

ART & DESIGN

Single Accredited Course

Introduction to Irish Art History (Level 6)

Duration: 13 Weeks

Time: 7.00-9.00pm /Mondays – Semester I

Fee: €270

Start date: September 2020 (Date to be advised)

Number of Credits: 5 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Introduction to Irish Art History module aims to provide learners with an introduction to the history of Irish art, recognising its place in the broader canon of Western art history. By focusing on the representation of Ireland in art history, a foundation will be provided for learners in methods of analysis and investigation to empower further study in the discipline. The module will introduce some of the specialist language and vocabulary of art history, and draw the students' attention to the presentation and methodologies of art historiography in Irish context. The module continues with a chronological introduction to Irish art history with an emphasis on the cultural contexts of art production. Field trips to sites of interest are encouraged and organised for participants, and there will be a direct engagement with art objects. The objective is to develop independent research, writing, communication and presentation skills, and the focus of the module will be to encourage active participation in critical discourse. A range of audio visual materials will be presented in the lectures, with adjacent textual resources, links and activities posted on Moodle.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this module, the learner will/should be able to

1. Recognise key art works of the canon of Irish art history from a range of art forms including painting, sculpture, and print, and appreciate works of art in the context of the prevalent ideas and historic events in which they were produced.
2. Understand and be able to use the language and methods of Art History.
3. Become familiar with important literature and learning resources of the discipline, and be cognizant of how and why the practice of Irish art is changing
4. Explore Irish works of art through independent enquiry using as wide a range of resources as possible.
5. Write and present written critical reflections employing academic methods of research and citation.

COURSE CONTENT

Section One: Introducing the History of Art

This introduction aims to provide a foundation for the student to build upon their own further research and learning about the discipline. It will explore questions such as, what is art? How do we evaluate and appreciate works of art? What is art history and who are its authors? The learner will be introduced to the basics of the specialist vocabulary of the discipline, especially the concepts of form, content and context. They will explore the basics of semiotics, and the role of symbols in the production of art. The tension between the universal claims of 'art' versus the culturally-specific idea of being 'Irish' will be explored and questioned. This section will conclude with an introduction to writing about art, how to structure an essay and the use of the art historical method.

Section Two marks the beginning of the chronological exploration of Irish art history, beginning with an overview of the Pre-Celtic, Celtic and Medieval periods, up to about 1600, with the final end of Gaelic cultural hegemony.

Section Three looks at early Irish painting, from c. 1600-1800 in the context of the Ascendancy culture before the Act of Union.

Section Four explores the development of Irish art in the 19th century, including the growth of the institutional infrastructure of the National Gallery and the emerging art education system. The ambivalent situation of Ireland as a home country within the empire and the emerging nationalist response to this will inform the approach taken.

Section Five examines the tensions between Irish nationalism and modernism as reflected in early to mid-20th century art in Ireland.

Section Six explores the move to postmodernism and the engagement with the international art world from the 1960s, ending with an examination of contemporary art practices in Ireland.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr John Mulloy

Email: John.Mulloy@gmit.ie

HOW TO APPLY

Application for the course is made direct to the Institute. Please contact LLLMayo@gmit.ie for an application form or download from our website www.gmit.ie/lm.