



ELI AND EDYTHE **BROAD ART MUSEUM** MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

2116: Forecast for the Next Century
Challenges Sixteen Artists to Imagine Ireland's Future
through Sculpture, Painting, Video, and Performance Art

Exhibition's U.S. Premiere Marks Anniversary of Nation's Easter Rising

East Lansing, MI — August 31, 2016 — The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University (Broad MSU) is partnering with the Lewis Glucksman Gallery at the University College Cork, Ireland to present a new exhibition that features contemporary Irish artists' visions of the country's changing society and imagined future. On view November 5, 2016 – April 2, 2017, *2116: A Forecast of the Next Century* will feature new and existing works by sixteen Irish artists.

On the centennial of the Easter Rising, one of Ireland's most pivotal political events which is widely accepted as a significant catalyst within the Irish independence movement, the artists in *2116* project a variety of interpretations of the country's future and place within global society.

"This exhibition provides a platform to consider Ireland's history, culture, politics, and evolving social identity," said Marc-Olivier Wahler, Director of the Broad MSU. "The spirit of experimentation inherent in the work of these artists challenged to envision a distant future, in turn asks visitors to examine the present through a variety of social and cultural lenses. We are proud to partner with another University art institution, the Glucksman Gallery at University College Cork, to bring the work of these artists to American audiences."

Artists featured in *2116* confront the question of the island nation's future drawing upon many different inspirations—from literature and architecture to technology, the food economy, the natural environment, and individual and collective identity. Site-specific works by Amanda Coogan and Lee Welch will incorporate elements of the Museum's dynamic Zaha Hadid-designed building, and performances will activate the galleries throughout the exhibition's run.

"As Ireland marks a milestone in its history, one hundred years on from the Easter Rising that would lead to its independence, we have challenged the country's artists to take this moment to reflect on what may be to come in the next hundred years," said Caitlín Doherty, exhibition co-curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Broad MSU. "*2116* closely considers one evolving culture, though many of the themes addressed in the exhibition will resonate well beyond Ireland as countries around the globe contend with shifting identities in an increasingly interdependent world."

Highlighted works in the exhibition include:

- Darn Thorn's *Aggiornamento #1* and *Aggiornamento #2* (2016), a presentation of digitally altered images of 1960's modernist architecture that proposes a utopic future where unfulfilled promises by celebrated philosophers of the past come to fruition.
- The Centre for Genomic Gastronomy's *Future Food Cults* (2016), a mixed-media installation by the artist-led think tank dedicated to examining biotechnologies and biodiversity of human food systems. The installation features digital prints, short stories, and packaged food items and addresses impending threats to global food security.

- Amanda Coogan's *Rock, what's the matter with you, Rock* (2016), a performance piece realized in collaboration with MSU theater students that features several participants walking backwards through the galleries while holding mirrors of varying sizes, simultaneously reflecting themselves, the audience, and the Museum's stark architecture. The re-contextualization of this simple gesture reflects upon how individuals negotiate built environments and how we view others and the self.
- Lee Welch will utilize the large, angular windows within the Museum's Minskoff gallery as the canvas for his work, *Sea Sere Sees, Seam Sow* (2016), painting gold swathes across the space in shapes reminiscent of early Celtic symbols that reflect an unknowable future of indecipherable language and codes. The artist will also be represented with *To see without looking* (2016), a series of walk-throughs of the exhibition led by a visually impaired tour guide, igniting a deep level of sensitivity and examination of how one perceives a work of art.
- Ailbhe Ní Bhriain's *Reports to an Academy* (2015) takes Franz Kafka's short story 'A Report to an Academy' and its exploration of how identity is performed as inspiration for a multi-screen projection that employs filmed imagery relating to an idealized, traditional representation of Ireland and reconstructs them through a virtual, computer-generated world—questioning borders between the past and future, the real, remembered, and imagined.

2116: Forecast of the Next Century has been organized in collaboration between the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at MSU and the Lewis Glucksman Gallery, and co-curated by Caitlín Doherty, Broad MSU Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs; Chris Clarke, Senior Curator at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery; and Fiona Kearney, Director at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery. Support for this exhibition is provided by Culture Ireland and the Eli and Edythe Broad Endowed Exhibition Fund.

Caitlín Doherty, 2116 Co-Curator and Broad MSU Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs

Caitlín Doherty, Curator and Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs since spring 2015, has curated several internationally recognized exhibitions at the Broad MSU including *Moving Time: Video Art at 50, 1965-2015*, *Andrew Sendor: Paintings, Drawings, and a Film*, and *The Artist as Activist: Tayeba Begum Lipi and Mahbubur Rahman*. From 2012 – 2015, she served as Exhibitions and Speaker Curator at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (VCUQatar), where she organized major exhibitions of international contemporary art and design and curated the *Crossing Boundaries Lecture Series*, featuring renowned contemporary artists, designers, and leaders within the artistic community including Ellen Lupton, Joachim Sauter, Francesco Bonami, Shirin Neshat, Marina Abramović, and Richard Serra. From 2006 – 2008, Doherty worked as Director of Lismore Castle Arts, one of Ireland's leading contemporary art galleries. She also directed the interdisciplinary arts and cultural initiative *Artswave* and acted as Visual Arts Coordinator for Garter Lane Arts Centre in Waterford. Doherty has published and lectured on contemporary art and museum practice, and holds degrees in Art History and Museum and Gallery Studies from The University of Edinburgh and The University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

Chris Clarke, 2116 Co-Curator and Senior Curator at Lewis Glucksman Gallery

Chris Clarke is Senior Curator at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery, where he has curated exhibitions including *Everything Must Go: Art and the Market*; *Stitch in Time: The Fabric of Contemporary Life*; *Selective Memory: Artists in the Archive*; *Fieldworks: Animal Habitats in Contemporary Art*; *Modern Families: Relatives and Relationships in Art*; and *Passports: Globalisation in Contemporary European Video*. Previously Clarke was Visual Arts Engagement Manager, responsible for public programmes and projects at Cornerhouse, Manchester. Clarke has published extensively about contemporary art and is a frequent contributor to art journals and magazines including *Art Monthly*, *Source*, *VAN* and *Photography and Culture*. In 2015, Clarke curated the Newfoundland and Labrador official representation at the Venice Art Biennale.

Fiona Kearney, 2116 Co-Curator and Director of Lewis Glucksman Gallery

Fiona Kearney is Director of the Lewis Glucksman Gallery where she has curated *Boolean Expressions: contemporary art and mathematical data*, *Folly: Art after Architecture*, *The Artist's Eye: Photographic Portraits of Artists*, *Living/Loss: The Experience of Illness in Art*, *Modern American Painting from the NYU Art Collection*; *The Year of the Golden Pig: Contemporary Chinese Art from the Sigg Collection* and *Through the Looking Glass*:

Childhood in Contemporary Photography. In July 2008, she was the Irish commissioner for the European Night at the Rencontres d'Arles international photography festival and in June 2013, she was invited to curate a major exhibition of Irish art at the Galleria Civica contemporary art museum in Modena, Italy. *Island: New Art from Ireland* formed part of the International Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the European Union. Throughout her academic and professional career, Fiona has received several distinguished awards including the designation of college scholar by UCC, bursary awards from the Arts Council of Ireland, the NUI Prix d'Honneur from the French Government, and a UCC President's Award for Research on Innovative Forms of Teaching.

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum at Michigan State University

Opened on November 10, 2012, the dynamic 46,000-square-foot museum serves as both a teaching institution and a cultural hub for East Lansing and the region. In keeping with MSU's commitment to applying knowledge to benefit society and further the global common good, the Broad MSU's program of original and traveling exhibitions; initiatives with living artists; performances; and educational offerings for students, faculty, and the community make the museum a center for questioning and understanding the modern world. With a collection containing 7,500 objects from the Greek and Roman periods through the Renaissance and on to the Modern, the Broad MSU is uniquely able to contextualize the wide range of contemporary art practices within a firm historical context. The museum is named in honor of Eli and Edythe Broad, longtime supporters of the university who provided the lead gift of \$28 million. For more information, visit www.broadmuseum.msu.edu.

Michigan State University

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