

Pavilion of Ireland at the  
56th International Art Exhibition  
La Biennale di Venezia



la Biennale di Venezia

56. Esposizione  
Internazionale  
d'Arte

Partecipazioni Nazionali

## SEAN LYNCH ADVENTURE: CAPITAL

Pavilion of Ireland  
Artiglierie of the Arsenale, Venezia

9 May – 22 November 2015  
Vernissage: 6 – 8 May

[www.adventure-capital.ie](http://www.adventure-capital.ie)  
[www.irelandvenice.ie](http://www.irelandvenice.ie)



Sean Lynch, *Adventure: Capital* (2014–15). Projected colour image.  
Courtesy of the Artist, Ireland at Venice and Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin.

The Pavilion of Ireland at the 56th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia – will present a new artwork by Irish artist Sean Lynch entitled *Adventure: Capital* that traces a journey from myth to minimalism around Ireland and Britain. Combining sculptural, video and archival elements, *Adventure: Capital* will be Lynch's most ambitious project to date, bringing together: Greek river gods; public art at regional airports; quarries and the art of stone-carving; an abandoned sculpture in Cork; and a traffic roundabout, on a storytelling journey that unravels notions of value and the flow of capital through an anthropological lens.

Sean Lynch forensically investigates anecdotes, hearsay and half-truths, unearthing marginalised stories that have been overlooked or fallen by the wayside. His idiosyncratic, yet meticulous research and fieldwork, absorbs these disparate fragments – social and cultural blind spots – and forms them into alternative arrangements of history, opening up new understandings of our world. For *Adventure: Capital*, Lynch's narrative inhabits a

wandering spirit, encountering the hegemonic structures and entwined flows of capital, migration, and neoliberal spatiality. Through his ethnographic methodology and allegory, Lynch playfully evokes the Irish bardic tradition, interrogating the complex motifs that connect an individual to a historically determinate environment and society.

Particular subjects and events have been resurrected through Lynch's previous enquiries including: Joseph Beuys' visit to Ireland in 1974; Celtic Revival architecture; and the mythical island of HyBrazil. Recent acclaimed projects have seen Lynch uncovering illicit sculptures made by Irish stone-carvers, the O'Shea brothers, in Oxford; exploring socially conservative reactions and vandalism to modern art in Ireland; working with the fast-food outlet on the site of the first museum in Britain; and locating repurposed remnants of the infamous DeLorean car factory at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

The exhibition will subsequently tour to acclaimed Irish institutions during 2016.

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Ireland at Venice is led by Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon. The Commissioner for the Irish Pavilion in 2015 is Mike Fitzpatrick, Director of Limerick's European Capital of Culture 2020 bid and Head of School, Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT. The Curator is Woodrow Kernohan, Director of EVA International – Ireland's Biennial, Limerick City. *Adventure: Capital* has been made possible through additional support from partners: Limerick City Gallery of Art; The Model, Sligo; Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast; Ronchini Gallery, London; Limerick City and County Council Arts Office; Limerick National City of Culture 2014; Wexford County Council; Maurice Ward Art Handling; Irish Wire, Limerick; Askeaton Contemporary Arts; and education partners: British Council, Northern Ireland; Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT. *Adventure: Capital* will subsequently be presented as a touring exhibition throughout Ireland in 2016.

### Location

Artiglierie of the Arsenale, Venezia

### La Biennale di Venezia Dates

9 May – 22 November 2015

### Vaporetto

Arsenale

### Official Websites

[www.adventure-capital.ie](http://www.adventure-capital.ie)  
[www.irelandvenice.ie](http://www.irelandvenice.ie)

### Artist's Website

[www.seanlynchinfo.com](http://www.seanlynchinfo.com)

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#### Irish Pavilion

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### Biographies

#### Sean Lynch, Artist

Sean Lynch (b. Kerry, Ireland, 1978) lives and works in London and Askeaton, Limerick, Ireland. He studied at the Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main and Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT. Recent solo exhibitions include: Modern Art Oxford (2014); Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane (2013); The Model, Sligo (2012); Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (2011–12). Selected group exhibitions include Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver (2013); IMMA | Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2011); Camden Arts Centre, London (2010); neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2010). Forthcoming exhibitions include: CAPC, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux and Lismore Castle Arts. He was awarded the TRAIN International Artist Residency at Gasworks, London (2012) and since 2006 has co-organised the residency and exhibition programme Askeaton Contemporary Arts in County Limerick. Lynch is represented by Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin, and is author and editor of many artist publications and bookworks.

#### Mike Fitzpatrick, Commissioner

Mike Fitzpatrick (b. Limerick, Ireland, 1959) is the Director of Limerick's European Capital of Culture 2020 bid, following his role as Director of Limerick National City of Culture 2014. Mike is on secondment from his position as Head of School, Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT to facilitate his current role. Previously he acted as Commissioner/Curator for the Irish Pavilion at the 52nd International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia, working with artist Gerard Byrne in 2007.

During his nine-year tenure as Director/Curator of Limerick City Gallery of Art from 2000–9, he curated over eighty exhibitions, working with Irish artists including: John Shinnors, Amanda Coogan, Sean Lynch, Caroline McCarthy, Donald Teskey, Diane Copperwhite, Mark O'Kelly, Tina O'Connell, Jack Donovan, Connolly/Cleary;

and international artists including: Lindsay Seers, Simon Starling. As an artist Mike has had solo shows in Limerick, Dublin, Belfast and New York. He has been published several times, including essays and interviews with: Gerard Byrne, Walter Verling, Amanda Coogan, Eamon O'Kane, and fellowships include PSI New York and the Whitney Independent Study Program, New York.

#### Woodrow Kernohan, Curator

Woodrow Kernohan (b. Belfast, N. Ireland, 1975) is currently Director/CEO of EVA International – Ireland's biennial of contemporary art in Limerick City. Prior to EVA International, Woodrow was a Director of photography festival Brighton Photo Fringe, Director of experimental exhibition space Permanent Gallery, and Exhibitions Curator at restoration project The Regency Town House, all in Brighton & Hove, UK. Since joining EVA International, Woodrow has overseen the relaunching and development of the organisation from being an annual exhibition to becoming a Biennial.

In 2012 he worked with guest curator Annie Fletcher for EVA International – After the Future that included 42 Irish and international artists, and in 2014 he worked with guest curator Bassam El Baroni for Agitationism that included 56 artists as part of Limerick National City of Culture 2014. With Permanent Gallery and The Regency Town House, he created projects with over 200 artists between 2004–11 and with Brighton Photo Fringe he coordinated city-wide biennial festivals with over 80 exhibitions in 2008 and over 130 exhibition in 2010. Woodrow studied Fine Art Media at the Slade School of Fine Art, Critical Fine Art Practice at the University of Brighton, and Artists Film, Video and Photography at University of the Creative Arts, Maidstone. He is a member of IBA, International Biennial Association and IKT, International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art.