

# ***The Enormous Space***

3.11 - 19.11.2023

*The Enormous Space* is the original title of a 1989 short story by J G Ballard. In 2005 it was adapted into a television film called *Home* and broadcast in England by the BBC. It follows the mental breakdown of a middle-class male suburbanite who begins an 'experiment' never to step foot outside his house again. Over a period of six-weeks the man descends into madness, believing that the upper floors of the house are expanding. As food runs out neighbourhood pets are lured and eaten. Eventually he kills and eats any person that rings the doorbell. His daily experiences and thoughts are documented using a camcorder. He films the expanding rooms of the building extensively, believing that a supernatural process is taking place. When later reviewing the footage, nothing of what he has seen or experienced is there on the tape, the rooms are normal.

In the ground floor of the exhibition is the final part in a trilogy of video works entitled *The Secret Millionaire*. This closing episode depicts the interior of a modern single-room apartment that is without furnishings and in-between occupants. The majority of the footage is produced using a drone mounted camera. A narrator recounts fragments of memories of their youth, employment and the activist circles they socialised in. The video is accompanied by a piano composition based on the soundtrack from a 2014 English crime-thriller movie.

Across from the video, *Untitled (The Placemakers, Parts 1 - 7)*, is a series of analogue photographs shot in Dublin and Frankfurt am Main. The images are made by photographing large scale billboards that advertise new housing developments. Using a combination of cgi and stock imagery these collages of potential future scenes are intended to be viewed from afar or in passing. In the photographs, small sections and details are cropped from these larger scenes. The images are developed and enlarged in the darkroom, bringing further distortions and aberrations to the digital constructions.

Downstairs in the basement is the 2003 film work *Here After*. The film, a collaboration between three artists, was made in an infamous high-rise housing estate in Ballymun, Dublin that was scheduled for demolition as part of a large-scale regeneration project in the area. Shot on 16mm and 8mm film, the work depicts the derelict apartment block and the possessions that were left behind by its former residents. In making the film large holes were cut into the floors on multiple levels of the block, through which the abandoned furnishings are dragged and fall.