

Associated Talks & Events

Curator's Lunchtime Talk: Drop in

Wednesday 30 November, 1.15 – 2pm / Meeting Point / Main Reception / **Free**

Join IMMA Director Sarah Glennie for an insightful walk through of this exhibition.

No booking required, just come to the Meeting Point in the main reception.

LIVE EVENT

If the Ground Should Open...

Tues 13 December 2016, 8pm, Great Hall/ €8

Jaki Irvine presents the entire work performed live by the project performers.

Online booking opens 23 September 2016.

For a full programme of events and tickets visit www.imma.ie

If the Ground Should Open... is curated by Sarah Glennie, Director, IMMA with Karen Sweeney, Assistant Curator: Exhibitions, Curatorial and Partnerships.

The artist would like to thank Robert Russell of Dublin Graphic Print Studios.

IMMA would like to thank our valuable Members and Patrons, all of whom have made this exhibition possible.

This exhibition is supported by:



Have a question about an artwork? Want to know more?

Ask any member of our Visitor Engagement Team, easily identifiable through their blue lanyards.

Irish Museum of Modern Art
Áras Nua-Ealaine na hÉireann
Royal Hospital
Military Road
Kilmainham
Dublin 8
Ireland

Áras Nua-Ealaine na hÉireann
An Ospidéal Rioga
An Bóthar Mileata
Cill Mhaighneán
Baile Átha Cliath
D08 FW31
Éire

Front Cover:

Jaki Irvine, *If the Ground Should Open...* (2016), detail.
Courtesy of Jaki Irvine,
Kerlin Gallery & Frith St.
Gallery.

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IMMA - IRISH MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
COURTYARD GALLERIES, EAST GROUND

23 SEPTEMBER 2016 - 15 JANUARY 2017

Jaki Irvine

If the Ground Should Open...



Jaki Irvine's new commission for IMMA *If the Ground Should Open...* is presented here for the first time on the occasion of the centenary of the historic Easter rising of 1916. This new work takes as a point of departure Irvine's 2013 novel *Days of Surrender*, which focuses on Elizabeth O'Farrell and Julia Grenan. These were two of more than a hundred women who were ready to die or kill for the possibility of a different Ireland, but whose stories were all but written out of official Irish history, consigned to the margins as the narrative was masculinised.

This new video and sound installation uses their names as the ground of a score for 9 musicians. In this way they are performed and remembered, becoming part of the ground and landscape we walk on in 2016.

All works were composed by Jaki Irvine, using the canntaireachd system - originally developed as an oral scoring system for Scottish Highland pipes.. The basic musical motif in classical piping (piobaireachd) is called 'the ground' of the piece, which is then built upon with additional notes and melodies. In *If the Ground Should Open...* the names of women involved in the 1916 Rising form the ground.

All of the performers brought their own extraordinary knowledge, generosity and musicality to this project and further developed it through personal interpretation and improvisation. The project was also developed from the leaked Anglo-Irish bankers taped conversations.

There are 11 'songs' altogether. Here the music is broken down across the space visually and built together again sonically. It is immersive, but there is no ideal position from which to get an over-view.

This is in keeping with witness statements from 1916, where no-one had a complete picture of what was happening and witnesses referred to the part they individually played and also to what they heard, continually moving to make sense of what was happening.

With *If the Ground Should Open...*, the legacy of 1916 is reconsidered in the light of a contemporary Ireland broken by corporate greed. Both the past and the present are reflected through a lens that is complicated, joyful, furious and hopeful.

LIST OF WORKS

If the Ground Should Open, 2016
Set of Six, etching on archival paper, edition
1 of 10 + 2 AP + 2 PP
19 x 24.5 cm image size; 30 x 33.5 cm paper
size

All works Courtesy of Jaki Irvine, Kerlin Gallery
& Frith St. Gallery unless otherwise noted

PERFORMERS:

Vocals	Louise Phelan Cats Irvine Cherry Smyth
Bagpipes	Hilary Knox
Piano	Izumi Kimura
Violin	Liz McClaren
Cello	Jane Hughes
Doublebass	Aura Stone
Drums	Sarah Grimes

TRACK LIST

1. Foreign Body 6:53

Text: Poem by Cherry Smyth,
written about Mairead O'Farrell, in response
to 'Days of Surrender'.
Music: Canntaireachd based on
Maire Ni Shiubhlaigh.

2. Bankers Happen 6:12

Recordings : Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
Peter Fitzgerald & John Bowe
Music based on *Elizabeth O'Farrell &*
Julia Grenan

3. Aoife de Burca 2:57

Text: extract from 'Days of Surrender'.
Recordings : Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm
BBC interview with Alessio Rastani
Music based on *Aoife de Burca*

4. Moolah 3:40

Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm Music based on
Kathleen Barrett

5. Mrs. M. J. Rafferty 3:57

Recordings : Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
Peter Fitzgerald & John Bowe
Music based on *Mrs. M. J. Rafferty*

6. Nowhere to Go 4:34

Text: extract from 'Days of Surrender'.
Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm & John Bowe
Music based on *Eileen Cooney, Annie*
Cooney, Lily Cooney & May Cooney

7. A Million Deaths 2:20

Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm & John Bowe
Music based on *Rose MacNamara*

8. Buy it Quietly 4:13

Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm & John Bowe; David Lyon &
John Bowe
Music based on *Jinny Shanahan &*
Florence Meade

9. Treason 4:38

Text: extract from 'Days of Surrender'.
Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm & John Bowe
Music based on *Louise Gavan Duffy &*
Nora Foley

10. Innocent 4:15

Text: extract from writing by Cherry Smyth in
response to 'Days of Surrender'
Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
John Bowe & Matt Pass
Music based on *Winifred Carney*

11. Don't Fuck it Up 4:30

Recordings: Anglo Irish Bank tapes:
David Drumm & John Bowe
Music based on *Helena Molony*

If the Ground Should Open... is part of the
official Ireland 2016 programme and is one
of the three new works being commissioned
by IMMA that reflect on the legacy of the
commemoration of the Irish State.

This commission is presented as part of an
exciting on-going initiative, New Art at IMMA,
proudly supported by Matheson, which
allows IMMA to continue to support artists'
vital work in a strand of programming that
recognises and nurtures new and emerging
talents, new thinking and new forms of
exhibition-making.

Sound recording at Windmill Lane Studios
Sound engineer: Ger McDonnell
House engineer/assistant studio manager:
Rachel Conlon
Additional assistance: Oisín & Jack

All video footage shot and edited by Jaki
Irvine at IMMA and Temple Bar Gallery &
Studios.

Further Reading

Irvine, Jaki; *Days of Surrender*, Copy Press,
London, 2013
Common Intellectual no. 6
ISBN 0955379288, 9780955379284
Length 96 pages