



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Niamh O'Malley is a contemporary Irish artist born in County Mayo in 1975.

She studied at the University of Ulster.

She currently lives and works in Dublin, Ireland.

THE WORK

Niamh originally trained as a painter and is now best known for her sculptures and moving image installations.

Niamh is drawn to using familiar materials such as steel, limestone, wood and glass. She thinks carefully about the surface or patination of materials.

Her sculptures could remind you of familiar and everyday functional objects, for example shelves, canopies and panels.

Her steel posts are like lines drawn through the gallery. They support heavy shapes hung above your head while other sculptures make human scaled corners and handles.

She has considered the composition of the gallery and encourages our eyes to travel around the space while we think about how we all place objects in a room or use our eyes to select a view of a landscape, to give us a sense of something familiar.

The gallery becomes a landscape where you can look at each sculpture in relation to another. It encourages you to look at other people looking at and moving around the artworks and observing the spaces in between.

John Hansard Gallery



DRAIN (NEW COMMISSION)

This piece has been made for John Hansard Gallery. It is made from limestone a material chosen because it forms in clear, warm and shallow marine water. It's sedentary rock has clear fossilised marine life embedded into its surface. It was polished by workers in the stoneyard and by O'Malley to bring attention to the quality of the material, which makes it visible in a new and significant way.

A drain is usually something under the feet, often ignored, purely functional that takes the flow of water underground.

KEY WORDS

Absence

the state of being away from a place or person.

Architectural

practice of designing and constructing buildings.

Assemblage

a collection or gathering of things or people.

Fragility

the quality of being easily broken or damaged.

Functional

designed to be practical and useful, rather than attractive.

Inhabit

live in or occupy a place or environment.

Landscape

all the visible features of an area of land.

Moment

a very brief period of time.

Observation

the act of careful watching and listening in order to get information.

Patination

the production or formation of a gloss or sheen.

Reflection

an image seen in a mirror or shiny surface.

Prospect

an extensive view of a landscape.

Scale

refers to the overall physical size of an artwork or objects in the artwork.

Spatial

relating to taking up space.

Surface

the outside part or uppermost layer of something.

Where should you stand when looking at the work?
Is there a right way to view the work?

Look at other people moving or standing in the gallery.
What does the body look like in relation to the art work and to each other?

GRASSES

Is a moving image exhibit shown on a large LED screen. The landscape footage, originally captured on an iPhone camera, has been edited by recording the movement of the artist's finger swiping through the 'live' images on the phone. It suggests that the artist is looking for that perfect moment.

We all hoard and store images, often forgotten or overlooked. Screen swiping suggests touch and our effort to hold onto or capture the best images that reflect the experience.

