

ROLLESPILL ROLE PLAY



JENNIFER CUNNINGHAM

Irish Art in cooperation with
Galleri Henriette Sonne
proudly presents

ROLLESPILL/ROLE PLAY

An Exhibition of Paintings, Etchings & Drawings by

Jennifer Cunningham

24. October – 14. November 2012
at Galleri Henriette Sonne, Storgata 21, Drøbak

The exhibition will be launched by
Her Excellency, Ambassador Angela O'Farrell
on Friday 26. October 2012 at 17.30.

IRISH ART would like to thank the following for their support
in making this exhibition possible:



EMBASSY OF IRELAND
Norway



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Introduction

Some people are just born to be artists and I believe that Jennifer Cunningham is one of them. Not only has she got the skills and talent required, but perhaps more importantly in this modern and competitive world, she also has the focus and determination to excel in her chosen field.

Exploring complex themes of childhood and the leaving of it and the alienation that is often encountered by many during this process Cunningham offers us, the viewer, great insight into what she terms *Sehnsucht*; a resistance to change, a desire to return to an ideal place which doesn't exist, to avoid the harsh realities of the world.

To complement the exhibition we are honoured to have a short documentary, *A Westside Story*, by film maker Des Kilbane about the artist and her work.

Irish Art is delighted to work with Galleri Henriette Sonne on what we hope will be a long and enduring series of showcase exhibitions featuring the very best of Irish contemporary art.

**John Fitzgerald,
Irish Art.**

Jennifer Cunningham – Artist’s Statement –

*“Children are much closer to the unconscious than are adults;
fantasy and reality are less clearly separated for them.”*

The Sociology of Childhood, Essential Readings edited by Chris Jenks.



Childhood and leaving it, is about the move from the imaginary to social spaces and learning how to perform in the latter.

Jennifer uses the media of painting, print and film to explore the inner psychological struggle of her subjects. Central to her work is an ongoing exploration of identity, liminal space and personal subjectivity.



Significant in these processes is a creation of an anxious narrative which foregrounds issues of longing and belonging to the contemporary world and the loss of innocence and youth.



The attraction of childhood is it is often seen as a time of security, protected by the parents and in particular, with the love of the mother. It is a time without the complex responsibilities of adulthood, things which are often at odds with the creative mindset, so it can therefore be seen that it would have a particular attraction to such an individual seeking peace.

Curriculum Vitae

Qualifications:

- 1999 National Diploma in Art and Design
Abinatio result: Distinction in Studies
- 2002 Bachelor in Fine Art, Specialisation Printmaking.
First Class Honours with Distinction
- 2008 Masters in Fine Art. N.C.A.D

Awards and Residencies:

Thomas Dammann Junior Memorial Trust Award 2008
Arts Council Travel and Training Award 2008
Impression8/2002 Norman Ackroyd Etching Award
Taylor Art Award 2002
Henry Higgins Travelling Scholarship 2002
Murray O'Laoire Degree Award for Printmaking. 2002
Tyronne Guthrie Centre, Annamacarrick.
RHA School Studio residency July 2011
Inishlacken project, 2010, 2012
S.I.M Iceland 2008,
Cyprus Summer Studio 2004

Selected solo and two man shows:

2012 October - "Roleplay," solo show, Gallery Sonne, Norway
2012 July - "Just Add Water", solo show, Galway Arts Festival
2011 October - "Atlas of memory", solo show, Mad Art gallery
lower gardiner street, Dublin
2011 June - "I want to get off now",
two person at Monster Truck, Dublin
2010 August - "Abode", two person at Airfield house, Dublin
2009 May - "Metamorphosis", solo show, Galway city museum
2008 August - "Uncertain Ground" , Two person show,
Tuam Arts festival
2007 July - "Reflections", Solo show Falcarragh, Donegal
2007 March - Two person show at the Mermaid Arts centre, Bray,
Co Wicklow.
2006 November - "An edition of Two", Kennys Art Gallery Galway

Selected group shows include:

EVA, RHA summer shows 2003- 2012, Tulca, Iontas small works,
Shanghai Expo, 2010, Footprint print exhibition, America and
SIM, Iceland,



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