

Events

Summer Screenings

The Best of Decades: Painting and Sculpture of the 1960s from the Collection. Free.

1pm, Friday 5 August

Ireland: The Tear and the Smile - Part 1

(Directed by Willard Van Dyke, 1961, 27 minutes)

Presented in collaboration with the Irish Film Institute. This film is preserved in the IFI Irish Film Archive.

1pm, Friday 12 August

Ireland: The Tear and the Smile - Part 2

(Directed by Willard Van Dyke, 1961, 27 minutes)

1pm, Friday 19 August

SIAR 50: The Contemporary Irish Art Society

(Directed by Joe Lee, 2006, 39 minutes)

The Director will attend and be available for Q&A about the production after the screening.

1pm, Friday 26 August

ROSC: A Poetry of Vision

The Director will attend and be available for Q&A about the production after the screening.

(Directed by Ciarán Scott, 1979, 27 minutes)

Study Morning – Art in Ireland in the 1960s

10.00am – 1.30pm, Friday 9 September

This study morning will reflect on various exhibitions in Ireland in the 1960s, including *Art USA Now* and *Francis Bacon*, both held at The Hugh Lane. This event is free and booking can be made at <http://bestofdecades.eventbrite.ie>. See www.hughlane.ie for programme updates.

Family Programme

Events for our younger audiences, including artist-led workshops, Sunday Sketching sessions and guided tours. For further information, please visit the Kids Club section of our website: www.hughlane.ie/kids-club.

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane

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Admission Free

Opening Hours:

Tuesday to Thursday 9.45am–6pm

Friday 9.45am–5pm

Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 11am–5pm

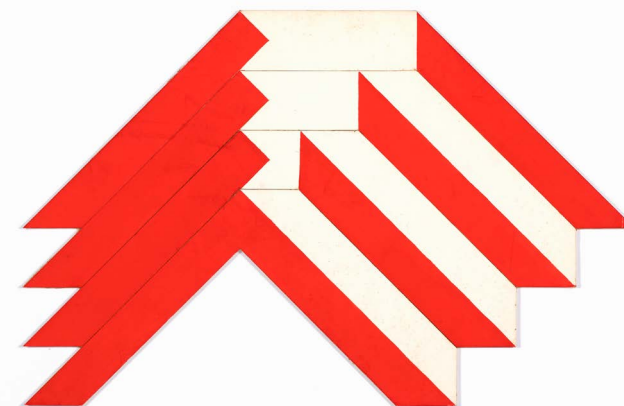
Closed Mondays



Cover image: Paul Mosse, *Study (Red / White)*, 1968 © The Artist



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1916-2016



The Best of Decades

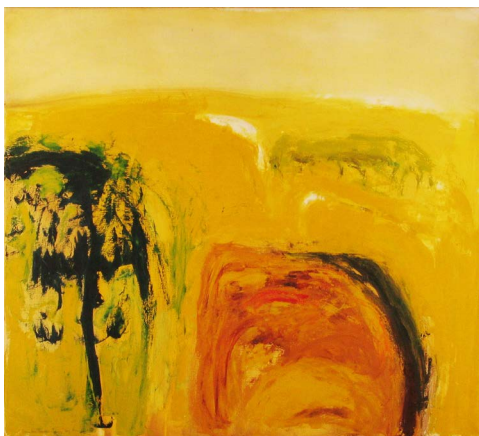
Painting and Sculpture of the
1960s from the Collection

14 June – 11 September 2016

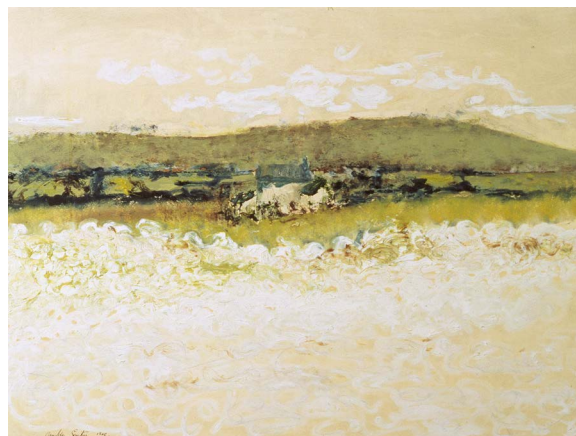
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Céad Bliain
Centenary
Programme



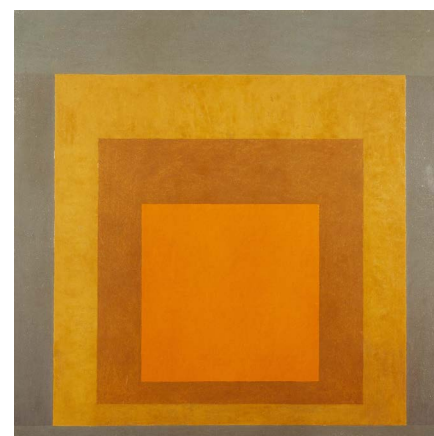
Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Sean McSweeney, *Summer*, 1967
© The Artist



Camille Souter, *Waiting To Go On The Canal*, 1968
© The Artist



Josef Albers, *Homage To The Square – Aglow*, 1963
© The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation/VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn 2016

The Best of Decades Painting and Sculpture of the 1960s from the Collection

14 June – 11 September 2016

This exhibition drawn from the Gallery's collection reflects the vitality of the Irish art scene in the 1960s. While not a conclusive visual history of the period, it includes many of the key figures in Ireland such as Patrick Scott, Nano Reid, Louis le Brocquy, Elizabeth Rivers and Edward Delaney, alongside selected international artists such as Brian Wall, Sydney Nolan and Henri Hayden.

In the early part of the decade Ireland enjoyed a period of relative affluence with a decline in emigration – hence the title of Fergal Tobin's history of the period, *The Best of Decades*. During the 1960s the Irish Government's programmes of economic expansion were echoed in cultural landmarks such as the birth of the national television station, Telefís Éireann and the construction of Ireland's 'first skyscraper', Liberty Hall. The context would change however at the end of the decade with the rise of the Civil Rights movement in Northern Ireland and escalation of violence in the region that became known as 'The Troubles'.

New artists' organisations established in the period include Graphic Studio Dublin, the Independent Artists, Group 65 and the New Artists Group. As a response to the changing times the Irish Exhibition of Living Art, founded in 1943, initiated the Carroll's Prize for artists under the age of forty in 1964. New venues opened such as the Exhibition Hall at Trinity College, a forerunner to the Douglas Hyde Gallery, and Project Arts Centre, which began as a three week festival at the Gate Theatre in 1966 before establishing a space on Abbey Street. The Arts Council of Ireland founded a collection of contemporary Irish art and actively promoted touring exhibitions.

The Contemporary Irish Art Society was another of the many initiatives during this decade that sought to provide greater opportunities for artists, who continued to face economic challenges. Several of these initiatives survive to this day, such as Project, the CIAS and Graphic Studio Dublin, providing valuable infrastructure for the visual arts in Ireland.

Many of the works in this exhibition were presented by the CIAS, established in 1962 to develop artistic patronage in Ireland. Its members purchased many works for The Hugh Lane (known then as the Municipal Gallery of Modern Art). Until 1991 when the Irish Museum of Modern Art

was established, The Hugh Lane was the sole national collection of modern art in Ireland but did not have a purchasing budget until 1969. Throughout the 1960s under the leadership of the former curators of this gallery, James White (1961-64) followed by Ethna Waldron (1965-90), the gallery was invigorated with several ambitious international exhibitions and education programmes. These included shows such as *ART USA NOW* in 1964 and *Francis Bacon* in 1965.

Abroad, artists regularly represented Ireland at international events such as the Guggenheim Award in New York and the Paris Biennale. After an absence, Ireland again selected artists to represent Ireland at the Venice Biennale. Patrick Scott was selected in 1960 and Jack B. Yeats in 1962. The outstanding series of exhibitions of international contemporary art known as ROSC began in Dublin in 1967 and continued until 1988. The decade culminated in major exhibitions of Irish art overseas including *Modern Irish Painting*, organised by the Arts Council, which toured Scandinavia, Germany and England from 1969 to 1971, and *The Irish Imagination 1959-1971*, curated by artist and critic Brian O'Doherty and shown as part of *ROSC '71* before touring the United States.