



Alliance Française Dublin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Françoise Brung
Cultural Coordinator
01 638 1447
cultural@alliance-francaise.ie

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Jeunes Talents DIT School of Media 2009

23rd July - 11th September

Opening Wednesday 22nd July at 6.30pm

The Alliance Française in Dublin formed a **committee** of some of the leading personalities (**teachers, curators, artists**) of the capital's photographic world with a view to creating a **new premium photographic space** in the city in order to showcase local talent and to forge **new links** in this area between France and Ireland. It was the idea behind our last exhibitions and we continue this month by displaying the **works of five specially selected final year students of the DIT School of Media** .

JB. Maher, Margaret Byrne, Nathan Fields, Orla Sloyan and Una Spain will thus have the opportunity to display their works in the **Alliance Française Photographic Gallery** throughout the summer.

Marking Time by Úna Spain

The intertwined influences of church, state and the economy are referenced in this work which documents three specific sites in the town of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The empty Mercy convent, closed wards of St. Brigid's psychiatric hospital and the remnants of the A.T. Cross pen factory all lie in a liminal state awaiting a new function. They are indicators of rapidly changing local landscape and collectively reference space, time and memory.

@t Home with virtual strangers by Margaret Byrne

The internet has made tourists of us all. We are all habituated to surfing the web but how well prepared are we for surfing a stranger's couch? This work explores the global online phenomenon known as couch surfing by documenting the various users who requested to surf my couch through the website www.couchsurfing.com.

With only information from the email exchanged and ambiguous profile descriptions to go on, how do we really know what we are letting ourselves in for when we open our home and ourselves to a virtual stranger?

Rediscovering Ireland by Orla Sloyan

"This body of work explores the traditional romantic photographic representation of rural Ireland found in picture postcards. Such imagery often presents Ireland in a way which suggests that it has been unaffected by modernity. Signifiers of modernity and tradition coexist in the same image producing an alternative visual representation of rural Ireland."

On the Verge by Nathan Fields

As cultural and social working conditions have changed drastically over the last year in Ireland, the associated anxiety and concern placed on workers before job loss has made the work place a more insecure and unreliable setting. This project captures the vulnerability of male workers facing job loss, not labelling them as victims, but magnifying their situation through representation while inexplicitly evoking broader social changes that threaten people's livelihood.

Nocturnes by JB Maher

The series is composed of images which utilise the cityscape at night to imbue a momentary sense of unease and uncertainty in the viewer. Artificial light is surrounded by impending darkness. The spaces captured are revealed as society's attempt to appropriate, delineate, and even control the darkness. The fictional scenarios envisioned in turn infuse the work with imaginative digress questioning unconscious perceptions awoken by associations of fear and curiosity.