

Niamh O'Malley

Glasshouse

John Hansard Gallery
1–31 July 2020

#JHGOMalley

As part of our new online exhibition series, John Hansard Gallery, part of University of Southampton, is pleased to present *Glasshouse* by Dublin-based artist Niamh O'Malley.

Glasshouse is an intimate video study of landscape, light and glass that was originally created during a residency in Denmark, after O'Malley happened upon rows of old greenhouses. From inside of the greenhouses, the camera pans across discoloured and broken panes of glass, looking through to wild grasses and overgrown weeds beyond. As the paired frames traverse, they fluctuate between clarity and obscurity. Sunlight spills onto the surfaces to reveal the layers of dirt and the effects of time. *Glasshouse* was originally made in 2014 as a two screen video installation, and has been especially reformatted for John Hansard Gallery's online video commissions programme.

Glass plays a central role in O'Malley's wider sculptural practice, where she also employs materials such as steel, limestone, wood, light, and time-based media. Her exhibitions present a considered and purposeful sequence of forms, engineered to encourage a mode of slow looking, and consideration of their materiality. In re-examining *Glasshouse* during the current pandemic, its abandoned spaces and obscured exteriors seem to echo our own withdrawal during lockdown with glimpses of striking clarity when the glass is removed.

Glasshouse is a John Hansard Gallery online exhibition as part of the Digital Array programme that is supported by the Barker-Mill Foundation.

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Notes to Editors

Niamh O'Malley

Niamh O'Malley (b. 1975, County Mayo, Ireland) has held numerous solo exhibitions in recent years including Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin (2019), Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland (2019), Grazer Kunstverein, Austria (2018) and Bluecoat Liverpool (2015). John Hansard Gallery is also pleased to announce that it will present a solo exhibition of works by O'Malley in 2021. This exhibition had previously been scheduled for 2020, but has been postponed due to the coronavirus closures.

John Hansard Gallery

John Hansard Gallery is a locally engaged and internationally recognised contemporary art gallery in Southampton. Being part of the University of Southampton, the Gallery aims to change the world for the better through great art. To realise this the Gallery creates innovative and critically acclaimed contemporary art exhibitions, events, engagement and research projects that excite, challenge, represent and reach the widest possible public audience.

From 1979 the Gallery was located on the University's Highfield Campus. In 2018 the Gallery relocated to a new purpose-built arts complex in Southampton's city centre, significantly increasing the space available for exhibitions, events and integrated programming. Learning and engagement are at the heart of the Gallery and underpin all its activities. The innovative education and public programme is accompanied by special community-focused projects, including activities for all ages and levels of experience. John Hansard Gallery is supported using public funding as a National Portfolio Organisation by Arts Council England.

www.jhg.art

University of Southampton

The University of Southampton is one of the UK's leading teaching and research institutions, with a global reputation for research and scholarship across a wide range of subjects. The University combines academic excellence with an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to research, supporting a culture that engages and challenges students and staff in their pursuit of learning.

www.southampton.ac.uk

Arts at University of Southampton: Inspiring arts and culture for everyone

Arts at University of Southampton offers a wealth of inspiring cultural experiences and opportunities, showcasing emerging talent and renowned international artists. From visual arts, music and literature, to theatre and film, there's something for everyone.

The University of Southampton has rich heritage and long-standing commitment to arts and culture as an essential part of university life. The University is proud of its unique relationship with three Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations. The Nuffield Theatre opened at its Highfield Campus in 1964 and was joined by the University's concert hall Turner Sims and John Hansard Gallery in the 1970s. The relocation of the John Hansard Gallery to its new purpose-built home in the heart of the city's Cultural Quarter increases the University of Southampton's presence in that area, close to its Mayflower Halls and administrative offices in Guildhall Square. The opening of Studio 144 symbolises an extraordinary moment for Southampton and the University will be working closely with John Hansard Gallery, City Eye and NST Nuffield Southampton Theatres to deepen public engagement, to share its research and present inspiring and accessible cultural opportunities for all.

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