

# Art Talk

Dublin Contemporary, a multi-venue Irish and international art exhibition, kicks off in the capital this month. Art critic **Gemma Tipton** previews it.

This September and October, Dublin can be counted among the world's great art destinations, as Dublin Contemporary throws open the doors of a once-secret space, right in the heart of a city more usually famous for its music and literature.

Over one hundred artists, including 34 from Ireland, have been invited to be part of this massive city-wide event that aims to show what the world's leading artists make of the world we live in today, what makes it work, and how things could be. As Jota Castro, who, along with Christian Viveros-Fauné, has curated the exhibition, says: "It's not a show 'against' things, but a show 'about'. It's a show that asks 'what if...?'"

Taking its theme, *A Terrible Beauty*, from the WB Yeats poem, "Easter, 1916", there will be beauty in the works that fill Dublin's beautiful city, but there is more. "It's a very important moment to talk about the social and political issues. As artists we don't represent anything, we don't represent power, so we are the people to do it," says Castro. Cuban artist **Tania Bruguera**, for example, uses film and performance to explore how art re-addresses politics, while **Omer Fast**, from Israel, makes videos that challenge how history is made. The art world itself comes under scrutiny, with American artist **William Powhida's** witty drawings that lay

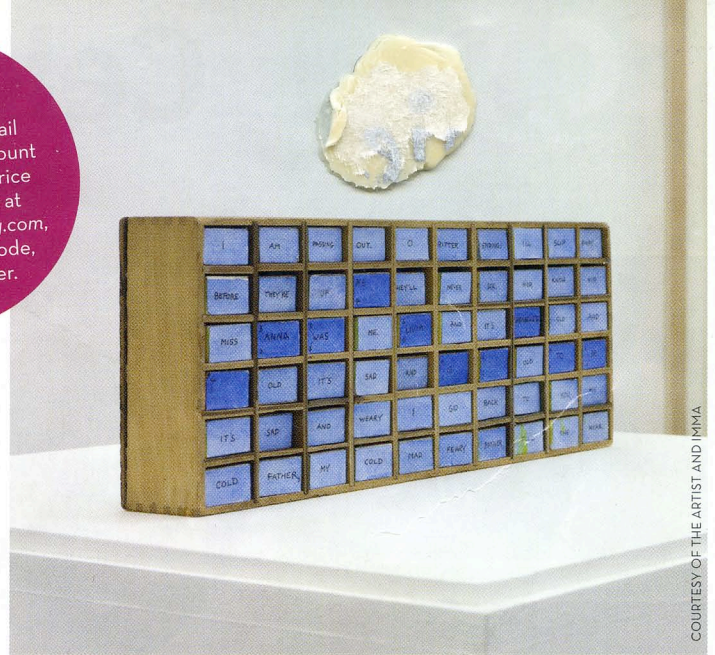
bare the greed, vanity and egos of some of its major players.

The event headquarters are in the re-discovered splendour of former university buildings dating from the Georgian period, **Earlsfort Terrace** behind Dublin's National Concert Hall [and the location, this month, for *Cara* magazine's shoot, page 24]. Closed to the public for over a decade, Castro says they "smell of history". The exhibition also spreads out and into some of the city's best-known cultural landmarks. This means that visitors can take in the **National Gallery**, where Irish artist, **Brian O'Doherty** is creating a special new work for the space. O'Doherty, who has lived in New York since the 1950s is one of Ireland's most important artists. His work takes in architecture, politics, literature and ritual, so his new project should be unmissable.

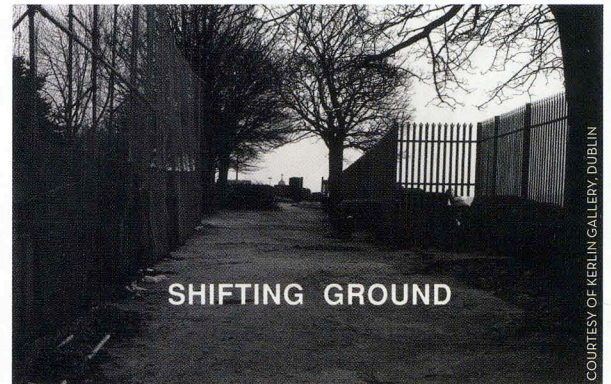
At **Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane**, the work of another Irish artist, **Willie Doherty** is on show. Twice nominated for the Turner Prize, Doherty took the Troubles in Northern Ireland as a starting point, but his work has developed to address universal themes of anxiety, surveillance, violence and its aftermath. **The Royal Hibernian Academy** is showing the hugely successful American artist **Lisa Yuskavage**. The figures

## BOOK IT

Aer Lingus passengers can avail of a 15 per cent discount off the admission price by booking online at [dublincontemporary.com](http://dublincontemporary.com), and entering the code, DCaerlingus.offer.



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND IMMA



COURTESY OF KERLIN GALLERY, DUBLIN

Top, "In the Wake (of)" by New York-based Irishman Brian O'Doherty, shows at the National Gallery; above, Willie Doherty's "Shifting Grounds (The Walls, Derry)" at the Hugh Lane.

in Yuskavage's paintings are made up of an unsettling mix of dewy-eyed innocence, with the hyper-sexualised imagery of soft porn.

There are also exhibitions at the **Iveagh Museum of Modern Art**, the **Iveagh Gardens**, and more. Just off Earlsfort Terrace, the Iveagh Gardens are the city's own hidden garden, and for the moment, are transformed into a cutting-edge sculpture park. So what next? What happens in November, when Dublin Contemporary closes its doors? Well, Dublin has been shortlisted as host city for Manifesta 2012, the European Art Biennial. So it could be time to book a return ticket to Dublin – the new Capital of Art. 🍀

Runs September 6 to October 31; [dublincontemporary.com](http://dublincontemporary.com).



## 3 OTHER SHOWS TO CATCH ...

**1 APICHPONG WEERASETHAKUL, FOR TOMORROW FOR TONIGHT**  
The award-winning Thai film director and screenwriter also works in video, short films and installations. This multi-media exhibition explores the theme of night (see left), a recurring motif in his work. Runs at IMMA, until October 31; [imma.ie](http://imma.ie).

**2 CLARE LANGAN METAMORPHOSIS**  
This award-winning short film by artist and film maker Clare Langan explores the relationship between man and the forces of nature. Stunning. At Bandon Town Hall, September 23-25; for times of free screenings, [engageartsfestival.com](http://engageartsfestival.com).

**3 TOULOUSE-LAUTREC AND JANE AVRIL BEYOND THE MOULIN ROUGE**  
A dancer at the Moulin Rouge, and a close friend of the artist, Jane Avril personifies the world of bohemian Paris of the 1890s he depicted so well. Runs at the Courtauld Gallery, London, to September 18; [courtauld.ac.uk](http://courtauld.ac.uk).