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NA hÉIREANN
IRISH MUSEUM OF
MODERN ART

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IMMA

**STRATEGIC
COLLECTION
DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2017-2022**

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D08 FW31, Éire

Royal Hospital
Kilmainham
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BACKGROUND

The Strategic Collection Development Plan 2017-2022 is a framework document to help get clarity around how the Collection should be developed over the next five years, and that also addresses funding realities and development strategies. The Plan, developed by the Head of Collections in consultation with the Director and the Collections & Acquisitions Committee, will be reviewed regularly and renewed and re-launched at the end of five years.

The Collection, growing through purchase, gift, and commissions, is central to the mission of the Museum, which aims to foster awareness, understanding and involvement in the visual arts. It is essential that the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, a repository of creative ideas and practices in innovative formats, continues to grow. IMMA seeks to continually update the Collection for the benefit of the nation and for its audiences at home and abroad.

Collecting Priorities

IMMA Collection is the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art and collects in the present. Its remit is to collect the art of now for the future, to reflect key developments in contemporary visual culture and to keep them in the public domain for future generations.

The IMMA Collection aims to acquire works by both national and international artists. It seeks to reflect through key works the unfolding of modernity in Irish visual culture; to approach Irish art as a changing narrative with works that reflect an awareness of the evolving context and time in which they are made.

The Collection also seeks to celebrate the global nature of artistic exchange in the present day. Recognizing that the Collection will never be an encyclopedic representation of Irish art nor comprehensively reflect international contemporary developments, we propose to develop the Collection through a series of perspectives. That is, we seek to identify specific moments in history or points in time around which artists, national and international, have responded with unique and distinctly contemporary visions, embodied research and technical reflections.

IMMA can make an important contribution through its Collection by creating a platform, comprised of objects and art forms, on which to explore the terrain where contemporary thinking, research and reflection meet history in the making.

For example:

Grace Weir, *Dust Defying Gravity*, 2003.

Employing film, an artistic medium born in the modern age, Weir creates a visual conversation with scientific theory and practice. Set in an astronomical observatory, this work explores the time-space continuum through meditative images of the very near and the far distant. Her more recent research shines light on connections between Irish artist Mainie Jellett's engagement with early modernism and scientific discoveries of her day.

Willie Doherty, *Remains*, 2013.

Visual artists address the nature, impact, and continuing legacy of the "Troubles" in Ireland and produce visual meditations catalyzed by conflict regions around the globe.

Brian Maguire, *Favela Vila Prudente*, 1998 OR *Diario Popular (Twelve Days in March)*, 1998.

A painter develops a way of working that is simultaneously social, political and artistic to address the experience and impacts of poverty, inequality, and the drug trade in the world.

Guiding Principles for Acquisitions

Each work considered for acquisition to the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art at IMMA, by gift, purchase, or other means, will be weighed in terms of the following guiding principles:

- The work shows excellence and pre-eminence in its class and is worthy of preservation in the public domain.
- The work should represent a signal moment of achievement in an artist's career
- The work resonates powerfully within a particular time, situation or set of ideas.
- The work connects to and complements the existing Collection.
- The work has a significance level in terms of research, curation, exhibition and publication.
- The work may develop new ways of thinking or working, or trigger re-evaluation of received narratives, or document new chapters of artistic innovation.
- The Collection connects with, and documents, on-going Museum programmes.

IMMA considers for acquisition works made for or shown as part of the Temporary Exhibitions and other IMMA Programmes, thereby retaining a tangible memory of significant exhibitions, artistic partnerships, and collaborative public programmes. All decisions regarding acquisitions will take into account the needs of the Collection, the condition of the work, the cost of conserving and storing the work and value for money.

Works should be in, or capable of being returned to, an acceptable state of conservation, unless the physical condition is integral to the meaning of the work. IMMA seeks to acquire works with full provenance history and with established ownership. Before acquisition, every effort will be made to ensure that any object offered for purchase, gift, bequest or loan has not been illegally obtained and that a valid title is held.

Works in the ownership of the Board members, museum personnel or their families and close associates will be subject to the same criteria and appraisal as all potential acquisitions.

IMMA will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage, display and care of collections arrangements.

Methods and Means

Acquisitions are made by purchase, commission, donation, heritage donations in lieu of tax, bequest or pledged gifts and by long-term loans. Gifts and bequests will be considered under the same criteria as purchases and commissions.

IMMA does not typically accept restrictions or conditions on purchases. Gifts and bequests will not be accepted if they are subject to restrictions or conditions that are deemed unreasonable or unduly onerous.

If copyright for a gifted item is retained by the artist or donor, the Museum will seek permission for uses related to the charitable and educational mission of IMMA, via printed and digital formats.

Director's Discretion

The Director may approve the acquisition of work(s) up to the value of €5,000 euros in situations that call for prompt action and in the absence of an imminent meeting of the Collections & Acquisitions Committee.

Collecting Priorities 2017-2022

1. Purchase signal major works by Irish and/or international practitioners.
 2. Acquire signal major works by Irish and/or international practitioners offered through donation.
 3. Acquire artworks produced in the context of the IMMA programmes, selected and developed as appropriate to the National Collection (as per guidelines and strategic goals).
 4. Secure through donation strategic additions of works from 20th century Irish art reflecting IMMA's ongoing investigation into Irish art history as a changing narrative
 5. Broaden the global perspectives represented within the IMMA Collection
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6. Consider the need for gender balance and how inclusivity is reflected across the Collection

Funding for Acquisitions:

A significant increase in resources is required to ensure that IMMA has an acquisitions budget that is appropriate for the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art. IMMA's current grant in aid does not allow for acquisitions beyond designated funding achieved through specific funding raising initiatives such as IMMA 1000 and Hennessy Art Fund. It is important to note that these funding initiatives support the purchase of Irish art only.

It is of vital importance that IMMA builds available resources during the period of 2017 -2022 from a number of sources in order to fully meet the collecting priorities outlined above.

These sources include, but are not limited to:

- Government grant in aid
- Donor-supported acquisition of specific works identified as priorities by IMMA, guided by early identification of potential acquisitions within the IMMA programme.
- Donations of major works capitalizing on tax incentives available to do this.
- Development of fundraising initiatives to support the Collection.
- Private foundations
- Co-purchases with other Irish institutions.

This Plan is integrated with financial, developmental and other strategic planning initiatives for 2017-2022.
