



Brendan Earley — A Place Between

A floor-to-ceiling plasterboard wall cuts across the gallery, like a big, blunt comment on the grand but useless presence of too many of our boom-time buildings. On the floor, painstakingly coloured with blue marker, is the 5m x 9m composition that gives the show its title. The colour fades as the pen runs out to produce an enormous blue-sky drawing, a hopeful dawn reflected in the foil side of the plasterboard. A smaller pink version, *Red Sky at Night* for Lily and Grace, *above*, hangs on a wall nearby. Earley uses insulation, Styrofoam and a wooden pallet — construction-site debris — to produce

works with titles such as *Lying Awake in an Empty Building*. On paper he incorporates Tipp-Ex and collage to imply a mysterious relationship between humans and the built and natural environment; *Pilgrim* is a sculpture involving a cut-off grey hoodie. By evoking an imaginary, slightly space-age place that nonetheless remains rooted in reality, Earley offers a somewhat insular but thoughtful take on the state we're in.

Cristín Leach Hughes

Royal Hibernian Academy, today 2pm-5pm, Mon & Tue 11am-5pm, Wed-Sat 11am-7pm, 01 661 2558