# THE TRAIL of THE MODERNS

This summer, the National Gallery of Ireland proudly presents the first museum show in over thirty years to focus on the painted and graphic work of Irish artist Roderic O'Conor (1860–1940).

The exhibition covers the years 1887-1895, a short but critical phase in O'Conor's career, spent between Paris, the capital of the art world at the time, and Pont-Aven, a picturesque Breton town.

Like many artists, having made the pilgrimage to Paris to further his education and professional career, O'Conor later shunned the industrial city, pursuing a simpler way of life in the artists' colony of Pont-Aven.

While local colour and custom shaped the artists' practice, their life blood was the train connecting their rural idyll to the Parisian metropolis.

The exhibition examines O'Conor's expressive signature style alongside the portraits, landscapes and still-life

works of other Pont-Aven 'Moderns'

including Vincent van Gogh, Paul

Robert Befan, and Cuno Amiet.

Gauguin, Armand Seguin,

energy and pause, this is a show for artists and art lovers, for locals and tourists, it bridges ages and interests.

Taking inspiration from these revolutionary modern artists, the lasting principles of the Pont-Aven artists' colony and the iconic time and place that was Paris at the end of the 19th century, the accompanying education programme offers a thematic trail of projects, activities, and events.

This is the trail of the Moderns.

Presenting glorious warmth, light,

Education Team:
Sinéad Rice: Head of Education,
Joanne Drum: Families, Adults &
Administration, Brina Casey: Community,
Outreach & Health, Caomhán Mac Con
Iomaire: Facilitation & Access, Catherine
O'Donnell: Teachers, Schools & Youth,
Kate Drinane: Tours Administrator,
Sarah Ward: Education Assistant.





15 August – 16 September NGI Millennium Wing Studio

Una Sealy RHA, is an Irish artist based in north Co. Dublin. A graduate of Dún Laoghaire College of Art and Design (IADT), and University College Dublin, she was elected an Associate of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2010, and a full member in 2016.

Above: Roderic O'Conor, Apples and Pear (detail), c.1893, Private Collection, Photograph Courtesy of Sotheby's

A painter of interiors, landscapes and portraits, she has had an enduring interest in the work of Roderic O'Conor throughout her career

This intense residency will see Sealy create new work in direct response to Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns: Between Paris and Pont-Aven. Public engagement with the project will be supported by a range of activities including open studio sessions, painting demonstrations and talks.

For full information on the residency and related programming: nationalgallery.ie

To find out more about the artist: unasealy.com



## ART IN THE OPEN

Ireland's International Plein Air Painting Festival

29 July – 6 August
Various Locations, Wexford
7 August
National Gallery of Ireland
& Merrion Square

Now in its 11th year, Wexford's 'Art in the Open' is a vibrant 10-day festival, attracting some of the best outdoor painters from around the globe. Renowned for its friendliness and relaxed atmosphere the festival is jam packed with activities, events and painting excursions to some of the most breathtaking locations in the sunny South-East. The festival culminates in an exhibition of participants' work on Monday 6 August at Greenacres, Wexford Town.

For the full festival programme: artintheopen.org

Above: Roderic O'Conor, The Farm at Lezaven, Finistère (detail), 1894, National Gallery of Ireland.

#### Screening: Loving Vincent

Monday 30 July | 8pm Wexford Arts Centre | Free | No Booking

Screening of the award-winning painted animation film with introduction and Q&A from artist Sandra Hickey, painter on Loving Vincent.

#### Talk: Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns: Between Paris and Pont-Aven

Friday 3 August | 8pm White's Hotel Wexford | Free | No Booking

White's Hotel Wexford | Free | No Booking
In-conversation event with Caomhán
Mac Con Iomaire and Sarah Ward from
the National Gallery of Ireland.

#### Drop-In Family Workshop: Modern Landscapes

Saturday 4 August | 11am – 1pm
Wexford Arts Centre | Free | No Booking
Children of all ages can enjoy creating

some O'Conor-inspired art in this drop-in

## family workshop. **Artists' Field Trip**

COLONY of CREATIVITY

Tuesday 7 August
National Gallery of Ireland & Merrion Square
Fully Booked

On this special field trip national and international artists from the festival will re-imagine the iconic journey from Pont-Aven to Paris traveling via scenic coastal train from Wexford to Dublin. The trip combines an introduction to the Gallery, tours of the O'Conor exhibition and National Collection. At 2pm we invite local artists to join us for a mass paint-out in Merrion Square.





# EVENING

## MODERNS

NGI Lecture Theatre €10 Single Ticket | €25 Season Ticket Booking Essential

Roderic O'Conor forms the heart of this exhibition, but many important artists from his contemporary world also feature in the show. Three leading international experts will deliver talks focusing on three major artists: Roderic O'Conor, Vincent van Gogh and Paul Gauguin.

## Landscapes of Provence: Discoveries about Van Gogh's Year at the Asylum

Thursday 20 September | 6.30pm Martin Bailey, Senior Correspondent, The Art Newspaper

### Roderic O'Conor, Networker and Collaborator

Thursday 27 September | 6.30pm

Dr Jonathan Benington, Exhibition Guest
Curator, Manager, Victoria Art Gallery, Bath

#### Gauguin and the Making of the 'Savage' artist: from Brittany to Tahiti

Thursday 4 October | 6.30pm

Dr Claire Moran, Senior Lecturer in French,
Queen's University Belfast

PODCAS

## **IMAGINING FRANCE**

**Artist as Profession and Legacy** 

& Cian McLoughlin, Artist

Dr Brendan Rooney, Head Curator, NGI

Paul McLauchlan, Fashion Writer and

Critic & Andrea Horan, Co-founder

**Artist Colonies: Exchange of Ideas** 

Una Sealy, RHA, Artist in Residence

Martin Tourish, Dave Redmond

Podcasts available from August at:

https://www.nationalgallery.ie/

For full information and speakers'

explore-and-learn/podcasts

bios visit: nationalgallery.ie

**Bal-Musette: The Iconic French Sound** 

of Tropical Popical Nail Salon

& Mick O'Dea, PRHA, Artist

& Stephen Daly, Musicians

France: The Time, the Place, the Principles

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

This series of conversational podcasts will feature stories, thoughts and individual responses to the exhibition *Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns*.

Combining speakers from diverse professions, with rich sound design and music specially commissioned from composer Michael Fleming, these podcasts will take you inside the exhibition and evoke O'Conor's world at the end of the 19th century; a time and place which inspired a revolution in European art.



## **TALKS**

Illustrated talks offering artistic and academic perspectives on the exhibition

NGI Lecture Theatre Free | No Booking Required

#### Introductory Talk

Wednesday 18 July | 1.15pm

Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns:
Between Paris and Pont-Aven
Dr Brendan Rooney, Head Curator, NGI

Painting Before and After Impressionism

### Sunday Talks Sunday 23 September | 3pm

Dr Tim Stott, Lecturer in Art History and Visual Culture, DIT

Sunday 30 September | 3pm

Roderic O'Conor: An Artist's Perspective Sandra Hickey, Artist

Sunday 7 October | 3pm

Irish Artists in France in the 19th Century Carmel Coyle, Art Historian

Sunday 14 October | 3pm

From Post-Impressionism to Fauvism:

Avant-garde Art in France
Dr Sinead Furlong-Clancy, Art Historian



## ······BAL······ MUSETTE

When Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns arrived into Paris, the sound of the city was Bal-Musette.

This music and dance first became popular in Paris in the 1880s, when the bourrée quick step dance was to the accompaniment of the cabrette (a bellows-blown bagpipe locally called a "musette") and the vielle à roue (hurdy-gurdy).

Accordion musicians adopted the style and by the end of the 19th century, Paris and the surrounding area was populated with Bal-Musette establishments. The music influenced the careers of stars such as Django Reinhardt and Edith Piaf, and came to world attention through the soundtrack of the award winning film Amélie.

For this very special project we have brought together three Irish musicians
- Martin Tourish (accordion), Dave Redmond (Double Bass) and Stephen Daly (Guitar) to respond to the exhibition and create a new programme of music in the Bal-Musette tradition. This programme will be performed in various incarnations and a podcast combining the music with interviews will also be available.

#### Street Performance

Friday 21 September – Culture Night National Gallery of Ireland Free | No Booking

#### Pop-up Performance

Thursday 11 October | From 6pm Exhibition rooms 6-10 Free with valid exhibition ticket

#### Special Evening Performance

Wednesday 24 October Doors open 6.15pm Tickets €35 | Booking Essential Entrance via Clare Street

bios visit: nationalgallery.ie

Join us at the Gallery for this very special after-hours event where the Bal-Musette Trio will weave the story of the iconic musical movement through a live cabaret performance in our beautiful Wintergarden Cafe. This event includes food, drink and private access to the O'Conor exhibition.

For further information and musicians'

# POP UP TALKS

Conversational Pop-Up talks by artists and historians offer a glimpse into the world of the Pont-Aven artists'colony.

NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10
Free with Valid Exhibition Ticket
No Booking Required

Friday 10 August | 1.15pm

Pierre Girieud's

Homage À Gauguin

Aiding Dunne

Friday 24 August | 1.15pm Roderic O'Conor's Breton Girl With a Book Rita Brown

Friday 31 August | 1.15pm Roderic O'Conor's Field of Corn, Pont-Aven Carmel Coyle

NGI Prints and
Drawings Reading Room
Free | No Booking Required
Limited Space

Thursday 9 August | 1.15pm

Etchings of

Roderic O'Conor

Tom Hodson

Thursday 16 August | 1.15pm

Edgar Degas' Two Ballet Dancers

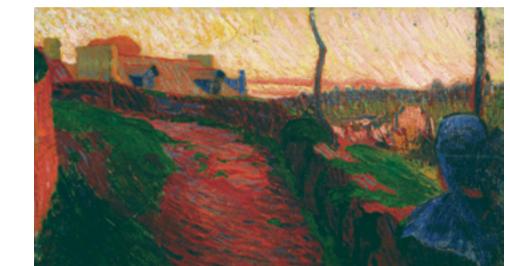
In a Dressing Room

Thursday 30 August | 1.15pm

Paul Cézanne's La Montagne

Sainte-Victoire

Mary Dowling



# SHARING IDEAS AND SKILLS

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

FOR ALL AGES AND GENERATIONS

Inspired by the exchange of ideas and practices at the artists' colony of Pont-Aven, artist Fiona Harrington will lead an exciting new intergenerational strand of programming at the Gallery.

In addition to skill-sharing and co-production workshops and activities for all generations, as part of this programme members of the local community will shape the very first 'Fun Palace' in Ireland. 'Fun Palaces' is an international, free campaign placing culture at the heart of community and community at the heart of culture with an annual weekend of events

#### **Drop-In Intergenerational Workshop**

Sunday 26 August & 9 September
11.30am – 1.30pm
NGI Atrium | Free | No Booking
Work together to creatively respond to
our O'Conor exhibition.

### Fun Palace - Intergenerational Day Saturday 6 October | 11am - 3pm

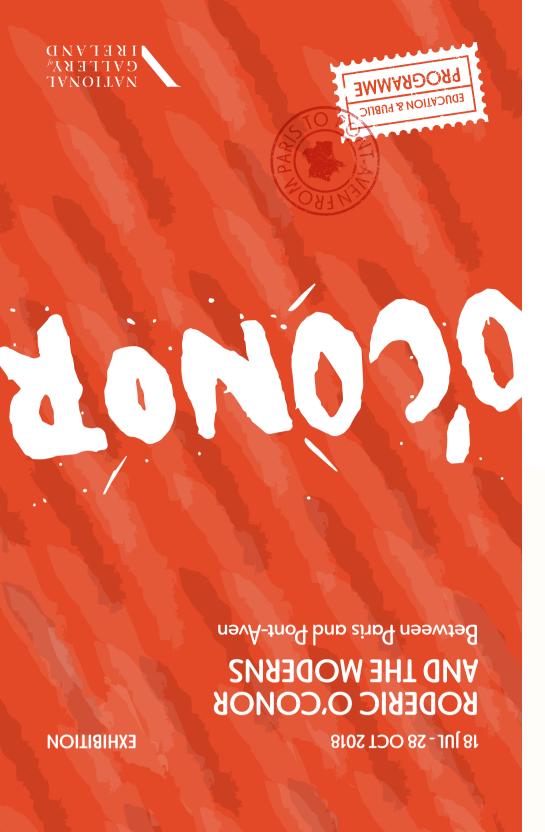
National Gallery of Ireland
Free | Some Events May Be Ticketed
We will join 300+ Fun Palaces across the
UK and globally. Learn something new,
share your skills and meet new people.
To learn more about Fun Palaces:
funpalaces.co.uk
#FunPalaces | @FunPalaces

each October.

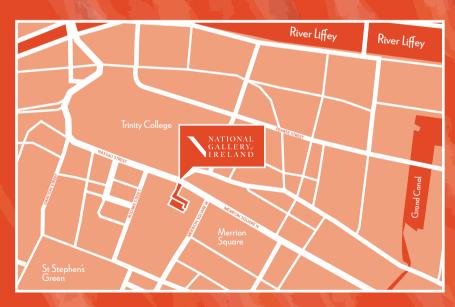
Above Top: Roderic O'Conor, Field of Corn, Pont-Aven (detail), 1892, © National Museum NI. Collection Ulster Museum Above Lower: Vincent van Gogh, Rooftops in Paris, 1886, National Gallery of Ireland.

Above: Roderic O'Conor, Breton Woman (detail), c.1903–1904,

Above: Cuno Amiet, Breton Woman approaching Pont-Aven, 1892-3, Kunsthaus Zürich, Acquired in memory of Peter Alther from the Peter Alther Bequest, 2005. © D. Thalmann, Aarau, Switzerland



TAKE A JOURNEY WITH O'CONOR, GAUGUIN, AMIET, **VAN GOGH AND SÉRUSIER AT THE** NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND



Getting Here:

Located in the city centre, in the heart of Georgian Dublin, the Gallery is less than ten minutes on foot from St Stephen's Green, Grafton Street and Trinity College. There are two entrances to the National Gallery of Ireland:

Millennium Wing Entrance located on Clare Street Merrion Square Entrance: Merrion Square West

All tickets available from:

W: nationalgallery.ie/ticketsolve/shows T: 01 6633518 or call into the ticket desk. 10% Discount: Student/OAP/Jobseekers Friends of the National Gallery To become a friend visit W: nationalgallery.ie/friends T: 01 6619877 For Full Information and Listings: W: nationalgallery.ie E: education@ngi.ie | T: 01 6633582

**Booking Information:** 

NATIONAL #NGleducation #RodericOConc GALLERY of IRELAND



#### **In-Conversation Tours**

NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10 Free with Valid Exhibition Ticket No Booking

Explore Roderic O'Conor and the *Moderns* together with an artist and an art historian, who will lead an informal tour that encourages dialogue and discussion.

Roderic O'Conor: Professional Artist and his Legacy Dr Katy Milligan & Sarah Ward Thursday 23 August | 6.20pm

#### France: the Time, the Place, the Principles

Mags Harnett & Sandra Hickey Thursday 13 September | 6.20pm

**Sharing of Ideas and Practices:** Ethos of the Artists' Colonies Aisling Dunne & Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire Thursday 25 October | 6.20pm

# **GUIDED**

NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10 Private Tours €50

Tours available in English, Irish and French Further Information: tours@ngi.ie | 01 663 35<u>1</u>0 All tours must be booked three

**Booking Information:** 

#### tours@ngi.ie | 01 663 3510 All tours and workshops must be booked three weeks in advance

#### **School Tours**

Free | NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10 Tours available in English, Irish and French.

### **Post-Primary Workshop**

Free | NGI Millennium Wing Studio In this practical workshop students will

uncover how galleries present art, learn about O'Conor's life and work, and plan their own exhibition. The workshop links directly to the curriculum, and is designed to introduce students to visual culture in a creative and hands-on way, and includes a tour of the exhibition.

Thursday 20 September | 5pm NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10 Free | Booking Essential

Join a teacher from the Gallery's Guide Panel and discuss the curricular links present within the exhibition. By booking on to this tour you will also get a free ticket to the first of the Thursday Evening Lecture Series, Landscapes of Provence: Discoveries about Van Gogh's Year at the Asylum at 6.30pm that evening.

#### **School Resource Pack**

Available to download from our

website from September. Containing contextual information about the exhibition and suggested activities for students to complete before, during and after their visit, including sketching and relevant vocabulary.

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES

#### **Family Tours**

NGI Exhibition Rooms 6-10 Adult Tickets €5 | Child Ticket Free Access to the exhibition included Join us for fun and accessible tours designed entirely for families. Our guides encourage visitors of all ages to learn about Roderic O'Conor and the artists from Pont-Aven

#### **Sunday 29 July** | 2.30pm

at their own pace.

Sunday 26 August | 2.30pm Sunday 23 September | 2.30pm

Sunday 21 October | 2.30pm



Monday 15 October | 12pm & 2pm Tickets €5 | Online only from 9am, 9 October **Booking Essential** 

Colourful O'Conor with artist Edel Campbell. Sensory baby workshop, including visit to the exhibition.

#### **Drop-In Family Workshops**

NGI Atrium | Free | No booking

#### **Make Colours Dance**

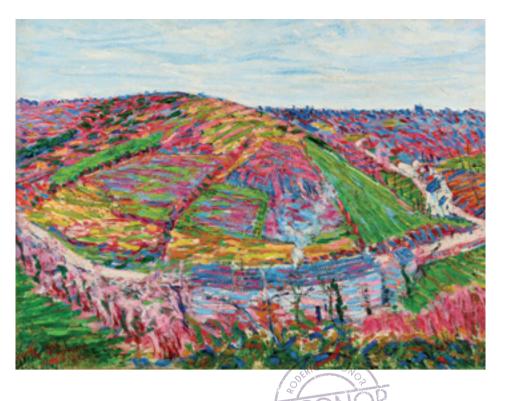
Sunday 16 September | 11.30am-1.30pm Inspired by O'Conor's paintings of Breton women with artist Beth O'Halloran.

#### **Dots and Distance**

Sunday 7 October | 11.30am-1.30pm Artist Susan Farrelly will focus on the work of Swiss artist Cuno Amiet, and optical mixing techniques.

#### **Colourful Collages**

Sunday 21 October | 11.30am-1.30pm Artist Ashleigh Downey will encourage families to examine the striped landscapes of Van Gogh and O'Conor.



FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF THE MODERNS...





Further Information:

016633507

colleagues from Library and Archives will provide activities designed specifically for visitors who live with dementia and their carers, inspired by documents relating to the life of Roderic O'Conor. Advance Booking Essential Caomhán Mac Con Iomaire

Taking place in the ESB Centre for the Study of Irish Art the activity will begin with a look at the O'Conor archive, followed by a group discussion and practical response session. Access to the exhibition will be available after the event.

Monday 23 July | 11.30am Monday 20 August | 11.30am



A Contemporary Response to the Moderns with Una Sealy, RHA

Tuesday 4 September | 11am NGI Millennium Wing Studio Tickets €5

uesday Talk and Tea is a monthly illustrated talk or our, inspired by the Gallery's collection and exhibitions ollowed by a chat over tea and coffee. Una Sealy RHA, artist in residence, will discuss her career-long interest in **Roderic O'Conor and the Moderns** and how the exhibition is influencing her work.





Thursday 11 October | 5pm - 8pm Thursday 18 October | 5pm - 8pm NGI Millennium Wing Studio €25 | Booking Essential

f-directed studio session. Exhibition visit, easels, ists must bring their own materials. While this is not a taught session, a facilitator will be on



Free | No Booking

Limited to 15 people

Materials Provided

nspired by the exhibiton, Pop-Up drawing

sessions will take place **en plein air** 

in Merrion Square, and in Rooms 1 to 5

at the National Gallery of Ireland

Mixed media Wednesday 1 August | 1pm

Merrion Square Info Desk Wednesday 15 August | 1pm Merrion Square Info Desk

Drawing En Plein Air

Kees Van Dongen's Stella in a Flowered Hat Chalk pastels session

Wednesday 29 August | 1pm NGI Room 5

Alfred Sisley's The Banks of the Canal du Loing at Saint-Mammés Graphite/charcoal on paper session Wednesday 12 September | 1pm NGI Room 3

Paul Signac's The Lady on the Terrace, Saint-Tropez

Wednesday 26 September | 1pm NGI Room 4

