



Exploring the art of Ailbhe Ní Bhriain at Hugh Lane Gallery

**HUGH LANE
GALLERY**



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

About the Artist

- Ailbhe Ní Bhriain is a contemporary Irish artist.
- This means that she is a living artist working today. This is in contrast to some artists represented in our collection who lived and died in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Ailbhe was born in County Clare and she now lives and works in County Cork.
- Ailbhe works with film, computer generated imagery, collage, tapestry, print and installation.
- Her work has been exhibited both in Ireland and internationally and she sometimes collaborates with musicians and composers.



Interval III by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

- Ailbhe has created a new series of artworks for the Hugh Lane Gallery exhibition called *The Dream Pool Intervals*.
- There are five large jacquard tapestries in this exhibition.
- A tapestry is a woven fabric with images or designs.
- ‘Jacquard’ is a type of fabric with intricately woven threads and raised, textured areas.
- The artist loves ancient myths and looking at old photos for inspiration in her work.
- There are often many different images layered or torn and placed over each other in her art.



There are also animals within the tapestries! Look closely. Can you spot any in this image?



Here are some of the animals to be on the lookout for when you visit the exhibition!

Can you name them?



Can you find this snake and the stray cat in the tapestries?



We have reached a certain depth (I) by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

- There are other animals in the exhibition too!
- This cat is a sculpture that is on display. You will see it at the start of the exhibition placed in front of a window.
- The cat is lying on a cloth floating on a shiny black surface.
- Does the shiny black surface remind you of anything?
- Do you think the cat is dreaming?
- What do think the cat may be dreaming about?



Ailbhe depicts cats often in her art. If you created an exhibition, which animal would you like to display and why?

- Ailbhe's tapestries are woven from digital collages that she makes first.
- A collage is a piece of art made from different pieces of paper, photos and other materials layered and torn and mixed together. Collages might also have paintings and drawings on them. There are paint strokes at the top of this image.
- Ailbhe layers different images over one another and turns them into a new image.



What is going on in this artwork?

- What can you see in this tapestry that tells you that there are a lot of different images in it? Is it strange to look at?
- Are there areas missing or 'torn' out?
- Describe the colours in this artwork.



Interval III by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain



Assemble (II) by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

- There are other types of objects in this exhibition such as photographs and vase objects. Notice the framed artworks on the walls as you walk through the spaces. Describe the colours and textures in these works.
- There are vases displayed low to the ground in gallery 10. They are on see-through plinths. A plinth is something on which a sculpture or object is placed.



Do the vases look like they are floating?

- These are delicate objects and we have to remember that we can't touch anything in the gallery!
- These vases are similar to ones that you might have seen in different kinds of museums. Do they remind you of another museum you have visited before?



Above: *Picture IX* and Below *Picture XII*, Diptych by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain



- These are pieces of abstract art that are created by the artist from the backs of photographs!
- Ailbhe enjoys using ordinary things and turning them into artwork to put in a gallery or museum. Do you think the everyday objects become more important because they are in a museum?



Just like how ancient vases were ordinary objects for people of the past, photographs are ordinary object for us today.

- Why do you think the artist choose to show the back of the photograph?
- What everyday object would you like to display in a museum? Why?

We hope you enjoy your visit and see you soon at the
Hugh Lane Gallery!

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