

Collecting the New:

Recent Acquisitions to the IMMA Collection

Collecting the New explores artworks recently acquired for the Irish Museum of Modern Art's Collection. The exhibition marks the first occasion that these artworks have been shown in IMMA as part of the Museum's Collection and whilst most of the artworks have been acquired since 2005, some represent earlier acquisitions.

Developed through purchases, donations and loans, IMMA's Permanent Collection comprises approximately 2,500 works by 20th-century and contemporary Irish and International artists. Also included in the Permanent Collection is a significant donation of Old Master prints which forms the Madden Arnholz Collection.

The artworks featured in **Collecting the New** reflect the Museum's acquisition policy based on the principle that the Collection should be firmly rooted in the present. IMMA concentrates on acquiring the work of living artists, but also accepts donations and loans of more historical art objects with a particular emphasis on work from the 1940s onwards – a decade of significant social and cultural change, both in Ireland and worldwide. All artworks acquired by the Museum are approved by the Museum's Acquisitions Committee.

Several artworks in **Collecting the New**, such as Catherine Lee's **Other Voices** and Alexandra do Carmo's **A Willow (Or Without Godot)**, have previously been shown in temporary exhibitions at IMMA. Thus acquiring artworks for the Collection on occasion reflects the Exhibition and Artist Residency Programmes.

Biases and relationships between artworks inevitably occur in any selection of artworks for a collection or exhibition, however it is hoped that **Collecting the New** will be seen as a celebration of the diversity and individuality of each of the art practices represented by these new acquisitions to the National Collection.

[This exhibition is co-curated by Johanne Mullan, National Programmer, and Georgie Thompson, Assistant Curator: Collections.](#)