

FOLLY

Art after Architecture

Lewis Glucksman Gallery
until 23 March 2013



Artists: **Jeff Carter, Blaise Drummond, Laura Gannon, Pierre Huyghe, Chris Mottalini, Eamon O’Kane, Hiroshi Sugimoto and Jane and Louise Wilson.**

Curated by **Gary Boyd and Fiona Kearney**

FOLLY brings together Irish and international contemporary artists whose work has been inspired by iconic landmarks of architectural modernism. From Eileen Gray’s seminal E1027 to Mies Van der Rohe’s restored Farnsworth House, Paul Rudolph’s demolished residences to Walter Gropius’s imagined Chicago Tribune Tower, the buildings referenced here have had a mixed collection of fates. Their presence in this exhibition affords them another afterlife. The qualities that make the architecture significant are played-with, praised, exposed, re-canonised, and made ambiguous.

Many of the artworks in the exhibition are concerned with ideas of representation and interpretation, as well as the history and space of the specific modernist structures they explore. By creating fictional moments, questioning conventional documentation and excavating troubled histories of production, the selected artists invite you to think about how we experience and understand architecture today.

FOLLY includes **Hiroshi Sugimoto’s** celebrated photographic studies that deliberately blur distinctive landmarks of 20th century architecture. These out of focus pictures are at odds with conventional architectural photography. Instead of the high level of detail we associate with the documentation of well-known structures, we are presented with dreamlike images. Sugimoto’s work suggests that architecture is experienced and remembered as a series of indistinct forms. His beguiling, considered photography slows down the spectacle of architecture to provide us with another way of seeing the built environment.

The historical weight and narratives that accumulate around architecture are explored by a number of artists in the exhibition. **Pierre Huyghe's** film *This is Not a Time for Dreaming* investigates Le Corbusier's one and only building in North America, the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard while **Jane and Louise Wilson** explore the history of Victor Pasmore's Apollo Pavilion, a derelict and subsequently restored work of public art, that prompts questions about the legacy of brutalism in an urban context. In her 2-channel film piece, **Laura Gannon** considers the controversial circumstances of Eileen Gray's seminal E1027 house in Cap-Martin. **Chris Mottalini** documents the now demolished homes of Paul Rudolph in a poignant series *After You Left, They Took It Apart*. Many of Mottalini's photographs were shot just days before the residences were torn down and the images have an elegiac tone that both laments and pays tribute to significant works of architecture that are not cared for and preserved.

On a lighter note, **Jeff Carter** modifies IKEA products to create a playful homage to Walter Gropius's plans for the Chicago Tribune Tower. **Eamon O'Kane** reflects on the experience of architecture in his colourful paintings of works by Alvar Aalto, Philip Johnson and Lina Bo Bardi, his use of vivid pigments contrasting with the stark monochromatic tones usually associated with modernist architecture and the titles suggesting how external factors such as music and environment can influence our reading of any building. **Blaise Drummond's** work focuses on the Farnsworth House, using the recognisable form of Mies van der Rohe's masterpiece to generate new worlds where the often isolated constructions of modernism are depicted in a colourful exchange with advertising images and the natural world.

FOLLY is supported by The Arts Council of Ireland, the Cork Centre for Architectural Education, UCC/CIT, the British Council and private philanthropy through Cork University Foundation.

Notes on the artists and the artworks

FOLLY includes work by two Irish artists Eamon O’Kane and Laura Gannon. Eamon O’Kane is currently Professor of Visual Arts at Bergen National Academy of the Arts in Norway. He is a Fulbright scholar and has presented solo exhibitions of his work at the Sheldon Art Museum, Nebraska, the Crawford Gallery, Cork, the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin and Rare Gallery, New York. Laura Gannon’s film *A house in Cap-Martin* receives its Irish premiere in the exhibition. The film was previously shown in the Whitechapel Project Space, London and The Lab, San Francisco.

Chris Mottalini is a Brooklyn-based artist whose architecturally themed photographs have been internationally exhibited and widely published. In October 2013, Columbia College Chicago Press published a monograph of his work, *After You Left, They Took It Apart (Demolished Paul Rudolph Homes)*. This book is available from the Glucksman museum shop.

Pierre Huyghe’s film *This is Not a Time for Dreaming* currently features in his retrospective exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, Paris.

Jeff Carter is Associate Professor in the Department of Art, Media and Design at DePaul University, Chicago. He has exhibited his work at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, the Kunsthalle Hamburg and the Hayward Gallery, London. This is the first time his work has been shown in Ireland.

Jane and Louise Wilson are British artists and twins whose work is based in video, film and photography. Their work in **FOLLY** has been loaned to the Glucksman from the British Council Collection.

Notes on the curators

Gary Boyd is currently Reader in Architecture at the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, Queens University Belfast. He is co-curator of the 2014 Irish Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale.

Fiona Kearney is Director of the Lewis Glucksman Gallery. In this role, she has curated *Through the Looking Glass: Childhood in Contemporary Photography*, *Living/Loss: The Experience of Illness in Art*, and for the Galleria Civica di Modena, *Island: New Art from Ireland*.

The curators are available for interview. For further discussion of the exhibition, press images or more detailed information, please contact:

Chris Clarke, Senior Curator, c.clarke@ucc.ie or +353 21 4901821
Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, Ireland.

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:

Perspectives: How Art Becomes Architecture

Series of talks that considers how artists respond to the architecture and history of the built environment.

Speakers include artists Hughie O'Donoghue and John Gerrard, and curator Nathalie Weadick.

<http://www.glucksman.org/perspectives.html>

To discover more about the exhibition:

Model Architects: Understanding Maquettes

Model Architects invites the graduates who created the architectural models on display in FOLLY to discuss their maquettes and the importance of model-making to the architectural process.

1pm, Thursday 13 March 2014

To introduce young people and communities to art:

Creative Workshops: art activities for groups

These sessions introduce participants to different ways of making art through creative activities in the gallery that relate to the current exhibitions. See <http://www.glucksman.org/workshops.html> for details and please contact education@glucksman.org for booking and workshop information.