

OUTING the Past: The Festival of LGBT History

National Gallery of Ireland

Saturday, 23 March 2019



The National Gallery of Ireland is delighted to bring *OUTing the Past: The Festival of LGBT History* to Dublin for the first time. Enjoy a free day of queer history, art and discussion with dynamic speakers including Panti Bliss, Joe Caslin, Stephen Moloney and Katherine O'Donnell.

Choose one of our thought-provoking breakout sessions, and discuss themes including student activism, the 1916 Easter Rising and the Gallery's LGBTQ+ artworks.

To close the day in style, the historic Shaw Room will provide the backdrop for a performance by Gloria, Dublin's Gay and Lesbian Choir.

Your free ticket includes lunch and refreshments.

Programme

11.00 - 11.05	Welcome Sinéad K. Rice, Head of Education, National Gallery of Ireland
11.05 - 11.30	Opening keynote Sara R. Phillips, Chair, Transgender Equality Network Ireland
11.30 - 12.00	<i>'Either that wallpaper ...': AE, queerness and the Celtic renaissance</i> Brian Lacey, historian It is now generally accepted that many other LGBTQ+ men and women took part in the 1916 Easter Rising and the cultural movement surrounding it. Among such persons were AE (George Russell), Hugh Lane, Edward Martyn and George Moore, all of whom played an enormous part in the cultural life of the country at the time. This talk will focus on some of those lesser-known, 'queer' aspects of the history of the period and their connection with the wider upheaval and renewal taking place in Irish life at the time. The word 'wallpaper' in the title refers to Oscar Wilde's famous quip shortly before he died in Paris, 'My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go'.
12.00 - 12.30	Tea & Coffee (provided) <i>Gallery Courtyard</i>
12.30 - 13.00	<i>The 'New Woman' Sarah Purser and her lesbian friendships</i> Katherine O'Donnell, University College Dublin As one of Ireland's first professional women artists Sarah Henrietta Purser (1848 - 1943) was (what was termed at that time) a 'New Woman', who self-consciously pursued an independent and creative life, kicking against conventional gender norms and supporting the endeavours of other like-minded women. Purser studied painting at the Académie Julian in Paris, which was one of the few studios that admitted women. She shared a flat with the Swiss artist Louise Catherine Breslau (1856-1927)

	<p>and Breslau's girlfriend, the Italian singer, Maria Feller. Breslau went on to become a celebrated artist and lived for over forty years with her partner, Madeleine Zillhardt. Purser and Breslau maintained a very close friendship.</p> <p>Purser's creation of a queer kinship group of 'all the single ladies' rewards attention for a number of respects, not least in that it facilitated the highest quality artistic productions in twentieth-century Ireland.</p>
13.00 - 13.30	<p>Who was Suleika Aldini? Rainer Schulze, Emeritus Professor, Department of History, University of Essex</p> <p>Suleika Aldini was a cabaret artist in West Germany from the 1960s until the mid-1990s. For many years, at the height of her career, she performed at the Chez Nous cabaret bar, (West) Berlin's oldest and best known "travesty theatre" (as they were called at the time), which celebrated the artistry of female impersonators and trans women. Her life as a cabaret artist is well documented, not least through a huge collection of personal photographs, but very little is known about her life before or after. Suleika's life is an untold story, which documents both the unending struggles of a transgender person in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, but also the joys it held for her.</p>
13.30 - 14.30	<p>Lunch (provided) <i>Gallery Courtyard</i></p>
14.30 - 15.00	<p>LGBTQ+ Irish art in the National Gallery of Ireland Kate Drinane, National Gallery of Ireland</p> <p>Focusing on key works from the National Gallery of Ireland's collection, this talk will explore the narrative of LGBTQ+ history through art. Art offers a useful lens through which to view LGBTQ+ stories. It can showcase not only LGBTQ+ biographies, but also give us cultural context for those stories. As representations of identity and queerness have shifted throughout history, art allows us to view people and places as they were seen at the time. From key figures in Irish history, like Roger Casement, Eva Gore-Booth and J.M. Barry, to larger historical events, from the Norman invasion in the 12th century to marriage equality in 2015, art can help us explore and understand how the LGBTQ+ community in Ireland has been shaped by its past.</p>
15.00 - 16.00	<p>Breakout sessions <i>Choose one of the following breakout sessions:</i></p>
	<p>Session 1: National Gallery of Ireland & Irish Queer Archive LGBTQ+ display</p> <p>Focusing on the importance of collecting, and archives as a source for LGBTQ+ research, join activist Tonie Walsh, writer Evgeny Shtorn, and Iain Wynn-Jones from the Gallery's library and archives department, as they explore archival material from the Gallery's collection.</p>

	<p>Session 2: <i>The Irish student movement and queer politics in Ireland: 1970s-present</i></p> <p>Tracing the history of Ireland's student movement in the campaign for LGBTQ+ rights, from the 1970s to present, this talk will cover issues ranging from the rights of gay and lesbian students to form gay societies, the role of the student press in promoting gay rights, and the campaign for marriage equality.</p>
	<p>Session 3: <i>Queering the Rising: LGBTQ+ involvement in the 1916 Easter Rising</i></p> <p>Join Michael G. Cronin, lecturer in English, Maynooth University, and UCD's Assistant Professor in Gender Studies Mary McAuliffe, as they discuss the role that LGBTQ+ people played in the 1916 Easter Rising. This rich topic touches on their in-depth research into lost literary and historical LGBTQ+ stories.</p>
	<p>Session 4: <i>Pursers' portraits of Roger Casement; a conservator's view</i></p> <p>The national collection holds both a finished portrait and a detailed oil sketch by Sarah Henrietta Purser of the most prominent LGBTQ+ figure of the Irish revolution. This talk, taking place in the Gallery's conservation studio, provides a rare opportunity to investigate these artworks together. Topics will include Purser and her techniques as chronicler of a circle of Irish public figures, and Casement as a man of astonishing accomplishments whose sexuality was used to discredit and shame him.</p>
	<p>Session 5: <i>Joe Caslin and Stephen Moloney in conversation</i></p> <p>Join artist Joe Caslin, creator of <i>Finding Power</i>, the captivating installation in the Gallery's courtyard space, and Stephen Moloney, the subject of the powerful artwork, as they discuss their work and collaboration. Both bring unique perspectives: Caslin through his work as a street artist, illustrator, art teacher and activist, and Moloney as a writer and activist.</p>
16.15 - 16.45	<p>Closing keynote Panti Bliss, Queen of Ireland</p> <p><i>Shaw Room</i></p>
16.45 - 17.15	<p>Performance Gloria, Dublin's Gay and Lesbian Choir</p>