



OliverSearsGallery

Michael Canning

Your Cyclical Natures

SCULPTURE PAINTING DRAWING

Nacht und Träume

Night and dreams, D.827

Holy night, you sink down
The dreams flow down, too
Like your moonlight through the rooms
Through the people's silent chests
They listen softly with desire
They call, when day awakens
Come back, holy night
Sweet dreams, come back!

Oliver Sears Gallery is pleased to present Your Cyclical Natures - Sculpture Painting Drawing by Michael Canning.

In his second solo show at Oliver Sears Gallery, Canning presents new sculpture, paintings and works on paper which address ideas about the creative process, the lineage of ideas, what it is to make an image of something that already exists in the world and the significance which attaches to the manipulation of simple materials.

Fascinated by the idea of light as an agent for transformation, with the solitary, private nature of creative endeavour, and with a profound sense of connection with the landscape of County Limerick where he lives and works, Canning has made a group of new sculptures, paintings on paper and two large works on canvas.

Central to the exhibition are four sculptures, made from mundane materials such as cardboard, wire, glue, soot and plastic packaging. Connecting to the heritage of Arte Povera practices which have informed his approach to studio activities, these works are faithful life-size recreations of specific common weeds which have a short lifespan. These sculptures raise questions about the longevity of art compared with life itself, the durability of the material facts of these sculptural objects notwithstanding. The Ransom Sculptures were developed from the fantasy that each sculpture, each hostage, would be destroyed at the end of the exhibition, addressing ideas related to creativity, potentiality and threat.

Captivated by the ways in which ideas and tropes pass down through and across the heritages of European cultures, Canning references Samuel Beckett's 1982 play for television - Nacht und Träume - which takes its name from and incorporates Franz Schubert's 1825 Lied D.827 of the same title. Canning's largest painting in the exhibition adopts this title also, deploys many of the visual dynamics of Beckett's teleplay and shares something of the tragic-romantic mood of Schubert's deeply haunting song.

Now Gravity I

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Now Gravity II

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Now Gravity III

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Now Gravity IV

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Now Gravity V

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Now Gravity VI

2014 - 2018

Acrylic, Ink, Pencil, Charcoal on Paper

62 x 42 cm



Nacht und Träume

2010 - 2018
Oil on Canvas
122 x 183 cm



Your Cyclical Natures

2009 - 2018
Oil on Canvas
122 x 183 cm



Ransom Sculpture (Translucent)

2015 - 2017

Plastic, Wire, Glue, Acrylic, Spraypaint

86 x 51 x 47 cm



Ransom Sculpture I

2016 - 2018

Cardboard, Paper, Wire, Glue, Soot

107 x 77 x 70 cm



Ransom Sculpture II

2016 - 2018

Cardboard, Paper, Wire, Glue, Soot

81 x 57 x 54 cm



Ransom Sculpture III

2016 - 2018

Cardboard, Paper, Wire, Glue, Soot

96 x 63 x 60 cm





Michael Canning
Biography

Michael Canning studied Sculpture at Limerick School of Art & Design, and at The School of Fine Arts, Athens, Greece, after being awarded the Greek Government Scholarship. He completed an MA in Painting at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, in 1999. Michael is a Lecturer at the Department of Fine Art, at Limerick School of Art & Design, LIT, and has taught on the Sculpture & Combined Media and Painting courses.

He has worked on several printmaking projects since 2010 with Stoney Road Press, Graphic Studio, Dublin, Parallel Editions, Limerick, and in 2017 was an Artist in Residence at CHAO Printmaking Studio, Chao Art Centre, Beijing.

Michael Canning was awarded the Hennessy Craig Prize by the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2005, and awarded a Fellowship by the Ballinglen Arts Foundation in 2007, and was artist in Residence at the RHA, Dublin, in 2008.

Selected recent solo exhibitions and projects include Matter Motion Minutes, Waterhouse & Dodd, London, The Respectful Distance, Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin, 16, Stoney Road Press, Dublin, and Artists' Rooms, Limerick City Gallery of Art. His work is in private and public collections internationally, including Allied Irish Banks, Bank of Ireland, University of London, The National Self Portrait Collection at University of Limerick, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny, and Limerick City Gallery of Art.