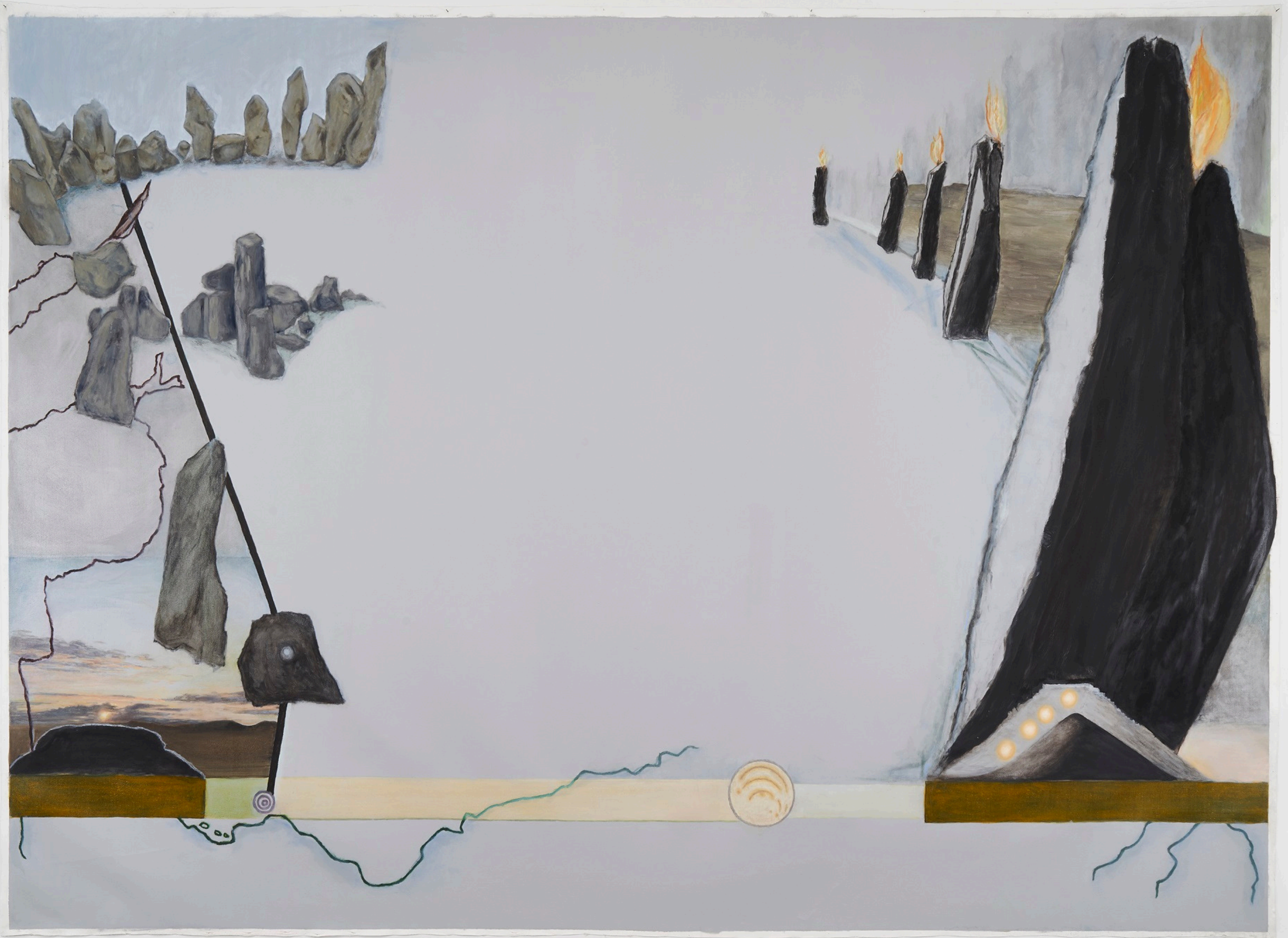


# IMMA

ÁRAS NUA-EALAÍNE  
NA hÉIREANN  
IRISH MUSEUM OF  
MODERN ART



## Acquisitions Impact Report

2020-2025



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# 01. About IMMA & The Collection

**IMMA is Ireland's National Cultural Institution for Modern and Contemporary Art under the auspices of the Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport. Our diverse and ambitious programme comprises exhibitions, commissions and projects by leading Irish and international artists, as well as a rich engagement and learning programme which together provides audiences of all ages the opportunity to connect with contemporary art and unlock their creativity.**

IMMA holds in trust for the public the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art, comprising some 4,700 works which exhibit enormous range and depth. The museum's mission is to continue to build a collection of modern and contemporary Irish and International art practice as part of the National Collections of Ireland. IMMA is responsible for the development, care, preservation, display and dissemination of all its artworks and archives for the use and enjoyment of Irish and global audiences.

The Collection is firmly rooted in the present and important contemporary works are added each year. Our collection of modern art, dating from across the 20<sup>th</sup> century but with a particular emphasis on work from the 1960s onwards, is regularly enhanced by donation or loan.

Providing works on loan is an important part of IMMA's educational and scholarly mission. Loans make the Collection accessible to wider audiences, fostering new dialogues, research, and understanding, while enhancing IMMA's national and international reputation.



(Detail) Patricia Hurl, 'Flight', 1989  
IMMA Collection Purchase, 2023  
Image courtesy of the artist, Photography: Denis Mortell Photography



# 03. IMMA Acquisitions in Context

IMMA collects artworks and related archival material from the 20th century to the present moment. Its remit is to reflect key developments in contemporary visual culture, and to keep them in the public domain for future generations.

IMMA collects Painting, Drawing (in diverse forms), Sculpture, Installation, Performance, Photography, Time-Based-Media, Digital Media, Textile, Prints, printed matter and archival material relating to artworks in the Collection and connected to IMMA's programming history.

The Collections & Acquisitions Committee meets a minimum of three times a year, and is comprised of 4 board members, 1 external specialist, IMMA Director, Head of Collections, Head of Programming, Head of Audiences & Development, and Head of Research & Learning. The Committee's role is to ensure transparency, good governance, and policy-informed decision-making.



Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, TD, pictured with Ali Curran, Chair of the Board, IMMA, and Christina Kennedy, Head of Collections, IMMA. Photo Leon Farrell, Photocall Ireland



# 03. IMMA Acquisitions in Context contd.

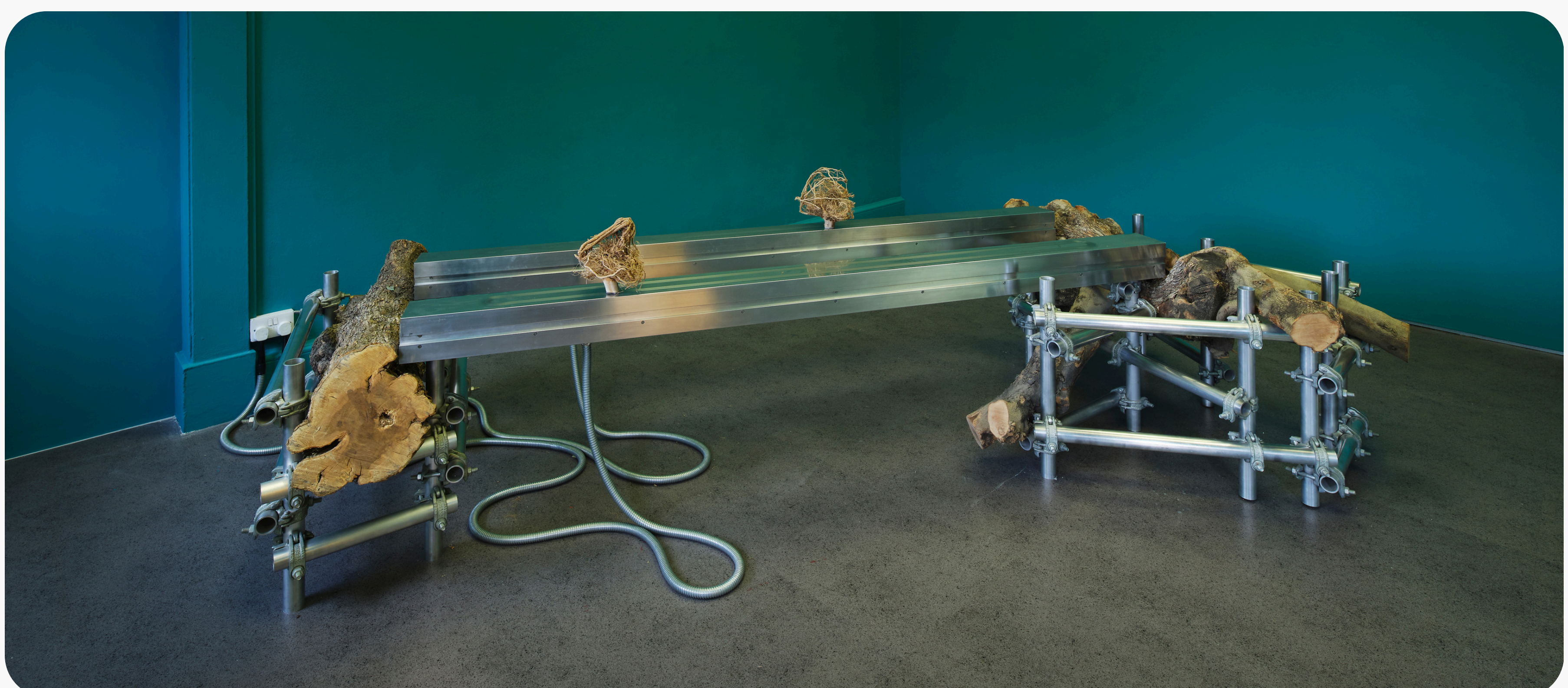
**Three overarching research principles inform the current context for new acquisitions:**

To pursue the aims of IMMA'S Strategic Plan (2024-2028) which positions the Museum as A Catalyst for Change, A Radically Public Space, A Centre for Research and Innovation, and A Global Connector.

To grow existing strengths within the Collection, in terms of medium, subject matter and practices.

To address absences, including:

- the under-representation of the diverse perspectives and identities within contemporary Ireland;
- the lack of an accurate reflection of the diversity of media in contemporary artistic practice, including digital media artworks and performance art;
- the under-representation of key moments in Irish and International artistic expression omitted during years of limited acquisition funding.



Installation View, Siobhán Hapaska, 'the recent incarnation of two advanced souls', 2012. Featured in IMMA Collection: Art As Agency, IMMA, Dublin, 2025. Photography by Ros Kavanagh.



# 04. The IMMA Collection at a Glance

34

Years being home to the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art

4,700+

Artworks in the Collection

584

Artworks collected between 2020-25 to date

235

Artworks acquired by Irish Artists 2020-25 to date

349

Artworks acquired by International artists 2020-25 to date

15+

Countries of birth represented by International Artists

221

Artworks acquired with funding from the 'Your National Collection' campaign 2021 & 2023

368

National and International Loans between 2020-2025 to date



# 05. The Your National Collection Campaign

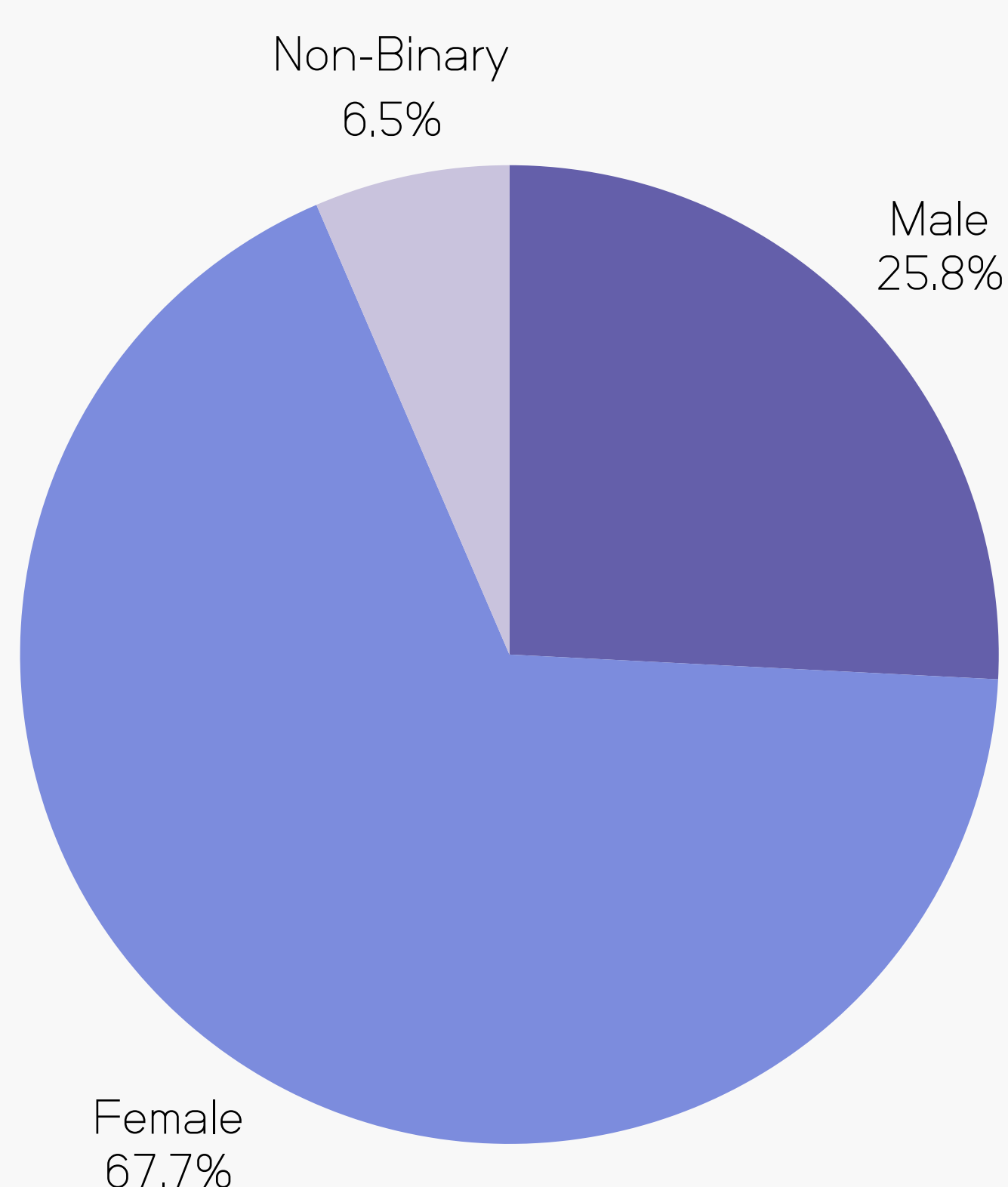
As the cultural repositories for the country, the role of the National Cultural Institutions is to reflect Ireland and its people, and tell the story of our society. The Your National Collection Campaign launched in 2021, returning in 2023, and was the first time in over a decade that substantial State funding was specifically allocated towards building the National Collection of Modern and Contemporary Art to reflect contemporary culture.

In October 2020, then Minister Catherine Martin committed €1m from her department to IMMA and the Crawford Art Gallery for the acquisition of artworks to support artists living and/or working in Ireland as well as works by international artists of particular relevance to the IMMA Collection, by the purchasing of existing artworks - bringing much needed financial resources to the sector.

Minister Patrick O'Donovan and the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport continue to work with the National Cultural Institutions to develop meaningful ways to support artists across the country.

2021

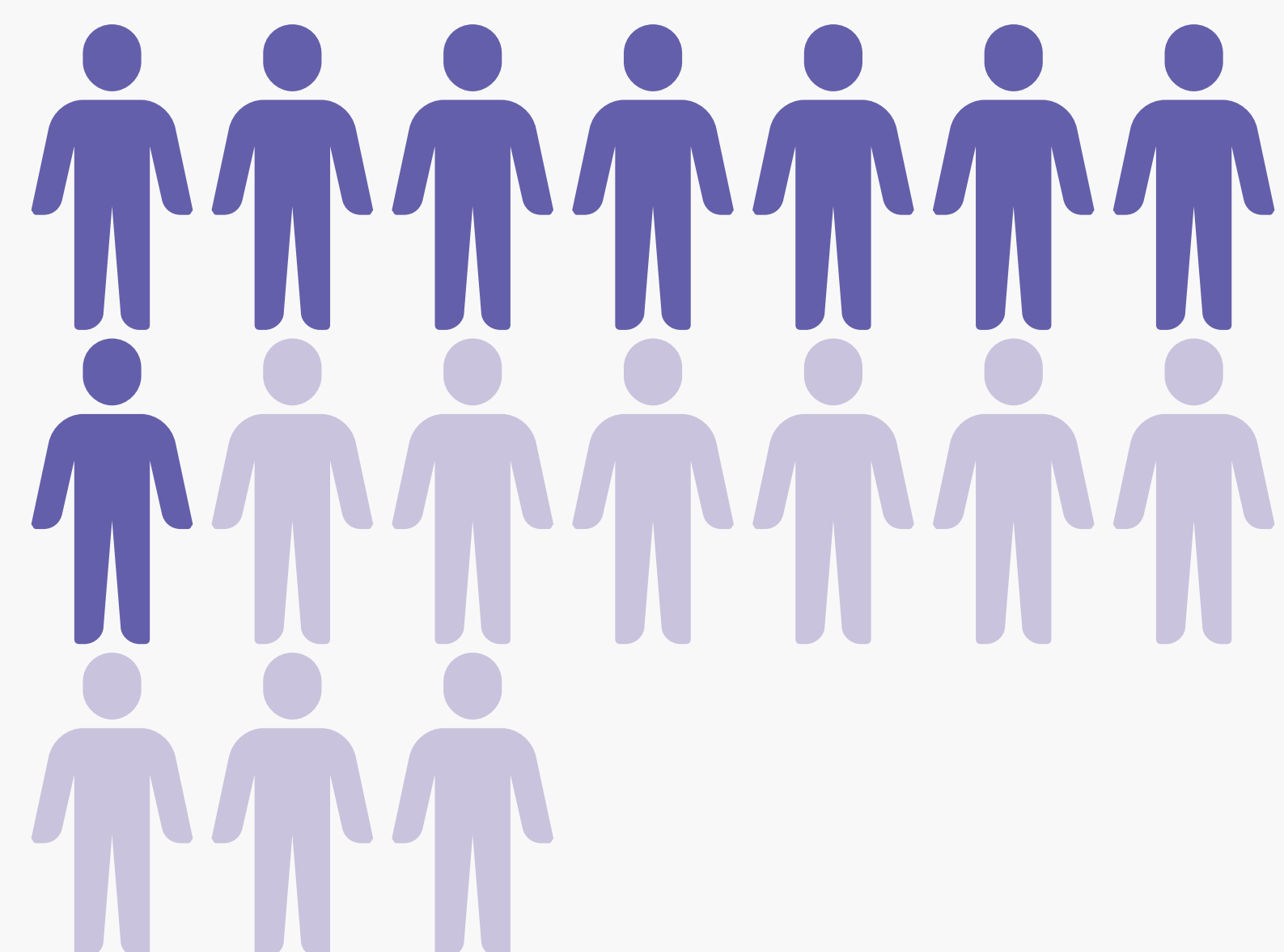
197 works by 31 Artists



- 21/31 Artists (67.7%) identifying as Female
- 8/31 (25.8%) Artists identifying as Male
- 2/31 (6.5%) Artists identifying as Non-Binary

2023

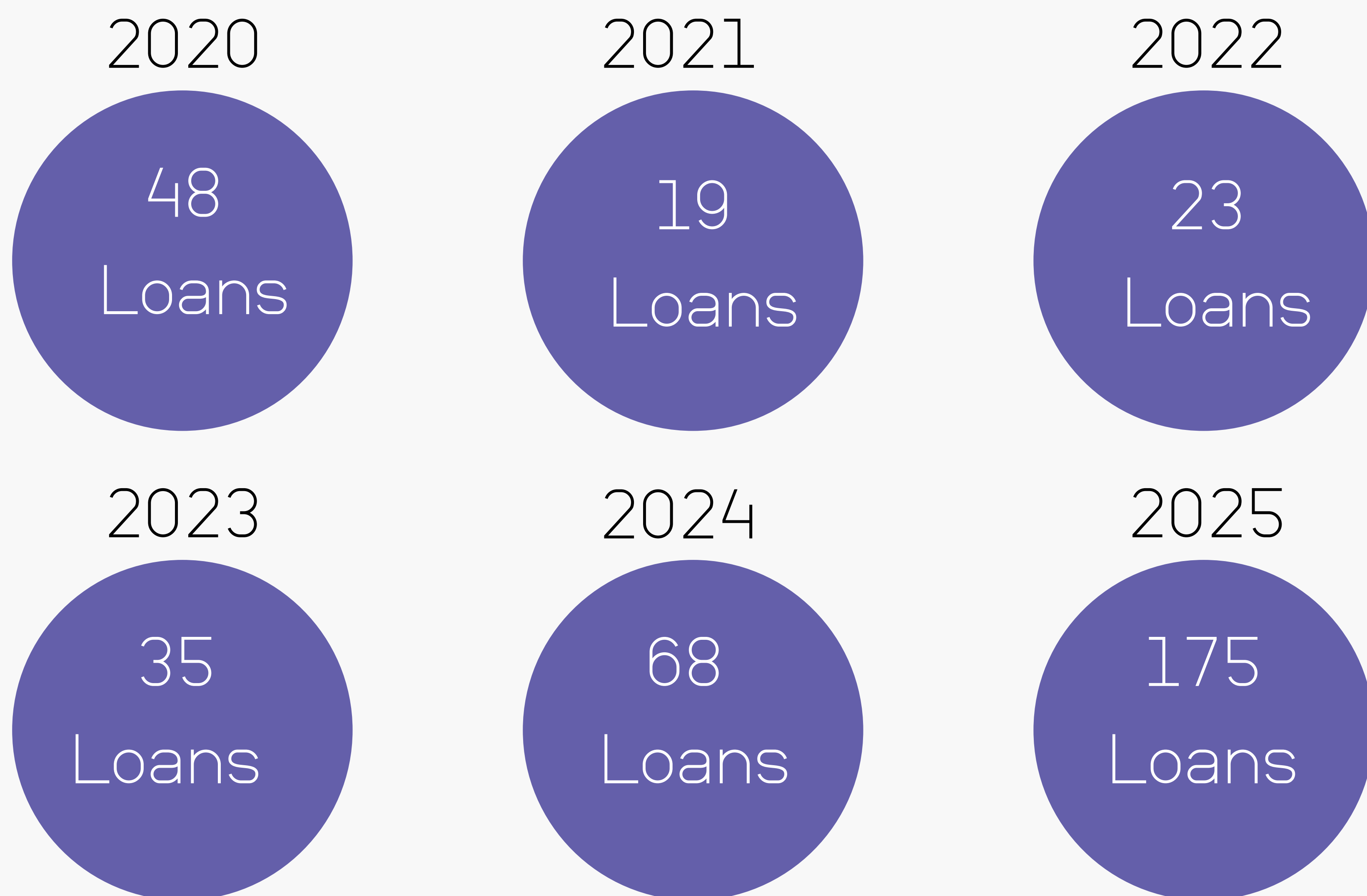
24 works by 17 Artists



- 8 out of the 17 selected artists were born in Ireland

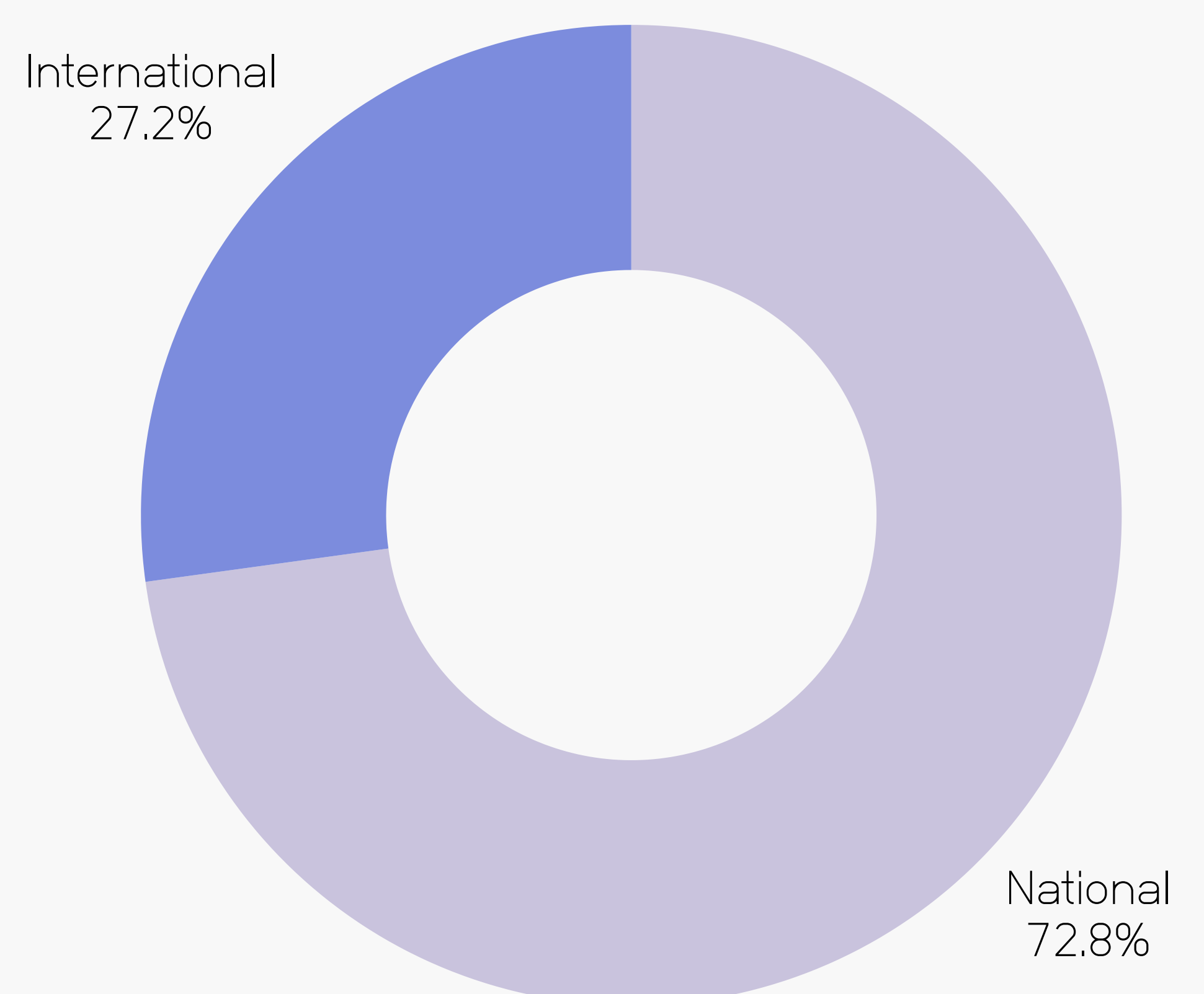


# 06. IMMA Collection Loans 2020 - 2025



IMMA lends extensively from its Collection each year to support exhibitions in museums, galleries, and alternative spaces. Individual works or curated groups are regularly loaned for specific exhibitions, ensuring public access to works held in trust. These loans advance IMMA's educational and scholarly mission, deepen understanding of the Collection, and foster collaboration across institutions. By making works accessible to wider audiences, loans spark new dialogues, encourage research, and bring rarely seen pieces out of long-term storage.

## Local & Global





# 06. Acquisition Highlights contd.

## 2022

### Kind Words Can Never Die, Navine G Dossos

IMMA invited the artist Navine G. Dossos to realise an ambitious new commission for IMMA's iconic Courtyard, titled 'Kind Words Can Never Die'. The work explored new psychological states that have emerged in response to a greater awareness of global and local climate change. These wall paintings, designed through a series of workshops at IMMA, explored how we can use colour to express emotional states, and make images of these complex feelings that can be both negative and positive responses to ecological change. The work was displayed in the courtyard for all members of the public to enjoy, emphasising that IMMA is, and will continue to be **A Radically Public Space** for all to enjoy.

One of the major issues of addressing climate change is how we visually represent it. We rely heavily on photographs to evidence the drama of ecological degradation, but also on data-driven charts, informational diagrams and other schematic representations to describe something that is almost intangible in our everyday lives. 'Kind Words Can Never Die' aims to bring together our internal and external worlds, to create a new way to think about the intimate effects of climate change, and to shift our relationship to the planet.

## 2023

### The Weltkunst Collection, Various Artists

The Weltkunst Collection of British Art began in 1986 on the advice of Adrian Ward-Jackson as part of the work of the Weltkunst Foundation, which, since 1981, has been responsible for a number of donations to leading British arts institutions, including the Royal Opera House and Ballet Rambert.

The Weltkunst Collection focuses predominantly on sculpture but also includes many large-scale photoworks, video and film installations, drawings and works on paper, and portfolios of prints. In 1994, the collection was given to IMMA on long-term loan.

In 2023, with significant financial support and collaboration from the Department, IMMA secured part of the Weltkunst Collection for the nation, comprising 268 works on paper covering a broad spectrum of late-20<sup>th</sup>-Century global practice. This immense body of work has formed a significant and important part of IMMA's working collection since the mid-90's, and we are immensely grateful to know we have now secured this body of works in perpetuity.

The acquisition of this part of the Weltkunst Collection moves IMMA forward in our ambition to be **A Centre for Research and Innovation.**



# 06. Acquisition Highlights contd.

## 2024

**Dusk (Bands and End-Points)**, Jo Baer  
**Crossing the Salt**, Gabhann Dunne

In 2024, IMMA acquired Gabhann Dunne's 'Crossing the Salt', 2018, and Jo Baer's 'Dusk (Bands and End-Points)', 2012.

**Both works were donated to IMMA as a Heritage Gift under Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act.** This is an important mechanism that enables individuals and corporations to donate an important artwork or collections of artworks to the National Collection in lieu of tax, where applicable. This has been instrumental in the growth of IMMA's Permanent Collection.

Gabhann Dunne's work 'Crossing the Salt', refers to the migratory habits of birds crossing the sea to arrive in Ireland. This work taps into the impact of ecological challenges, including the potential loss of biodiversity and of extinction.

IMMA is proud to also accept Jo Baer's 'Dusk (Bands and End-Points)' into the National Collection. The work observes 'the period of time that the Irish so wonderfully call "between the lights", alluding to "Patrick's sun" with a yellow-lit horizontal band charted across Ireland'.

The acquisition of both works emphasise IMMA's ambition to be a **Catalyst for Change**.

## 2025

**The Alan Conroy Bequest**,  
Various Artists

In 2025, IMMA's Collections & Acquisitions Committee accepted an extraordinary bequest to the National Collection.

The late Mr. Conroy, a retired civil servant, had throughout his life curated an extensive collection of artworks by some of the most recognisable names in modern and contemporary Irish Art.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Conroy, IMMA accepted a total of 47 works into the Collection, by 27 different Irish and Ireland-based artists, including Patrick Scott, Barrie Cooke, Evie Hone, Tony O'Malley, Cecil King, Camille Souter, Louis le Brocquy, and William Crozier.

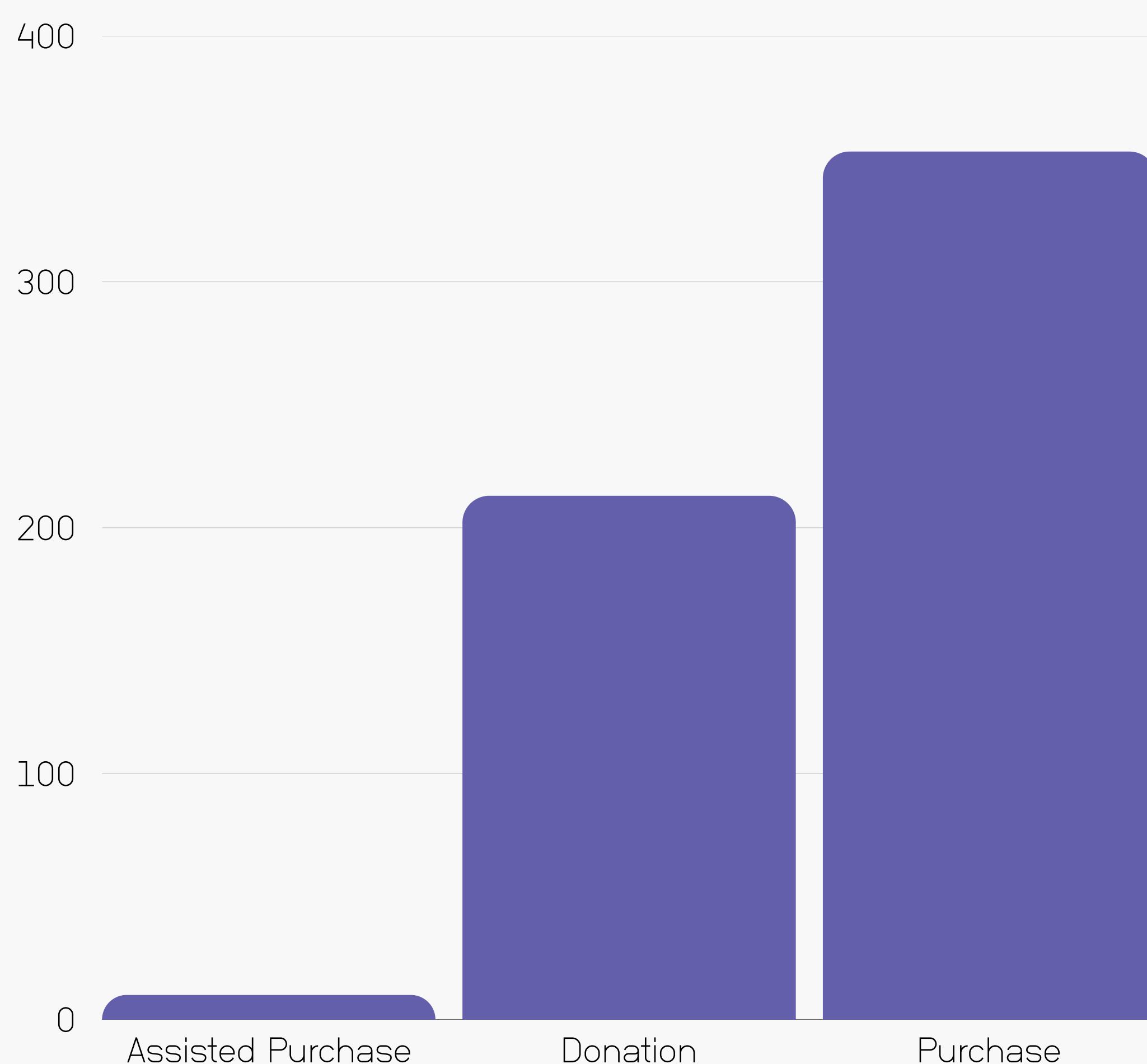
As a registered charity, IMMA relies on the support of individuals to help grow our National Collection for the benefit of generations to come. It was an honour to accept this bequest, in memory of Mr. Conroy's late mother and father.

The addition of the Conroy Collection moves IMMA forward in our ambition to be a truly dynamic institution, and a leading **Centre for Research and Innovation**.



# 07. Methods of Acquisition

## from 2020-2025 to date



From 2020-2025, 584 works have been acquired, of which:

- 355 were purchased
- 12 were an assisted purchase
- 215 were donated
- 2 were donated via Section 1003

Since its inception in 1991, IMMA has benefited from the generosity and commitment of art, culture, and social change enthusiasts. This philanthropic support has reinforced IMMA's position as an outstanding cultural institution, collecting and presenting modern and contemporary art in Ireland and recognised internationally as a thought-leader in contemporary art practice.

We are deeply grateful to our parent Department, patrons, supporters, Collectors Circle Members, and to those who have made transformative gifts to our institution since its founding, enabling us to enrich our Collection, and deliver world-class exhibitions, community engagement programmes, and artist residencies.

**You can support IMMA by making a donation to our annual acquisition fund, leaving a bequest, or making a donation of artwork / acquiring artwork on our behalf. Individuals and corporations who pay tax in Ireland can donate artwork to IMMA tax-efficiently through Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.**

**US-based donors can make a tax-efficient donation via the American Friends of the Arts in Ireland (AFAI), an IRS-determined 501c3 body of which IMMA is a beneficiary, or The American Ireland Funds.**



The scale of the Collection in the present day, 34 years since IMMA's foundation, is a testament to those who have supported its growth and our ambition throughout the years.

We wish to extend our thanks to all those who have made this growth possible, with particular thanks to



**An Roinn Cultúir,  
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt**  
Department of Culture,  
Communications and Sport

**IMMA** COLLECTORS  
CIRCLE

and our generous foundation, individual, and corporate donors.



Earth Rising 2022, IMMA. Photo by Tony Kinlan

For more information, please contact [Development@imma.ie](mailto:Development@imma.ie)