



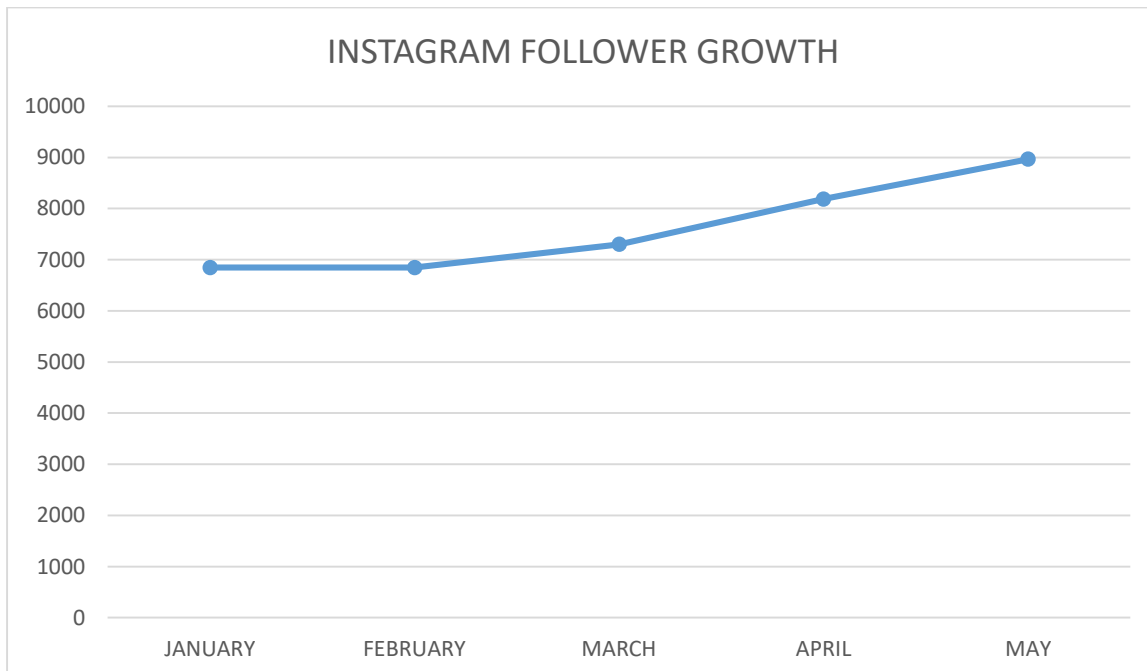
HUGH LANE GALLERY

Online Programmes and Social Media Engagement

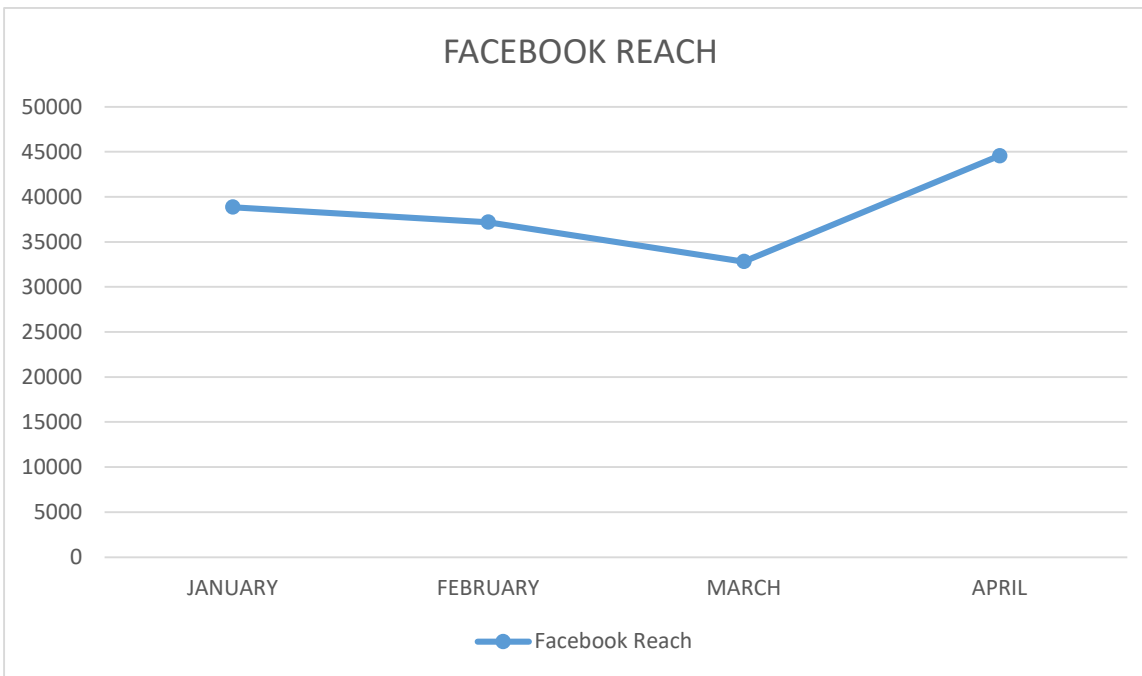
In response to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the restrictions that have been put in place, the Hugh Lane Gallery has created a series of new and highly dynamic online programmes which are updated weekly. The response has been excellent with our line audience growing exponentially. Our Twitter engagements reached 282k by the end of May. We aim to reach 10,000 followers on Instagram by mid-July and our Facebook followers are growing steadily.

Our first online Sunday@Noon concert took place on the 31st March with over 3,000 people + listening through Facebook. All of the gallery's programmes can be accessed through our website and on Hugh Lane Gallery YouTube channel and Hugh Lane Gallery Soundcloud. Our programmes are a mixture of talks, mini podcasts, sketching and drawing classes, Artists Takeover, Curators Choice, # museumfromhome and # Flashback Fridays (see www.hughlane.ie).

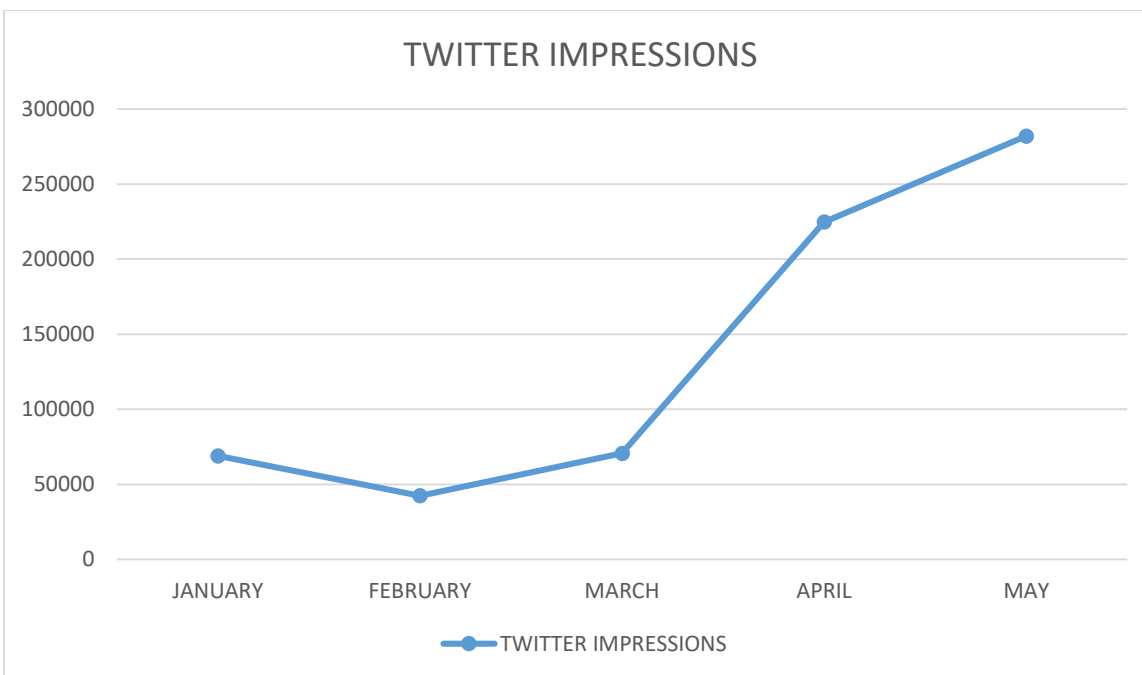
The Gallery Newsletter goes out weekly via email and I hope every Councillor is receiving it. We currently have a subscription of over 3,600 and we have approximately 1200 active readers. According to the Constant Contact's statistics page, the 30% open rate is 18% higher than the Industry Average which is normally 12%.



Currently at 9264, we project to hit 10,000 followers by mid-July



Facebook Reach is the number of unique people viewing our content through following, sharing or liking our content. It is too soon to Project May's figures as our first Sundays@Noon concert which aired on the 31st is still being served by the Facebook Algorithm going up by a few hundred views every days (Total of 3,000 as of 3rd June)



Much like Facebook Reach, Twitter Impressions show the number of timelines that our tweets were on through followers and other social engagements. We have continued to beat our own records over the last two months with May ending on 282K Impressions.

<https://twitter.com/TheHughLane>

<https://www.instagram.com/thehughlane/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thehughlane/>

City-wide project with primary schools 2019-2020



Children with their artwork made in March 2020 during their Zoom@Hugh Lane Gallery visit with artist Rebecca Shelford prior to the Gallery's closure.

Prior to the Hugh Lane Gallery's closure in March 2020, Zoom@Hugh Lane Gallery - Phase II of our city-wide outreach project for primary school had engaged with thirteen primary schools through the DCC administrative areas from November 2019-March 2020. A short film documenting the visits to the Gallery and highlighting the artwork made by the children is being produced. Planning is now also underway for Phase III of Zoom@HughLane Gallery due to take place during the school year 2020-21. It is aimed to continue to incrementally engage year on year with every primary school in the Dublin city area.

The participating schools were Gaelscoil Colaiste Mhuire, D1 - Central Area; City Quays NS, Gloucester St South, D2 – South East Area; Presentation Primary School, D8 – South Central Area; North Dublin Muslim NS Project, D3 - North West Area; St Columba's NS, D9 – North Central Area; Gardiner St school D1 - Central Area; John Scotus NS, D4 - South East Area; St Enda's Primary School, D8 – South Central Area; Our Lady of Consolation NS, D5 – North Central Area; St Joseph Senior NS, D11 – North West Area; S N Seosamh Na mBrathar, D3 – North Central Area; St Patrick's NS, D20 – South Central Area; Naomh Padraig NS, D11 – North West Area; St Michael's NS, D10 - South Central Area; Gaescoil Ui Earcain, D11 – North West Area.

New Programme: Transition Year Programme January 2020

Our inaugural week-long programme for transition year students took place in January 2020 with the aim of giving young people insights into the curatorial departments of the Gallery from education to exhibitions, collection and also conservation.

Taking place in our dedicated Education studio space and throughout the Gallery, the participating students were encouraged to discover more about art and their own creative potential through discussions on art and philosophy, talks on selected artworks, story collage and Visual Thinking Strategies, as well as the reflective potential of sketchbooks.

Each student explored artworks from the collection that personally inspired them to create their own sculptural vessels and collaborative prints arising from their close looking and these were on view to the public in a special display in gallery 8 prior to the Gallery's closure.





Since Gallery Closure: New Virtual Education Programmes online

To date 46 newly created digital art activity films and online art talks have been created and been viewed over 17,000 times.



Following the closure of the Gallery in March, new imaginative online education programmes have been curated by the Gallery's education team and shared via Zoom and the Gallery's YouTube channel enabling the Gallery stay connected with existing audiences as well as attracting new audiences. These online programmes are proving to be very popular and include live illustrated art history talks and coffee conversations which take place every Wednesday; two x four-part live lectures series *Irish Women Artists & Writers in the Hugh Lane Gallery's collection* and *A Gallery of Modern Art for Ireland* exploring the cultural life surrounding the foundation of the gallery. These series were fully booked with 54 and 70 participants respectively. Also taking place online is our live Culture Club art talks followed by online discussions enabling further exploration of the subjects. Online animated art films for all ages have also been commissioned from our panel of artists which are available on our YouTube channel.

Our National Drawing Day object inspired art activity film with artist Megan Scott was highlighted in the *Irish Independent Magazine*, *What's Hot* and was viewed over 1,800 times in three days.

A new online series *Artists Takeover* sees selected artists guest curate our e-newsletter and share ideas for looking, listening, watching and reading with all our audience.

The Gallery's participation in the National Neighbourhood with Dublin Culture Company will be through a programme of illustrated talks, presented online to community groups from all over Dublin with the ambition of also welcoming everyone in person once with Gallery re-opens on June 30th

The newly created online talks and art activity films have taken place and are available to view on the Gallery's YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-ul2v2RVcfveDkIAcvWtQ/videos>

Online programme of newly created talks March-June (Coffee Conversations, Culture Clubs and Art History series)

Online programme of newly created art activity ideas for children, teens and adults available to view here:
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUil_e1LlOsrodDN7Lhc6Yza2MQ2JOlqp

'The talks are absolutely brilliant. Really enjoying them'. Participant in Hugh Lane online art history series.

'Thank you and the team there for putting these talks together and for all the virtual and other events which are being made available to us. It is truly wonderful.' Participant in Hugh Lane online art history series.

Exhibition: World without Ends

Hugh Lane Gallery Dublin and Rubin Foundation New York

World Without End exhibition, organised in partnership with the Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation New York, features 12 International Artists work in response to global borders and stories around borders was due to open on the 29th April. It was postponed due to Covid -19. Michael Dempsey Head of Exhibition and Sara Reisman Artistic Director of the Rubin Foundation reached out remotely and successfully created a mini podcast discussing the concept of borders and borderisation which can be found on Hugh Lane Gallery SoundCloud. The exhibition is now scheduled to open in the Hugh Lane Gallery on the 30th September. Runs to 30th January 2021

Capital Refurbishment Project: 1930's Wing

The programme continues with remote meetings. The project is now at Tender stage and stage 2 tender will be issued on 29th June with the successful contractor going on site at the beginning of October. The refurbishment project is very welcome as the fabric of these galleries is no longer functioning to best museum standards. The refurbishment will make good the fabric of the building and introduce environmental controls which will bring these galleries up to best museum standards internationally.

Website Redevelopment Project.

Work continues on the new website with remote meetings and workshops. It is hoped that this will be completed by the end of the year.

Sundays at Noon concerts

Hugh Lane Gallery is streaming a series of concerts without audience for first time ever in its 45 year existence. The first concert held on the 31st May reached an audience of over **3,600 people**. The first concert featured charismatic husband and wife team, Dublin-born violinist Gillian Williams and her husband, French cellist Arun Rao, known as *Duo Chagall*. They performed works by Beethoven, Mozart, Colman Pearce as well as presenting the world premiere of *Unequal Music, String Duo for Violin & Cello (2020)* from award-winning Belfast composer, Stephen Gardner. The concert received over 3,000 views.

The second concert in the **Sundays@Noon series** takes place on **Sunday 14th June** and features improvisation duo Izumi Kimura on piano and Cora Venus Lunny on violin.

The following week, **Sunday 21st June**, renowned poet Paula Meehan reads from her work with tailored original musical responses from piper Mick O'Brien and clarinettist Paul Roe.

The final concert in the series on **Sunday 28th June** features classical guitarist Redmond O'Toole showcasing his 8-string cello-style guitar with mesmerising transcriptions of Bach, Haydn and Albeniz alongside French guitar music from Poulenc and Monpou.



UCD Festival

Francis Bacon's Studio illustrated talk

As part of the Creative Fellows contribution to UCD's online Festival 2020 the Director presented an illustrated talk on Francis Bacon's Studio which she secured for the Hugh Lane Gallery in 1998 and which opened to the public in 2001. This talk presented a behind-the-scenes look at this achievement delving further into the life and art of one of the most important figurative artists of the 20th Century.

Described by Ambrose Clancy of the Washington Post as "...one of the most stunning events in European Art Circles in years" the studio is one of the most famous art attractions in Ireland.



Protocols for reopening of Hugh Lane Gallery

HLG will reopen to the public on Tuesday 30th June, in line with An Taoiseach's announcement last Friday, which is three weeks earlier than originally scheduled in the Government's Road Map.

The Gallery will reopen with the Lane Legacy Exhibition, in galleries 1-9, along with the Harry Clarke Room, Sean Scully display and Francis Bacon's Studio. The Gallery Café and Bookshop will also open complying with all health and safety regulations.

In preparation for reopening the gallery team has carried a full Risk Assessment for staff and visitors in all areas of programming. The goal is to have an enriching and enjoyable visitor experience in a safe and secure environment.

In preparation for this we have established a one way system through the galleries. We have established the optimum number of people allowed in the galleries at any one time. Based on an allowance of 10m² per person which is an allowance of more than 2 metres apart, the galleries can accommodate 147 people at any one time. We are adopting a clicker system which will log the number of people entering the galleries and also the number of people exiting. This system is more flexible than a ticketing system as some audiences may not be as familiar with online booking as others and we don't want to turn people away. Also there is a danger that people who book a free event may not turn up and then we end up having empty galleries

Our Internal Compliance Officers have been developing and designing solutions in line with Government and DCC guidance to prepare for reopening, in a safe and welcoming way. The cleaning regime has been redesigned to accommodate the reopening; Return To Work forms completed; a contact log is in place for all staff, PPE (gloves, masks, googles, visors and overalls etc.) sourced and in place; an isolation room has been set aside, a screen will be installed on Front Desk; signage for distancing is currently being sourced and installed; segregated welfare facilities for staff established and rosters revised to prevent staff congregation at start times, break times and closing.

Protocols for Art Handling. Due to the necessity for proximity in carrying out their duties special protocols for art handlers have been drawn up by Head of Conservation in consultation with conservation departments in the National Gallery Ireland and National Gallery London. The art handlers will have full PPE, individual sets of equipment and trollies.

Contractual art handlers. Contractual art handlers will follow HLG art handling protocols and bring all of their own equipment

Conservation. Separate working areas for conservation staff including washing areas for equipment and art works have been established and full PPE will be provided

Care of Collection. As part of the preventative measures for the spread of Covid19 the dusting of the artworks on display will be undertaken by conservation on Mondays when the gallery is closed. There is a concern that dust may be contaminated and this will be collected by conservation team wearing full PPE

Exhibitions. The installation for 'World Without End' exhibition which will open on 30th September with 12 international artists has begun. As artists and installation teams from abroad have to quarantine for 14 days the challenge is to find alternative solutions to completing the installation of this exhibition.

Public Engagement in Education and Community Outreach Programmes, including school programmes, courses, talks and tours will continue remotely until September.

All Attendants, art handlers, curatorial and admin staff will participate in induction training on Thurs 18th June in preparation for full operation of the Galleries on Tues 30th June.

Throughout the period of lockdown, there has been 24 hour security, and rostered patrols throughout the gallery. Daily checking of the artworks on display are carried out and daily environmental readings logged. The Lighting Project throughout the 2006 wing has progressed and is due to be completed on 19th June.

Dublin Sculpture

Dublin Sculpture is an initiative of DCC Parks Department managed with the Arts Office and supported by the Hugh Lane Gallery. The Director is a member of the steering committee and the gallery is committed to supporting this innovative project and highlight the commissions through our audience engagement channels and our public programmes. This is a substantial international project in support of innovative contemporary sculpture and will inspire and engage communities and the general public in debates and discussions on contemporary art. Meetings continue remotely

In Conclusion

The gallery team adapted very well to working remotely. Our security management team daily monitors the safety and security of the gallery and the collection and environmental controls are monitored by our Head of Conservation. Finances and administrative responsibilities continue to be carried out efficiently by the administration team and our head of administration and internal compliance officers has drawn up a very comprehensive reopening plan. The curatorial team has risen to the challenges of working remotely, finding new ways of bringing creative and innovative programmes to diverse audiences remotely with impressive results.

The Hugh Lane Gallery will reopen on the 30th June. Despite the challenges of Covid – 19, we are committed to ensuring enriching and enjoyable experiences for all our audiences in a safe and secure environment.

Barbara Dawson
Director
29th June 2020