



\*\*\*\*\*Press Release\*\*\*\*\*

**'Nothing But Longing' (a group show featuring 16 artists from Israel)**

**curated by Sagit Mezamer**

**Opens at Void on Saturday 14 January 2017 - 6.30 - 9pm**

Void is pleased to announce that *Nothing But Longing* an exhibition featuring the work of 16 artists from Israel will be launched in the gallery on Saturday 14 January. The exhibition is a culmination of work by artists who resided at Bill Drummond's Curfew Tower in Cushendall throughout 2014/16.

Cushendall from the Irish 'Cois Abhann Dalla' meaning 'foot of the River Dall' is a predominantly Catholic village, with Republican roots located in the heart of the Glens of Antrim.

The Curfew Tower bought by Bill Drummond in 1994 and reinvented as an artists residency in 1999 was originally built by Francis Turnley in 1817 to confine riotous prisoners. The tower is situated at the crossroads of Cushendall, is 20 feet square, tapered and rises four stories to a height of 40 feet and is inspired by Chinese architecture that Turnley admired in his travels as a trader.

On average each artist stayed at the tower for approximately 1 month. The artists were chosen by Jerusalem based curator Sagit Mezamer and throughout their residencies created work inspired by their stay in the tower; the locality and the people they met while living there.

Void has had a close relationship with artist/musician Bill Drummond for the last 11 years starting in 2006 when Drummond was commissioned to write an essay on Irish artist Denis McNulty who was exhibiting at that time in Void. The essay subsequently became a chapter in Drummond's book *The 17* published in 2008 and in that same year Maoliosa Boyle invited Drummond to return to the city to create *Birth, Marriage and Death* for Void. In 2009-10 Void curated *The Curfew Tower* in Cushendall overseeing artists residing in the tower for 12 months. Since then Drummond and Void have maintained discussions around future projects, in particular the exhibiting of the 2015/16 Israeli artists at Void in January 2017.

In 2011, Bill Drummond met Sagit Mezamer, a curator for the artist run organisation Yaffo 23 in Jerusalem. Towards the end of 2014, Bill Drummond approached Sagit Mezamer to curate a year-long residency with artists from Israel. This subsequently turned into an 18-month residency. Void was invited to partner once again.

*Nothing But Longing* is a result of the work that was produced throughout those 18 months by 16 of the 21 artists in total.

The work created spans over the three gallery spaces in Void and on the night of the opening will extend beyond the gallery to the Derby Bar for a performance by artist

Yonathan Levy of Joyce's 'Ulysses', the performance will involve local people of Derry.

Throughout the evening of the 14<sup>th</sup> there will be a number of events and performances starting at 5.30pm with an interactive event by artists Effi and Amir. This will be followed at 6.30pm with a participatory cookery event by Rafram Chaddad followed with a discussion involving Sagit Mezamer and the artists and the launch of Ireland Versus Israel a book containing 20 interviews with the 21 artists. These interviews were conducted by Raymond Watson.

**Void would like to make clear that 'Nothing But Longing' is not supported by funding from the Israeli State and that all the artists in the exhibition condemn the occupation of Palestine by Israel.**

### **Key Events on Saturday 14 January**

5.30pm - Artists Effi and Amir will invite 21 people to take part in their performance 'Places of Articulation' (gallery 2).

6.30pm - Participatory cookery event with artist Rafram Chaddad (gallery 1)

7pm - Discussion with Curator Sagit Mezamer and artists (gallery 1) and launch of Ireland Versus Israel.

8pm - Artist Guy Goldstein presents an interactive musical performance (gallery 1)

8.30pm - Artists Debbie Sharp and Roseanne Robertson present Threshold (handover of The Curfew Tower) The Process Room

9pm - All move to upstairs in The Derby Bar for performance by artist Yonathan Levy featuring Bill Drummond and the people of Derry of Ulysses by James Joyce.

\*\*\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*\*\*

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