

## PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Vampires, monsters and the undead take centre stage at Goethe-Institut exhibition

*Immersive art exhibition DÉAD celebrates legacy of Dracula and Nosferatu*

The [Goethe-Institut Irland](#) has today (06.09.23) announced details of a new interdisciplinary art exhibition entitled [DÉAD](#), which draws on immersive technologies to celebrate the legacy of Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* and Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau's classic silent film *Nosferatu*.

Through virtual reality (VR) installations, 3D animations, video projections, sculptures and more, the exhibition brings vampires, monsters and the undead to life and invites visitors to Merrion Square to explore topics including life cycles, (im)mortality, and transience.

Created by students and recent graduates from six notable arts colleges in Ireland and Germany, the exhibition has emerged from the Creative Pathways programme, an initiative established by the Irish Embassy in Berlin to bring together students and lecturers based in both countries to develop collaborative and interdisciplinary artworks.

At the start of the programme, artists based in Ireland were paired with artists based in Germany. Artists with complimentary skillsets and practices were matched and their collaboration was guided by lecturers from participating colleges.

The current edition of Creative Pathways is run in partnership with the Goethe-Institut in Ireland. Commenting on the exhibition, the institute's Director, Ulrike Gasser said: "We are delighted to welcome this hugely talented group of emerging artists from Ireland and Germany to our premises on Merrion Square to present their work in the DÉAD exhibition."

"The students and graduates come from a wide range of artistic disciplines, including fine art, drama and theatre, film, and sound art, to name but a few. Through their interdisciplinary work, they explore the joint German-Irish heritage of *Dracula* and *Nosferatu*, and raise intriguing questions about life, death and the complexity of the human condition."

"The exhibition features narratives from different European perspectives and beyond. It has been fantastic to follow the artistic and cultural exchanges throughout the programme, and to see new models for remote collaboration emerge. I encourage everyone to visit us at the Goethe-Institut to see this fantastic exhibition."

The twelve artists whose work will be on display are: Sona Smedkova (ATU Galway); Veronika Pfaffinger (HfBK Dresden); Stefania Smolkina (HBG Leipzig); Dunk Murphy (UL); Patryk Kujawa (HfBK Dresden); Adrian McCarthy (UCC); Maximiliano Sinani (Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main); Melissa Morigan (UCC); Adrian Q. Vardi (HGB Leipzig); Manuel McCarthy (UL); Rocío Romero Grau (ATU Galway); and John Flindt (Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main).

***DÉAD will open at the Goethe-Institut Irland on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September (Culture Night) and run until Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. The exhibition is free to visit, and all are welcome.***

For more information, visit [goethe.de/Ireland](https://goethe.de/Ireland).

**ENDS**

**Contact: Sebastian Enke, enkom PR, Tel: 087-3239496 / Email: [media@enkom.ie](mailto:media@enkom.ie)**

#### Note to editors:

- An image of 'Deadlocked Phoenix', one of the artworks in the exhibition, is available for download and reproduction by media from the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h6u9s5yn83li79j/AAC0MexdUAmqxZMCFiBr8541a?dl=0>
- Director of the Goethe-Institut Irland, Ulrike Gasser, is available for media interviews on request.

- \*Déad is the Irish word for 'set of teeth'.
- The following arts colleges/ lecturers are participating in the Creative Pathways programme:
  - ATU - Atlantic Technological University Galway (Ben Geoghegan);
  - UCC - University College Cork (Bernadette Cronin)
  - UL - University of Limerick (Jürgen Simpson)
  - HGB - Hochschule für Grafik und Buchkunst / Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig (Clemens von Wedemeyer / Dieter Daniels)
  - Städelschule - Hochschule für Bildende Künste - Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main (Gerard Byrne)
  - HfBK - Hochschule für Bildende Künste Dresden / Dresden University of Fine Arts Dresden (Susan Philipsz)
- The artworks on display in DÉAD\* include:
  - **'Evergreen'** - In their mixed media installation piece, Sona Smedkova (ATU Galway) and Veronika Pfaffinger (HfBK Dresden) explore the theme of immortality through physical and digital landscape.
  - **'Susurration'** - The single-channel video piece by Stefania Smolkina (HBG Leipzig) and Dunk Murphy (UL) intertwines cinematic depictions of Dracula with the rendering of contextual aspects captured in Wismar in northern Germany, where *Nosferatu* was filmed. In the video, a journey through physical spaces meets the borderline between trance, sleep and memories.
  - **'Ashes to Dust'** - Patryk Kujawa's (HfBK Dresden) and Adrian McCarthy's (UCC) video installation is the first chapter of a two-part project. The piece has been adapted for the show at the Goethe-Institut Irland in collaboration with German artist Luis Kürschner, where the second chapter **'Lament of Light'** responds to the light-filled architecture of the institute's Georgian building in Dublin.
  - **'Ana' / 'Pack of Cigarettes'** - Maximiliano Sinani (Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main) and Melissa Morigan (UCC) present two art pieces: a video piece that interrogates how fiction leaves its traces in the real world, and a sculpture of a modified pack of Marlboro cigarettes that casts the shadow of a coffin.
  - **'Deathlocked Phoenix'** – This piece consists of an animated short film by Adrian Q. Vardi (HGB Leipzig) and a projection of a generative algorithm that reacts to the film, created by Manuel McCarthy (UL). The film is presented as a video loop that depicts the futile efforts of a virtual vampire to escape immortality and embrace death.
  - **'Last Body, Last Territory'** - Rocío Romero Grau's (ATU Galway) and John Flindt's (Städelschule, Frankfurt am Main) VR-installation explores the potentially devastating impact of mutations, infections, and ungovernable organisms on our lives. Body and mind, our last territory, are the first to be attacked.

### ***About the Goethe-Institut Irland***

The Goethe-Institut is Germany's cultural institute, which is active in 98 countries worldwide. It opened its doors in Ireland 62 years ago, in 1961, and is based at 37 Merrion Square in Dublin.

It operates from a European perspective and works independently, without political ties. Its objectives are to promote the knowledge of the German language, foster cultural collaboration and exchange, and convey a contemporary image of Germany. It does this through maintaining and building relationships with partners from the cultural and educational sectors in Ireland.

The institute runs an extensive cultural and events programme, offers language courses and qualifications, and an on-site and online library, which combined holds more than 30,000 titles. These can be accessed by anyone, free of charge, once registered. To find out more, visit: [goethe.de/Ireland](http://goethe.de/Ireland).