

Lismore Castle Arts: St Carthage Hall



AILBHE NÍ BHRIAIN: Inscriptions VI

14 JUNE – 10 AUGUST 2025

PREVIEW SATURDAY 14 JUNE

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain's work is rooted in an exploration of imperial legacy, human displacement and the Anthropocene. These intertwined subjects are approached through an associative use of narrative and a deeply crafted visual language that verges on the surreal.

For Lismore, Ní Bhriain presents *Inscriptions VI*, an exhibition bringing together new works in tapestry, print and installation. A large scale tapestry, *The Muses V*, forms the centrepiece of the exhibition. The *Muses* series (2018-25) is a pivotal body of work for the artist – the first created in her now-signature medium of Jacquard tapestry. The series references archival photographic portraits from the 1850s, from a genre once termed 'orientalist photography'. Supposedly an authentic representation of culture, in reality these images existed as projections of western fantasies of the exotic and the erotic. Ní Bhriain works with collage to draw out the darkness behind the fantasy, fusing the portraits with imagery of excavated landscapes and damaged cityscapes. In bringing these disparate images together, the artist suggests intertwined histories of loss and cultural destruction, pointing to the ongoing fused legacies of colonial and industrial forces. In this exhibition, Ní Bhriain presents *The Muses V* in dialogue with sculptural and photographic elements, extending its motifs into a series of new material and pictorial relationships within the space of St. Carthage Hall.

The exhibition's title derives from the earliest known museological writing in the western world – Samuel Quiccheberg's *'Inscriptions or Titles of the Immense Theatre'* (1565), which details the practice of museums and the organisation of the world's objects into classes and subclasses. This was essentially an instruction manual for the creation of private collections, with an explicit Western imperialist agenda. Ní Bhriain's work since 2017 has made reference to this text, as she constructs an enigmatic visual vocabulary to explore the displacement embedded in familiar systems of representation.

Open Saturdays and Sundays, 12- 5pm (during exhibitions) & other times by appointment. Admission Free.

St Carthage Hall, Chapel St, Lismore, P51 WV96. WWW.LISMORECASTLEARTS.IE

Artist Biography

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain's work has been shown widely internationally, at venues including Broad Museum, Michigan; Whitechapel Gallery, London; Hammer Museum, LA; Istanbul Modern, Turkey; Reina Sofia Museum, Madrid; Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, France and the 16th Lyon Biennale. Current exhibitions include *The Dream Pool Intervals*, The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (Solo, 27 March - 28 September 2025); and *Programmed Universes*, MAC Lyon, France (Group, 7 March - 13 July). Recent solo exhibitions include *An Experiment with Time*, Kunsthall Gent, Belgium (2024); Kerlin Gallery (2023); CCA Glasgow (2022). Recent group exhibitions include Lahore Biennale 03: *Of Mountains and Seas*; Innsbruck International Biennial: *Heaven Can Wait*; and *SUSPENSE*, Ulster Museum, Belfast (all 2024); Lagos Photo Festival; Crawford Art Gallery, Cork; Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland; Musée des Beaux Arts de Lyon; Glucksman Gallery, Cork, (all 2023) and the Lyon Biennale (2022). Public collections include Dallas Museum of Art; MAC Lyon; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin; Ulster Museum, Belfast; Crawford Art Gallery, Cork; Trinity College Dublin; and The Arts Council of Ireland.

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, or to request images, please contact Paul McAree, Curator, Lismore Castle Arts at: gallery@lismorecastlearts.ie

About Lismore Castle Arts

Lismore Castle Arts, a not-for-profit initiative, was founded in 2005 and is committed to the presentation and promotion of contemporary visual art in Ireland. It hosts exhibitions of international significance alongside a series of smaller exhibitions, projects and events as well as a comprehensive learning programme. In 2025 Lismore Castle Arts celebrates its 20th year.

Since opening, the gallery has presented the work of many leading international artists including Matthew Barney, Gerard Byrne, Dorothy Cross, Nancy Holt, Josephsohn, Richard Long, Eva Rothschild, Danh Vo and Ai Weiwei. In 2011 a second project space, St Carthage Hall, located in the town of Lismore opened. This gallery, in a former church, has presented a varied programme of exhibitions including works by Camille Henrot, Martin Healy, Niamh O'Malley, Roman Signer, Superflex and Corban Walker. A third space - The Mill, opened in 2022 on the outskirts of Lismore town, bringing back into use a historically significant building, and allowing an opportunity to present more physically challenging artworks. In 2022 the space hosted *Cascade* by Virginia Overton.

Lismore Castle Arts is situated in the historic gardens of Lismore Castle, which includes permanent works by Roger Hiorns, Eilís O'Connell and Franz West. Lismore Castle Arts has a deeply embedded community engagement programme, with learning projects such as *Artifice*, and projects such as *A Space for Lismore*, which foster long term projects between artists and communities.

Lismore Castle Arts' exhibition programme is kindly funded by the Arts Council and Waterford City & County Council Arts

