

Fantastic beasts and unlikely heroes: the best visual art this week

Ttopology at Visual Carlow; Sustainable Futures at Sirius Arts Centre, Zoología Fantástica at Solstice Arts Centre, and Donald Teskey goes down the river and up a creek

Sat, Feb 3, 2018, 05:00



Aidan Dunne



Dennis McNulty: Ttopology at Visual Carlow



Ttopology – Dennis McNulty



Visual Centre for Contemporary Art, Old Dublin Road, Carlow Until May 20



visualcarlow.ie



New work and a survey of McNulty's previous projects. Having studied engineering and psychoacoustics, and with his involvement with electronic music, McNulty came to visual art from an unconventional angle, producing custom-built hardware and software in exploring "technologies and systems that have been developed, cast aside or revised in order to advance on our human potential". The show includes collaborations with musician David Donohoe and artist Bea McMahon.

Heroes and Villains

Gibson Galleries and The Long Room, Crawford Art Gallery, Emmet Place, Cork, February 8th-August 25th crawfordartgallery.ie



Daniel Maclise, Francois I and Diane de Poitiers (Detail), from Heroes and Villains at Crawford Art Gallery

In their latest trawl through the Crawford's collection, Anne Boddaert and Michael Waldron have come up with a trove of works that offer a survey of artistic representations of heroes and villains, from mythic archetypes such as Achilles right up to our own era, when the line between hero and villain is harder to discern. Step forward, Roy Keane, who has long divided opinion on the issue, though it's safe to say that the balance is inclined towards the heroic view.

Sustainable Futures

Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Co Cork, February 8th-April 1st siriusartscentre.ie



Méadhbh O' Connor, Biosystem III (2017), from Sustainable Futures at Sirius Arts Centre

Claire Ryan is both curator and facilitator in an ambitious "multi-part collaborative project" that aims "to open a dialogue around our environment

and sustainability”. Besides a group exhibition of work by Meadhbh O’Connor, Fiona Kelly, David Thomas Smith and Sarah Lincoln, scientists from the Environmental Research Institute (UCC) and the Centre for Marine and Renewable Energy (UCC) will take part in public talks, and local artists (Colette Lewis, Carol-Anne Connolly and writer Billy O’Callaghan) will run workshops based on the questions raised by the project.

Zoología Fantástica

*Solstice Arts Centre, Railway St, Navan, Co Meath, Until April 5th
solsticeartscentre.ie*



Peter Burns, [detail] from *Zoología Fantástica* at Solstice Arts Centre

Swapping her curatorial cap for a wizard’s hat, Sabina MacMahon ventures into the surprisingly crowded world of imaginary creatures. The title is from Jorge Luis Borges’ *Manual de zoología fantástica*, or Book of Imaginary Beings, though JK Rowling’s *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* also strikes the appropriate note. MacMahon’s point of departure was “the motley crew of entirely fictional and real-but-odd-looking creatures that populate the pages of illuminated Gospel manuscript books like the Book of Kells”. Artists include Peter Burns, Arne Olav Fredriksen, Jane Locke, Kieran Moore, Janet Mullarney, Bennie Reilly and Suzanne Walsh.

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One River, One Creek – Donald Teskey

Oliver Sears Gallery, 29 Molesworth St, Dublin, Until March 15th
oliversearsgallery.com



Donald Teskey, Riverbank with Buddleja (Oil on canvas, 2017)

The river is the Dodder, adjacent to Donald Teskey's home and studio in Dublin; the creek is Crum Creek in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, painted during the artist's residency at Swarthmore College. The "two semi-domesticated river systems" provide milder fare than the epic rocky coastline of Ireland's western seaboard, but in Teskey's closely observed studies on paper and canvas they have a lot to offer, each watery habitat a world of its own.

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