What does being a witness mean for an artist and how has such a role changed over time? Can meaningful work result? What responsibilities do artists and the art process take on and how can these responsibilities be fulfilled?

These questions and more will be discussed by Alaina Claire Feldman, Dr Niamh Ann Kelly and Erwin Joos in individual presentations and a chaired discussion with Declan McGonagle.

This seminar is initiated by Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane in collaboration with the Port Perspectives Programme – a focus on reconnecting Dublin port and Dublin city.

**Alaina Claire Feldman** is Director of Exhibitions at Independent Curators International (ICI), New York.

**Dr Niamh Ann Kelly** is a lecturer in Visual Culture at the Dublin School of Creative Arts, DIT

**Erwin Joos** is the Director of Museum Eugeen Van Mieghem

**Declan McGonagle** is the curator of the engagement programme for Port Perspectives.

**FREE. To book your place please go to: [www.eventbrite.ie](http://www.eventbrite.ie) search *Port Perspectives Seminar: The Artist as Witness***

**For further information please contact Liliane Puthod or Jessica O'Donnell, tel. 01 2225558 or 2225550**



## **Biographies**

### **Alaina Claire Feldman**

Alaina Claire Feldman is a curator and Director of Exhibitions at Independent Curators International (ICI). She was previously an editor at May Revue. Over several years, Feldman has worked with the Centre Audiovisuel Simone de Beauvoir to translate and distribute videos in the archive, culminating in exhibitions at The Kitchen (New York) and SPACE (London). She has organized exhibitions, performances, panels, publications and screenings with artists such as Martha Wilson, Gran Fury, Lorraine O'Grady, Frances Scholz and Mark von Schlegell, Dan Graham, Ulrike Ottinger, The Otolith Group, Allan Sekula and many others. Her writing has appeared in art journals and in the exhibition catalogues for BLESS N°41 Retroperspektives Home (Kunsthaus Graz), Self-Timer Stories (Museum der Moderne Salzburg and Austrian Cultural Forum NY) Apichatpong Weerasethakul: The Serenity of Madness (ICI & MAIIAM) and Partenza: Renata Poljak (Galerije Umjetnina, Split). She curated the exhibition *The Ocean After Nature*, which has been shown at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco), School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts, Boston and the Anne & Gordon Samstag Museum of Art, Adelaide, Australia, and which will be exhibited at The Hugh Lane from 7 September 2017 to 7 January 2018.

### **Dr Niamh Ann Kelly**

Dr Niamh Ann Kelly is a lecturer in Visual Culture at the Dublin School of Creative Arts and since 2010 chairs the BA in Visual and Critical Studies programme and an Associate Fellow of Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media. In 2010 she obtained a Doctorate, *cum laude*, for her PhD research thesis, titled *History by Proxy - Imaging the Great Irish Famine*, from the University of Amsterdam ([www.hum.uva.nl/asca/](http://www.hum.uva.nl/asca/))

Niamh Ann graduated from the National College of Art and Design Dublin, with Joint Honours BA Degree in Painting and the History of Art (1997) and an MA Degree in the History of Art (1999) for her research thesis, *The Creation of an Irish Visual Heritage: The Collection at the Irish Museum of Modern Art*. Before working at DIT she taught at NCAD and Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology She also worked at the National Museum of Ireland, Decorative Arts and History, where she contributed to the development of a number of public education programmes, including the setting up after-school workshops for children.

Since joining DIT in 2000, she has been actively involved in pioneering new strategies of delivery of Critical Theory for online learners and implementing interdisciplinary cross-school Theory Seminars for undergraduate students. She was Coordinator for Critical Theory for the School of Art Design & Printing until 2013 and led the team development of the BA Visual and Critical Studies, the first such degree programme in Ireland, which was launched in 2010. She also teaches on the MA Programmes at the School and is a post-graduate research supervisor.

She has published chapters in academic books on the subject of memory and visual culture and is also an art writer and researcher and freelance art critic, contributing to publications (*Art Monthly; The Irish Review; Visual Artists' News Sheet Review Supplement; Cara Magazine; Museum Ireland; Sculpture Society of Ireland Newsletter; Circa; Source Photographic Review*) and radio programmes in Ireland and the UK (BBC 4, *Night Waves*; RTE 1, *Sunday Miscellany*; Lyric FM, *Artszone*; RTE 1, *Rattlebag*). She has written research texts and essays for art catalogues and publications and has delivered workshops, lectures, talks and acted as chair in public art and heritage venues.

### **Erwin Joos**

Erwin Joos studied Applied Economic Sciences and Finance. He is the founder of the Eugeen Van Mieghem Stichting/Foundation in 1982 and of the Eugeen Van Mieghem Museum, Antwerp, in 1993. He is co-founder and sponsor of the American Friends of the Red Star Line. Since 2000 he has been the full time president of the Van Mieghem Foundation and curator of the Van Mieghem Museum, which is housed in the Redershuis in Antwerp. He has published numerous books on Eugeen Van Mieghem, including the recent publication *Eugeen Van Mieghem: The Port*. He has organised exhibitions in cooperation with museums in England, Switzerland, The Netherlands, France, the USA, Germany and Belgium. Erwin Joos worked with The Hugh Lane to organise *Port Life* and has contributed a key essay to the exhibition catalogue.

### **Declan McGonagle**

Declan McGonagle worked and exhibited as an artist before working as a curator in the Orchard Gallery, Derry and as Exhibitions Director in the ICA, London. He was the founding Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin and has directed several independent international exhibitions and public art projects in Ireland and the UK, with related engagement programmes. He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize and has served on the Turner Prize jury, among other international juries, and was Ireland's Commissioner for the Venice and Sao Paulo Biennales. He led the Civil Arts Inquiry, Dublin and Interface – a research project dealing with Art and Contested space - in University of Ulster, Belfast. He was Director of the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, up to 2015. He curates, writes and lectures regularly on relations between art, artist, institutional practice and public value.