

The medium is the message

7 Sept - 29 Sept 2018

The Library Project, 4 Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Chloe Brenan, Patrick Hough, Ermias Kifleyesus, Ciara Phillips, Lee Welch

Curated by Alissa Kleist on behalf of Black Church Print Studio

ASSOCIATED EVENTS:

Alissa Kleist: Curator Talk

Friday 7 September 2018, 1.15pm at The Library Project

Culture Night

Friday 21 Sept 2018, exhibition open until 9.00pm

The medium is the message is a group exhibition including new and existing works by **Chloe Brenan, Patrick Hough, Ermias Kilfreysius, Ciara Phillips** and **Lee Welch**, curated by Alissa Kleist.

The exhibition takes its title and some of its thematic references from a book ('The Medium is the Message') and a chapter in 'Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man', a seminal text in media studies by Marshall McLuhan. McLuhan proposes that how we send and receive messages is no less important than the message itself and that technologies have the capacity to alter the world around them. Published over 50 years ago, McLuhan's pioneering texts remain relevant today and are particularly pertinent in the context of Black Church Print Studio, an organisation that focuses on the development and promotion of tactile, manual processes in the centre of a city that – like much of our global society – is increasingly shaped by disembodied digital technologies and intangible service-based industries.

The creation of physical objects using mechanical processes that have existed for hundreds of years is a testament to the enduring power of print as a medium. Organisations like Black Church Print Studio not only support artists to produce images but also generate communities of interest and place. *The medium is the message* acknowledges a medium's ability to affect its environment and considers the role of matter in an increasingly immaterial world. In different ways, the works in *The medium is the message* represent the agency of material and its ability to generate connections and reflect on, as well as produce, societal change.

Ermias Kifleyesus large-scale image mounted in the window at The Library Project features contributions from anonymous collaborators, whose subconscious mark-making and sketches the artist has gathered from internet cafes, phone booths and other places where migrants make international calls to family and friends. Collaging these onto his own drawings of writers, poets, and philosophers, such as Sigmund Freud, he explores the surfaces and 'spaces' – interfaced and generated by communications technologies – where people can encounter one another.

Responses to the themes of *The medium is the message* include a new painting by Lee Welch incorporating references to the archetypal symbolic order of tarot. *Before an immense sky* was guided by a series of tarot readings. The work acknowledges the power of images and their ability to shape and generate new associations and systems for understanding our place in the world.

Included in the exhibition is *Excavations (I)* by Patrick Hough, a mixed media installation where cinema, technology and museology converge. The work incorporates a film prop based on the Naxian Sphinx that,

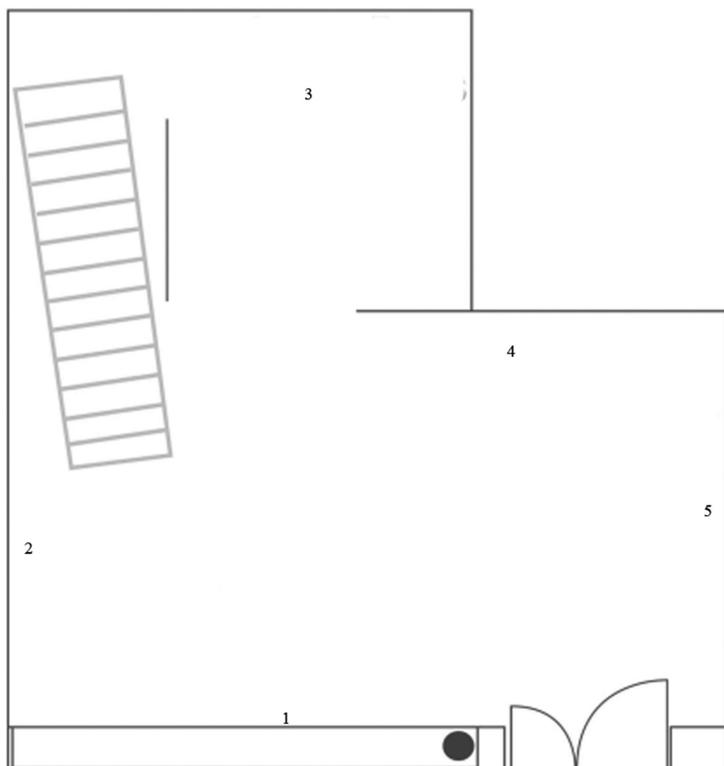
through a process of digital rendering and reproduction, explores how objects can traverse across time and space, transforming from icon to replica; tool to actor.

Ciara Phillips' print, *Springtime will never be the same*, takes its title from a quote ('Sisterhood is blooming. Springtime will never be the same') on a poster made by the Chicago Women's Graphics Collective, which was founded in 1970 as part of Chicago Women's Liberation in reaction to the lack of opportunities for women artists and as a way to communicate feminist ideas. It features a friend of the artist, herself a creative professional, wearing a printed garment created by Phillips, and makes visible how printmaking processes can connect the personal to the political.

Silver gelatin contact prints and a limited edition newsprint by Chloe Brenan produced for this exhibition examine how the written and spoken word shapes meaning through matter. The artist has spoken excerpts from Virginia Woolf's novel 'To the Lighthouse' into glass-blowing apparatus to create shapes that give concrete form to the volume of these words, returning printed language to the body.

Project funded by Dublin City Council.

The Library Project, 4 Temple Bar, Dublin 2
Opening hours: 12 - 6pm, Tuesday – Saturday



1. Ermias Kifleyesus, *Eating with your hand spicy food heals*, 2018. Digital pigment print.
2. Lee Welch, *before an immense sky*, 2018. Acrylic on cotton.
3. Patrick Hough, *Excavations (I)*, 2015. Mixed Media Installation, full HD video, continuous loop, colour, silent 8.00'
4. Ciara Phillips, *Springtime will never be the same*, 2011. Screenprint on paper.
5. Chloe Brenan, *Avalanches, Starlings, Gnats*, 2018. Framed silver gelatine contact prints.

For more information:

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