

What We Call Love From Surrealism to Now

Séamus Nolan

*F**K IMMA*, (2015-2016)

Film, live event and archive

Commissioned by IMMA

Led by Nolan, *F**K IMMA* is the work of various artists operating within the terrain of dissent and negation, inhabiting the boundaries of classical and contemporary, of male and female, and of the formal and informal institute. This new work offers a political and provocative observation on the idea of love by examining the notion of community as an expression of love and the contrasts between formal and counter-cultural community spaces. Nolan's unique commission positions itself in a wholly immersive parallel to the meaning of 'love' in society. In employing the language and strategy of conflict and agitation, the title *F**K IMMA*, is a statement; an immaterial and linguistic appropriation.

Nolan's commission is presented in three parts. The first part involved working with a community of squatters in Barricade Inn, central Dublin. This location is significant as for Nolan it represents a social space for culture and community in a building that does not follow normal convention. Nolan documents the empty rooms, where the community once resided and now face eviction. This film was later used as the backdrop for the second part of the commission, the live event.

On Sunday 20th December 2015 a small group of the public was invited to experience a unique live performance evening that took place in the historic surroundings of the chapel at IMMA. Through this filmed event, the audience experienced an unconventional and powerful performance through music and song with Dublin based collective Doom Opera that challenged the conventional idea of love. The set was followed by a performative presentation by Stewart Home, the English artist, filmmaker, writer, pamphleteer, art historian and activist, on his research on occultist theories of love. Home's novel *The Assault on Culture: Utopian currents from Lettrisme to Class War* inspired the concept of *F**K IMMA*.

In the exhibition space you will see the final part combining each stage of the commission from the initial concept to archive material and film. The contrasts of the formal space of the chapel with the informal Barricade Inn; Stained glass with graffiti, classical music with discordant doom metal, formal culture with counter culture. In the film, shots of barricade Inn are interrupted by the haunting sounds of Doom Opera and ends with Home's statement on love.

Séamus Nolan is a Dublin based artist whose work practice explores the legitimacy of its own appropriation, interrogating the fabric of our social and cultural make up, to reveal the narrative of identity formation within common materials and activities. The subject operates between object and performance, assimilation and participation.

This commission is part of an exciting new initiative, New Art at IMMA. Proudly supported by Matheson this strand allows IMMA to continue to support this vital work through programming that recognises and nurtures new and emerging talent, new thinking and new forms of exhibition-making.

What We Call Love: From Surrealism to Now continues in the South Ground, East Wing and Courtyard until 7 February 2016. *F**K IMMA* will be on display in the Project Spaces until 7 February 2016.