

THE COMMON GUILD

Visual arts: Projects / Events / Exhibitions

MEDIA RELEASE

Gerard Byrne

'Images or shadows of divine things'

Exhibition opens on Friday 16 April 2010

Opening reception on Saturday 17 April 2010 3 - 5pm

Exhibition continues until 26 June 2010

21 Woodlands Terrace, Glasgow, G3 6DF

For Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art 2010, The Common Guild will present a solo exhibition by the Irish artist Gerard Byrne. The exhibition will be his first solo presentation in Scotland and his first in a public space in UK.

'Images or shadows of divine things' is an on-going series of photographs accumulated since 2005 by Byrne. The modestly presented monochrome images of the United States share a distinct ambiguity; although made over the course of the last five years, the images appear to depict an earlier time. Whilst evoking vernacular photographic idioms of American mid-century photography, cumulatively the series points to the complicated relationship between time, appearance, and the photographic document. Anchoring the project with a reference to a text by the 18C American theologian Jonathan Edwards, the work shadows an American intellectual tradition stretching back to the Puritans which perceives the world as inextricably prefigured in the bible.

Gerard Byrne is an artist whose work regularly reconstructs found scenarios from the past, often drawing from TV and magazine culture. Using video and photography, he explores how the future has been envisaged in the past. This exhibition accompanies and is a counterpoint to Byrne's major new video work commissioned by and for Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art. Entitled 'A thing is a hole in a thing it is not', the project comprises four films that look at Minimalist sculpture as a pre-figuration of time-based artistic forms. Commissioned by GI Festival, Lismore Castle Arts and The Renaissance Society at The University of Chicago in collaboration with the Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, the work is on show at 54 Miller Street during the Festival.

Exhibition open

Thursday - Friday 12 noon - 7 pm, Saturday 12 noon - 5 pm and by appointment and every day during Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art 16th April - 3rd May as follows:
weekdays from 10 am 5pm and Saturday and Sunday 12 noon - 5 pm

For more information and images, please contact Kitty Anderson:

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NOTES

1. **Gerard Byrne** was born in Dublin in 1969, where he continues to live and work. Byrne has exhibited widely over the last 20 years, including solo exhibitions at the ICA Boston and Statens Museum for Kunst, Copenhagen (both 2008), the Contemporary Art Centre, Lithuania and Kunstverein Dusseldorf (both 2007) and the Frankfurter Kunstverein (2003). Group exhibitions include 'Little Theatre of Gestures', Malmo Konsthall, Sweden and 'The New Monumentality', Henry Moore Institute, Leeds (both 2009), 'Nature, space and time', Kroller Muller Museum, Netherlands (2008) and 'A Short History of Performance IV', Whitechapel Art Gallery, London (2006). He represented Ireland at the Venice Biennial in 2007 and has exhibited in a number of other biennials including Gwangju Biennial, Republic of Korea (2008), Lyon Biennial, Lyon (2007), Momentum - The Nordic Festival of Contemporary Art, Moss, Norway and 3rd Tate Triennial, Tate Britain, London (both 2006).

2. **The Common Guild** is a visual arts organisation based in Glasgow. It was established in 2006 and presents a dynamic, international programme of contemporary visual art projects, exhibitions, and events. These include gallery-based exhibitions at our current premises as well non-gallery, one-off projects, talks and collaborations. We are committed to presenting artists' work in interesting and engaging ways and aim to offer access to world-class contemporary art experiences and discussions. The Common Guild is a not-for-profit visual arts organisation, receiving Flexible Funding from the Scottish Arts Council.

3. **Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art** is a unique event in the cultural calendar. Taking place in the city every other year, the Festival comprises groundbreaking and dynamic presentations in contemporary visual art practice, across a range of exhibitions, public projects, talks, performances and screenings by both local and international artists. The Festival takes place in venues and locations throughout the city.

Visit www.glasgowinternational.org for full programme details or to sign up for updates.

Katrina Brown, Director of The Common Guild, is responsible for the direction of the Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art, which is managed by Culture & Sport Glasgow.

4. The Common Guild's temporary home at **21 Woodlands Terrace** is a grand, Victorian townhouse to the west of the city centre next to Kelvingrove Park. Exhibitions take place over two floors, including a unique library, designed by artist Andrew Miller, which will include a selection of Gerard Byrne's books and catalogues.

5. The Common Guild's current exhibition **Martin Creed 'Things'** continues until 3 April 2010.