



Facing Pages

The Art of The Great Book of Ireland

Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork
11 April – 13 July 2014

Published in 1991 and acquired by University College Cork in 2013, The Great Book of Ireland captures a significant moment of Ireland's cultural production. This exhibition explores the ideas that went into the creation of the manuscript, the ways in which collections offer insight into specific historical moments and the legacy of such anthologies.

Through significant works on loan from the Irish Museum of Modern Art as well as UCC's own art collection, **Facing Pages** provides an opportunity to encounter the art of many of the visual artists who contributed to The Great Book such as Robert Ballagh, Cecily Brennan, Barrie Cooke, Michael Farrell, Eithne Jordan, Louis le Brocqy, Tony O'Malley, and Kathy Prendergast.

A series of 'listening stations' placed throughout the exhibition enables visitors to consider the literary aspect of The Great Book which includes poetry by Ciaran Carson, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Theo Dorgan, Seamus Heaney, and Derek Mahon, as well as Samuel Beckett's final poem. These sites also present a series of photographic images by Amelia Stein, documenting the inscription of their texts by John Montague and Seamus Heaney.

Facing Pages: The Art of The Great Book of Ireland includes an extensive programme of readings, lectures, workshops and musical performances, developed with colleagues from University College Cork's Boole Library, School of English and School of Music and Theatre. This programme explores ideas of collaboration between disciplines of visual art, music and literature, the context of the Great Book's production, and the legacy and relevance of the manuscript to scholars and the general public today.

Facing Pages: The Art of The Great Book of Ireland is supported by The Arts Council of Ireland, University College Cork, the Irish Museum of Modern Art's National Programme, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and private philanthropy through Cork University Foundation.

For further discussion of the exhibition, press images or more detailed information, please contact:

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Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, Ireland.

Above images: (Left) **Charles Tyrell**, *Flush*, 1987, Oil on canvas, 175 x 175cm, University College Cork Art Collection, Purchase by Visual Arts and the President of UCC Dr. Mortell, 1990

(Right) **Robert Ballagh**, *Two Men and a Lichtenstein*, 1974, Acrylic on canvas, 244 x 244cm, Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art, Heritage Gift, P.J. Carroll & Co. Ltd. Art Collection, 2005, IMMA.1842

Notes on events in the exhibition

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery makes great art available to everyone. A wide range of events and activities are programmed for all abilities throughout the exhibition run. You can view the entire season in our seasonal brochure at <http://glucksman.org/CurrentBrochure.pdf>

For an expert audience:

Evening Readings: Poets from The Great Book of Ireland

This special series of evening readings invites you to experience poetry live in the Glucksman Gallery and features contributors to The Great Book, including Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, Ciarán Carson, Paula Meehan, Eavan Boland, and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin.

To discover more about the exhibition:

Art & Ideas: Collecting and Curating

Exploring the ways in which exhibitions, cultural projects and artistic and literary practices are researched, selected and represented, **Art & Ideas** features talks by Sarah Glennie (Director, Irish Museum of Modern Art) and Theo Dorgan (writer, poet and editor of The Great Book of Ireland)

To introduce young people and communities to art:

Creative Workshops: art activities for groups

These sessions introduce participants to different ways of making artists' books through creative activities in the gallery that relate to the current exhibitions. For booking and workshop information, please contact education@glucksman.org.