

## BUTLER ■ GALLERY

### **Finola Jones**

It's why [blue] birds sing

November 18, 2006 – January 14, 2007

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *It's why [blue] birds sing*, a new installation by Finola Jones especially designed for the Butler Gallery. This work represents another stage in Jones' ongoing investigations into the structures of audiovisual installation, audience engagement strategies and emotional manipulation.

There are curious links between this work and Lewis Carroll's 'Alice's Adventure in Wonderland' and a number of interesting points of comparison. A sleeping cat, its fur gently ruffled by a Mediterranean breeze, transforms into a mythical gatekeeper as the gallery swaps realities from that of an innocent exhibition space to labyrinthine tunnel or at least Carroll's rabbit hole. A lone bird song is distinctly heard throughout—a field recording of a real bird now trapped in a basement gallery. A tower of volcanoes emits multiple shots on stacked TV monitors of the semi-active, semi-dormant Stromboli. The viewer takes the journey down the rabbit hole to a faded Eastern European hotel offering tea accompanied by nostalgic piano playing in the midst of an everlasting sunset. A journey has been negotiated with the gallery space to be traversed again as we head back up the tunnel to slip by an ever-present gatekeeper.

Finola Jones lives and works in Dublin where she received her MA in Fine Art from the National College of Art & Design and an MA in Curatorial Practices from the College of Fine Arts, the University of N.S.W., Sydney and undergraduate degree from the Centre for the Arts, University of Tasmania. Jones has exhibited widely nationally and internationally including the much-acclaimed work *Artificially Reconstructed Habitats* exhibited in 2005 at the Temple Bar Gallery in Dublin and at the Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra. She has been the recipient of many awards and artist-in-residences programs, representing Ireland on the P.S.1 International Studio Program in 1994-95 and the prestigious Art Omi International Studio Residency programme in 2005. She is currently participating in *International Enquirer* at Art Gene, Barrow-in-Furness, curated by Paul Moss.

ADMISSION FREE

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