

## BUTLER ■ GALLERY

### WEB

Brian Fay

June 11 – July 31, 2005

The Butler Gallery is delighted to present *Web*, an exhibition of new work by Brian Fay.

*Web* is a drawing installation comprised of a series of wall mounted graphite drawings on paper, as well as a large-scale drawing made directly onto one of the gallery's walls and an animated digital drawing projection.

An artist and lecturer in Fine Art at the Dublin Institute of Technology, the central concern in Brian Fays' art practice is the continuing relevance of obsolete modes of communication in a contemporary art context. To date Fay has worked in a variety of disciplines including drawing, installation, print and digital video to investigate how these forms work, and to explore the role of art as a meaningful vehicle for communication.

*Web* traces the effect of time on materials and surfaces of paintings. Referring both to a spider's web and to the phenomenon of the World Wide Web, *Web* juxtaposes the idea of manual creation and real time, where digital forms exist in a realm with no fixed notion of time. Reproductions of iconic painted images including Da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and *La Belle Ferronniere* and Caravaggio's *The Lute Player* are digitally scanned. Using Adobe Photoshop, the visible cracks on the surface of the reproduced painting are drawn onto a new layer, which is separated from the original, projected digitally, and then drawn by hand in graphite or pencil onto a variety of surfaces. This pared down framework provides a view of the ageing aspects of the image, which looms large, becoming abstracted from the original, yet faithful to it at the same time.

For the *Web* installation at the Butler Gallery, Fay has worked with a painting from the Ormonde Collection at Kilkenny Castle. He has chosen a section of the painting *Walter Butler of Kilcash and Garryricken*, by Robert Hunter. The original painting can be viewed on a tour of the castle.

Fay's recent work includes *encoded* (2004-2005), a collaboration with composer Donal Siggins using Morse Code to look at form-generating processes within drawing and sound media. The winning entry from a call for collaborative projects by Context Galleries, Derry and the Contemporary Music Centre (CMC), Dublin in 2002, *enCODEd* was a *Guardian Newspaper* top five exhibition. It was shown at the Context Galleries, Derry, the Project Arts Centre, Dublin and is touring to the West Cork Arts Centre, Skibbereen, Cork from June 18 – July 16, 2005.

Brian Fay is a Board Member of the Sculptors Society of Ireland and a member of the Artist Panel at the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA). He has received awards from both the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaion and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Fay is currently working on digital drawings for *Art Watching*, a collaboration with art writer Niamh Ann Kelly and book designer Brenda Dermody. This work is for a forthcoming publication reflecting upon the collection of the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane and is supported by the Faculty of Applied Arts at the Dublin Institute of Technology

Fay has recently exhibited in *Drawing the Line* at The Orleans House Gallery, London, *COE 2004* (Claremorris Open Exhibition), *Perspective 03*, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast (2003), *Haunted*, Civil Arts Inquiry, City Arts Centre, Dublin (2003), *US Live*, Guinness Storehouse, Dublin (2003), *6x6 for Ireland*, 411 Gallery and Eastlink Gallery, China (2003).

**Artist's Gallery Talk will take place at noon on Wednesday, 29th June, 2005**

**ADMISSION FREE**

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