

Lee Welch was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1975 and currently lives and works in Dublin, Ireland. Welch creates gestural, atmospheric paintings that attest to the psychological and emotional depths of his chosen subjects and map out delicate negotiations between beauty, desire, and the painted image. Depicting figures from his own milieu, as well as from history, literature, music, and tennis, Welch finds feeling in that which he depicts, always rendered with the intensity of his particular humanism; a close looking akin to love. In each subject's specificity, the artist reveals the universal feelings that connect us to each other, and that stretch from our present moment back through time.

Welch received his BFA from the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) in 2009 and his MFA from Piet Zwart Institute, Rotterdam in 2011. He has since been widely exhibited internationally and received numerous awards. Recent exhibitions have taken place at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University; Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León (MUSAC), León, Spain; Glucksman Gallery, Cork; Objectif Exhibitions, Antwerp and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin. His paintings are in private and public collections such as the Arts Council, Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane and the OPW - State Art Collection.

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Artist-Initiated Projects at Pallas Projects/Studios is an open-submission, annual gallery programme of 8 x 3-week exhibitions taking place between March and November 2024, in the context of a gallery space with a dedicated tradition towards the professional development of artists in a peer-led, supportive environment. This unique programme of funded, artist-initiated projects selected via open call is highly accessible to artists, with a focus on early career, emerging artists and recent graduates. Projects are supplemented with artists' talks, texts, workshops or performances, and gallery visits.

Artist-Initiated Projects aims to act as an incubator for early careers, and support artists' practices at crucial stages, providing a platform for artists to produce and exhibit challenging work across all art forms. The model of short-run exhibitions with a relatively short turnaround time of 3-6 months is an alternative to the normal institutional model, where the process of studio visit to exhibition can take several years. Shorter lead-in times allow the programme to be quick and responsive, reflect what artists are currently making, and encourage experimentation and risk-taking.

Information:

Preview: 6-8pm Thursday 18th April 2024
Dates: Friday 19th April - Saturday 4th May
Venue: Pallas Projects/Studios - 115-117
The Coombe, Dublin 8
Days: Wednesday-Saturday, 12-6pm

www.pallasprojects.org | info@pallasprojects.org

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Pallas Projects/Studios Artist-Initiated Projects



Lee Welch —*In Praise of Idleness*

19/04/24—04/05/24

Pallas Projects/Studios are pleased to present Lee Welch—In Praise of Idleness, the second exhibition of our 2024 Artist-Initiated Projects programme.

In Praise of Idleness invites viewers to explore the nuanced intersections of idleness, introspection, emotion and the complexities of the human condition. Inspired by Bertrand Russell's seminal essay of the same name, published in 1932, Welch's collection of new paintings and works on paper offers a compelling exploration of the significance of leisure in contemporary society. Drawing upon Russell's advocacy for the reevaluation of societal attitudes towards work.

Welch's evocative paintings capture moments of quietude and contemplation, offering viewers a glimpse into the innermost workings of the human psyche. From the tender vulnerability of David Foster Wallace to the enigmatic gaze of Samia Halaby, each canvas serves as a window into the complexities of the human experience, inviting viewers to reflect on the universal truths that bind us all together.

Drawing inspiration from an eclectic array of influences, including literature, history, and tennis, Welch's work transcends traditional artistic boundaries, offering a fresh perspective on timeless themes of beauty, desire, and the passage of time. Through his meticulous attention to detail and keen sensitivity to emotion, Welch creates a body of work that offers a profound meditation on the essence of being, inviting viewers to explore the depths of human emotion and experience.

list of works
(anticlockwise)

Boredom is an emptiness filled with insistence, 2024
acrylic on canvas
25.5 × 20.5 cm / 10 × 8.1 in

infinite jest, 2024
watercolour on paper
45 × 36 cm / 17.7 × 14.2 in framed

hope for tomorrow, 2024
watercolour on paper
45 × 36 cm / 17.7 × 14.2 in framed

People knew he played ping pong, 2024
acrylic on canvas
30 × 25 cm / 11.8 × 9.8 in

Novak Djokovic reading the NY Times, 2024
acrylic on linen
64.5 × 50 cm / 25.4 × 19.7 in

Fog has covered everything, 2024
acrylic on linen
109 × 80 cm / 42.9 × 31.5 in

It's an interesting question, 2024
acrylic on canvas
50.8 × 40.6 cm / 20 × 16 in

January interior, 2024
acrylic on mover's blanket
50 × 40 cm / 19.7 × 15.7 in

a mystery that is essential to reality, 2024
watercolour on paper
45 × 36 cm / 17.7 × 14.2 in framed

I'm feeling for the Air, 2024
watercolour on paper
45 × 36 cm / 17.7 × 14.2 in framed

so imperceptible has it become, 2024
acrylic on canvas
25.5 × 20.5 cm / 10 × 8.1 in

Fog has covered everything night painting, 2024
acrylic on linen
108 × 80 cm / 42.5 × 31.5 in

If I were a comet, 2024
acrylic on canvas
30 × 25 cm / 11.8 × 9.8 in

I wouldn't be here without you, 2022
acrylic on gesso panel
25 X 20 cm / 9.8 X 7.9 in

Something has to change, 2024
Archival Pigment Print onto Canson Edition
Etching Rag 310 gsm
49.2 × 37.6 cm / 19.4 × 14.8 in framed
TIMED EDITION

to be unnoticed and necessary, 2024
acrylic on polyester
50 × 40 cm / 19.7 × 15.7 in

Text:

the things: a response from Danny Denton was commissioned by the artist and is available in print at the gallery and as an audio recording.

Danny Denton is the author of the novels *The Earlie King & the Kid In Yellow* and *All Along The Echo*. His writing has also appeared in publications like *Winter Papers*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *The Dublin Review* and *Tate, Etc*. He lectures on writing at University College Cork and is a contributing editor to *The Stinging Fly*.

Event:

The Artist in conversation with Pádraic E. Moore
(Ormston House)

Saturday, 4th May 5pm

Pádraic E. Moore is a writer, curator and art historian. Recent projects include Communal Enthusiasm; a major exhibition marking 75 years of the Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht and I'll Be Your Mirror, an event programme that accompanied this Warhol show at Hugh Lane. In 2022 Moore became the inaugural mentor of Catalyst Commissions at De Appel, Amsterdam. From 2019 to 2021 he was guest curator at Garage Rotterdam and led several new commissions in this role. Moore is artistic director of Ormston House, Limerick.