

# IRELAND AT VENICE



The Irish tour of Ireland at Venice is supported by the Arts Council as part of its commitment to promote the visual arts to Irish audiences



## SEAN LYNCH

### ADVENTURE: CAPITAL

### THE IRISH TOUR



Sean Lynch, *Adventure: Capital* (2014 – 15). Mixed media installation. Courtesy of Ireland at Venice; Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin; Ronchini Gallery, London

#### **SEAN LYNCH, *ADVENTURE: CAPITAL* OPENS AT THE RHA**

#### **Lynch presents new video installation: *Campaign to Change the National Monuments Acts* (2016)**

**Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin**  
8 July – 21 August 2016

The official tour of Ireland's entry into the 56th Venice Biennale, *Adventure: Capital* by artist Sean Lynch, will open on the 7th July at the RHA, Dublin. Visited by over 400,000 people during the world's most prestigious visual arts exhibition in 2015, *Adventure: Capital* will come to the gallery from the 8th of July – 21st of August as part of a nationwide tour.

Combining sculpture, video and graphic elements, *Adventure: Capital* explores the allegories and underlying narratives of the contemporary architectural and social environment – through encounters with the sculptures of John Burke, the quarries of Cornwall, megalithic 'cursing' stones, urban vandalism, and Irish Free State banknotes.

Alongside *Adventure: Capital*, Lynch presents a new video installation, *Campaign to Change the National Monuments Acts* (2016), that investigates the legal status of metal detectors in Ireland. Following national controversy around the finding of the Derrynaflan Hoard, a medieval treasure trove uncovered in the 1980s, the state hastily placed a blanket ban on the public use of all devices used to search for archaeological objects. This legislation effectively destroyed the fledgling Irish metal detectorist community of Ireland. Using the tropes of promotional videos, *Campaign to Change the National Monuments Acts* advocates for a change in these authoritarian laws, where ideas of nationhood, individual freedom, and the need for new forms of community-led heritage are all explored on a journey narrated by Lynch's long-time collaborator Gina Moxley.

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Speaking in advance of the opening Curator of *Adventure: Capital*, Woodrow Kernohan, Director of EVA International – Ireland’s Biennial said “This is the third stage of the Ireland at Venice Irish tour. At each stage of the *Adventure: Capital* work has evolved and grown with Sean Lynch – offering audiences something new and unique at each location.

“For the RHA, one of Ireland’s most revered artistic spaces, Sean Lynch will debut *Campaign to Change the National Monuments Acts* (2016) for the first time in Ireland and invite visitors to explore notions of individual freedom and nationhood. From the beginning, Ireland at Venice has been an exceptional project to work on – celebrating social and cultural blind spots and crystalizing them into alternative readings of history.”

Mike Fitzpatrick, Commissioner for the Irish Pavilion in 2015, Director of Limerick’s European Capital of Culture 2020 bid and Head of School, Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT said “The success of *Adventure: Capital* at the 2015 Venice Biennale and across Ireland shows that Sean Lynch can take his place among Ireland’s most exciting and interesting artists.”

A free *Adventure: Capital* publication with a text by curator Woodrow Kernohan is available within the exhibition. To coincide with his exhibition at the RHA, Sean Lynch will also present a new installation at the Kevin Kavanagh Gallery from July 6 entitled *Scrapyard Carnival*.

The Irish tour of Ireland at Venice is supported by the Arts Council as part of its commitment to promote the visual arts to Irish audiences. Ireland at Venice is an initiative of Culture Ireland in partnership with the Arts Council.

**ENDS//**

*Adventure: Capital* tour dates:

**Royal Hibernian Academy**, Dublin  
8 July – 21 August 2016

**Golden Thread Gallery**, Belfast  
1 September – 15 October 2016

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* and the Irish tour of Ireland at Venice have been made possible through additional support from the RHA and from partners: Limerick City Gallery of Art; The Model, Sligo; Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast; Limerick City and County Council Arts Office; Limerick, Candidate City for European Capital of Culture 2020; Limerick Institute of Technology, Limerick School of Art and Design; EVA International – Ireland’s Biennial; Maurice Ward Art Handling; Wexford County Council; British Council Northern Ireland; Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, Dublin; Ronchini Gallery, London; Askeaton Contemporary Arts; Irish Wire Products.

*Campaign to Change the National Monuments Act* (2016) has been produced by Spacex Exeter in association with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter and through support from The Henry Moore Foundation, Arts Council of England, The Elephant Trust, The Foyle Foundation and Exeter City Council.

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For further information please contact:

**Press & PR**

Síle Murphy or Nora Eastwood at **Q4PR**, on 01 475 1444 or 086 028 8132 or by email at [sile@q4pr.ie](mailto:sile@q4pr.ie) and [nora@q4pr.ie](mailto:nora@q4pr.ie)

**Royal Hibernian Academy**

[www.rhagallery.ie](http://www.rhagallery.ie)

[info@rhagallery.ie](mailto:info@rhagallery.ie)

**Opening Times – Free Admission:**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 11am–5pm

Wednesday: 11am–8pm

Sunday: 12pm–5pm

**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)

**Gallery Websites**

[www.kevinkavanagh.ie](http://www.kevinkavanagh.ie)

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

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## Biographies

### Sean Lynch, Artist

Sean Lynch (b. Kerry, Ireland, 1978) lives and works in Askeaton, Limerick, Ireland. He studied at the Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main and Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT. Recent solo exhibitions include: Ronchini Gallery, London (2015); Lismore Castle Arts (2015); Modern Art Oxford (2014); VISUAL, Carlow (2014); Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane (2013); The Model, Sligo (2012); Crawford Art Gallery, Cork (2011–12). Selected group exhibitions include: CAPC, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Bordeaux (2015); Charles H. Scott Gallery, Vancouver (2013); IMMA | Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2011); Camden Arts Centre, London (2010); neugerriemschneider, Berlin (2010). 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 Ronchini Gallery, London, and is author and editor of many artist publications and bookworks. For further information please see: [www.seanlynchinfo.com](http://www.seanlynchinfo.com)

### 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 PS1 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. He is a member of IBA, International Biennial Association and IKT, International Association of Curators of Contemporary Art. 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. For 2016 he is working with curator Koyo Kouoh on the 37th edition of EVA International that is titled *Still (the) Barbarians* (16 April – 17 July) and features 57 Irish and international artists across multiple Limerick locations. For further information please see: [www.eva.ie](http://www.eva.ie)