

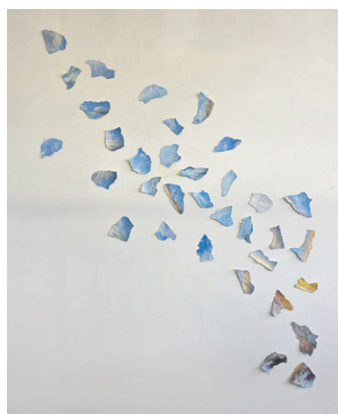
ART & FILM



WITH
DAVID HENNESSY



Under a Changing Sky I - 40x30cm - Nua Artist - Anne Martin Walsh



The Sky is Falling - Installation - Photo transfer, acrylic, BFK Rives paper - Nua Artist - Maria Markham



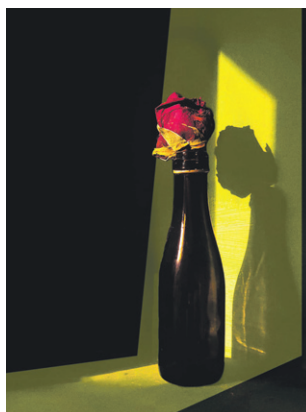
Speak Up - Textile and stitched life photomontage - Nua Artist - Lucy Lambe



The susceptibility of heroism - Charcoal on paper - 65 x 50 cm - Nua Artist - Enrique Hernandez



Atmos II - 120x100cm - Spray Paint on Canvas - Nua Artist - Eamonn B Shanahan



Light spill - 30x20cm - Digital still life photomontage - Nua Artist - Caoimhe Ni Eanna

London debut for Irish arts collective

Irish arts group Nua Collective will this week make its London debut with the show *Under the Same Sky* at Candid Arts Centre in Islington, north London.

It comprises artists from Ireland and others from around the world with ties to Ireland.

The artists come from disciplines of painting, photography, printmaking, video, digital media, and installations.

The collective's London-based founder Eamonn B. Shanahan, from Tipperary, told *The Irish World*: "Bringing it to London is great because it's such a major international stage.

"That we can bring all the artists together to that one space is fantastic, getting as many people to see the work with as few boundaries as possible, that people can just look at it and take what they want from it.

"What's great about London is it is a very metropolitan society where they're pretty accepting no matter what your background is and they're pretty open to what you bring to the table and will respond to it equally as open."

The collective has exhibited across Europe, in the US and in the UK and

Ireland.

Eamonn studied at the Crawford School of Art in Cork and the Central School of Speech of Drama in London.

He said the five-year old original collective, which started during the pandemic, grew to something more international because of social media.

"The initial call out was that you had to be either a resident of Ireland or have some connection to Ireland whether, genetic or generational or whatever.

"One of our artists, Katrina Tračuma, is Latvian. She spent six years studying in Ireland and then lived there another three or four years before moving back to Latvia.

"Those connections are what brings the Irishness to it.

"I work a lot with different cultural organisations and arts offices in Ireland to see how much culture is embedded within our society and how extensive that is across multiple disciplines whether that's visual art, theatre, music, poetry, whatever.

"There's so much in Ireland because we are innately storytellers.

"Katrina is so passionate about Ireland because of how she was able to

connect that ethos and values we have in Ireland and the beliefs we have in the creative arts.

"We do that as Irish people very, very well and we're very passionate people.

"Katrina coined a term a couple of years ago, activism - essentially activism through art and we have quite a heavy, focused connection to climate.

"Ireland is very passionate about certain things and we see that very much in what's happening around the world right now politically."

Asked what he would like people to take from the exhibition Eamonn says: "Irish people are very good at sharing stories and ideas.

"We are presenting ideas some of them slightly controversial, some of them not so, and you just take what you want from it.

"The idea is for somebody to go into that exhibition without premeditated ideas and see something for themselves and take their own view."

Nua Collective's *Under the Same Sky* will be at the Candid Arts Trust in Islington from 20- 23 November. See candidarts.com and nuacollective.com.

The flagship Irish cinematic event *Irish Film Festival London* closed on Sunday evening after five days of feature films, documentaries and short films at West End cinemas.

Many of the film makers took part in Question-and-Answer sessions afterwards.

An associated awards ceremony was held at The Century Club on Shaftesbury Avenue.

The festival launched with a screening of Lance Daly's *Trad* at VUE West End.

Director Daly told *The Irish World*: "It's a brilliant event.

"I've come and shown a lot of other films in London and there's always a good Irish community here."

Trad cast member Labhras Sonnia Cholm Larrai said: "There's been times I've been here watching movies, but I wouldn't think the day would come I'd be one behind the scenes myself."

On Thursday Eamonn Murphy's directorial debut, *Solitary*, was screened at VUE Piccadilly. It is about an aging farmer who finds himself isolated and threatened by rural crime.

Eamonn told *The Irish World*: "It's amazing to be here at the Irish Film Festival in London. It's so nice to see festivals overseas supporting Irish filmmakers and artists."

"The reaction has been very strong especially from people in rural areas who might not necessarily be affected by rural crime but know people who have.

"There's been a very positive response to seeing that reflected on screen.

"It's not like he's lost in the mountains, he's just on his home farm, but the nearest neighbour is probably a ten-minute drive away so if anything does happen, even if he slips, help isn't nearby.

"It's only when you put yourself in that vulnerable position you really start to empathise with that character."

Gerry Herbert, who plays 'Brendan' in *Solitary*, added: "We were shooting in the middle of a rural community who were very welcoming but what was noticeable was, even though the community is thriving during the day, when an individual, particularly an individual of a certain age, goes back to live by themselves in their house and there's nobody around them, then the threat is implicit.

"But in the film and in the script, it's not just implicit, it becomes actual.

"That's where the engine for the story comes from - how Brendan deals with that nighttime threat whilst still nominally being a member of the community."

Solitary was followed by Irish language credit union heist drama, *Aontas*, starring Carrie Crowley, Brid Brennan, and Eva-Jane Gaffney.

Producer Órfhlaith Ní Chearnaigh told *The Irish World*:

"It has just been remarkable. You would think a wee Irish credit union is so distinctly Irish, but the themes

and the story is very universal, and it just proves a good story is a good story - doesn't matter if it's in Irish, doesn't matter if it's set in Ireland.

"If it's written well, directed well, shot well and the cast is as stellar as our cast is, there's no limit to where it can go.

"It's a testament to the writing, the directing and everything.

"We're growing the pool of Irish language actors, Irish language crew as well, producers, directors, writers who speak Irish, who are writing and directing, producing through Irish.

"As someone who's very passionate about Irish language, we're part of a bigger picture because it's a language that has been under threat.

"Part of a healthy living language is there's culture and arts in it and we feel we're one small part of that. That's very special.

"It's just amazing to think where we're going to be in another 10, 15, 20 years."

Claire Frances Byrne, who won awards at the festival before for short films screened her feature-length debut *Ready or Not* on Friday.

Claire Frances Byrne told *The Irish World*: "I have loved this festival for a long time."

She said *Ready or Not* is a coming-of-age drama that deals with the topic of consent with teenagers.

"We should be more comfortable talking about this because it's not going away.

"We need to have these conversations a bit more so we're trying to bring a bit of a lightness to that and be true to the Dublin sense of humour and the Dublin way of coping."

Writer Lynn Ruane added: "I tell working class stories and narratives, but we wanted to find a topic that cuts across all different types of people, all ages, communities, everything - sexual consent doesn't discriminate in terms of a topic that has to be addressed and approached.

"I wanted to write it in the world I live in and love and grew up in - working class Dublin in an era and a period that were my most formative years, the '90s.

"It's a difficult subject but people often face into difficult things with grace and humour and sometimes we forget to put the grace and humour into the most difficult topics.

"This film tries to do that and does it well.

"There's lots of young people who aren't getting to talk openly and honestly and transparently about their young lives, especially when it comes to sex.

"There's still a Catholic hangover in Ireland.

"We're not fully comfortable yet with the idea of very openly talking about sex with a very young age group.

"This film, even though set in the '90s, is very relevant today and I hope it will create and facilitate many conversations at many kitchen tables."

Fourteen-year-old Ruby Conway Dunne, from Cabra, who stars as 'Katie' in *Ready or Not* added: "It was my first time being the lead in a feature



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