

Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre

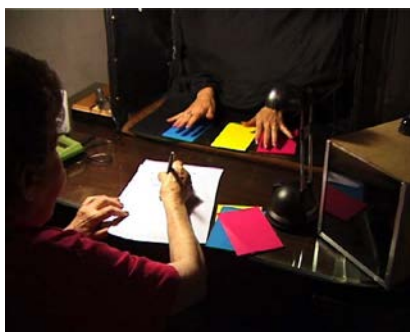


Susan MacWilliam: *Modern Experiments*

9 September to 18 October 2017

Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre is delighted to announce its upcoming exhibition *Susan MacWilliam: Modern Experiments*, the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of Susan MacWilliam's work to date. It will preview on Saturday 9 September at 3.00pm with guest speaker Dr. Alice Correia, Research Fellow, School of Arts and Media, University of Salford.

Modern Experiments presents key pieces from the artist's career with a focus on works created from 1998 onward when the artist started working with video. Since then, MacWilliam's work has investigated obscure and overlooked histories, and cases of perceptual and paranormal phenomena. Using anecdote, reconstruction, forms of portraiture, and detailed editing, she has made work about mediumship, ectoplasm, x-ray vision, telepathy, table tilting, clairvoyance, and dermo-optical perception.



The work presented in *Modern Experiments* forms a unique and significant body of material exploring peripheral subjects, and those that are beyond mainstream scientific and psychological study. Comprising twenty-eight of Susan MacWilliam's works, the exhibition features fourteen videos and video installations including *The Last Person*, 1998 (Shortlisted for IMMA Glen Dimplex Artists Award 1999), *Dermo Optics*, 2006 (exhibited at 2009 Venice Biennale) and *KATHLEEN*, 2014 (Derry-Londonderry City of Culture Commission), alongside other aspects of her diverse practice, including photographic works, stereoscopes, neon and sculptural works such as *Book Spheres*, 2014.

Born in Belfast and based between Belfast and Dublin, where she teaches at the National College of Art and Design, Susan MacWilliam has exhibited nationally and internationally with solo shows in New York, Dublin, London, Victoria B.C. Manchester and Derby. She is represented by CONNERSMITH, Washington, DC.

MacWilliam has worked with prominent parapsychologists and psychical research institutions, including poltergeist investigator William G. Roll, the New York family of Irish born medium Eileen J. Garrett, and the Dermo Optical Perception Laboratory of Madame Yvonne Duplessis, Paris. She has worked extensively with historical archives including those of the Parapsychology Foundation, New York; Hamilton Family fonds (spirit photograph archive), University of Manitoba; Parapsychology Laboratory Records, Duke University; and Rhine Research Center, Durham, NC.

While MacWilliam has exhibited in both Northern Ireland and the Republic, this exhibition will be the first opportunity for audiences throughout Ireland to see her key works together, and to gain an extensive overview of her practice.

Initiated and curated by Riann Coulter, F.E. McWilliam Gallery and Studio, Banbridge, Co. Down (10 September - 26 November 2016), this exhibition is supported through the North South Touring and Dissemination scheme, a joint initiative by the Arts Council /An Chomhairle Ealaíon and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and is touring throughout 2017 - Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda (18 February - 8 April); Uillinn: West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen (9 September - 18 October) and Butler Gallery, Kilkenny (28 October - 17 December).



Modern Experiments, Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, 2017 | Photograph: Ros Kavanagh

Fostering cross-border collaboration and building on existing links between the F.E. McWilliam Gallery and institutions throughout Ireland, this tour offers a unique opportunity for audiences to experience a survey exhibition of one of Ireland's most significant artists.

For more information about Susan MacWilliam

www.susanmacwilliam.com

<https://vimeo.com/susanmacwilliam>

<http://www.connersmith.us.com/artists/susan-macwilliam>

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