

NIAMH O'MALLEY & MAIREAD O'HEOCHA AT DHG

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It's probably no coincidence that in the Douglas Hyde's Gallery 2, the smaller antechamber to the main gallery, there is a show of new work by Mairead O'heocha, three years on from her solo show in Gallery 1, *via An Lár*. Like O'Malley, O'heocha is an artist involved deeply with the Irish landscape. And though the aesthetic and media is quite different, O'heocha similarly tugs at the sleeve of the landscape genre, shunning epic narratives for small-scale, quietened and thoughtful depictions of place.

Via An Lár depicted 'edgelands', the suburban petering out of Irish cities, shifting our attention away from the natural landscape and onto the point at which the city bleeds into it. In this context, we are always acutely aware of human presence in the land, and the mark it leaves. With O'Malley, the eye is shifted back onto ourselves. In analysing the act of viewing, O'Malley touches upon memory, attachment and human connection to landscape (particularly at places like Nephin, which has such a longstanding connection to her), but she strips this memory of the sentimental. Instead we get the arid asphyxia of *Glasshouse*. Lashes flickering, pupils darting, the world comes in and out of focus.

Niamh O'Malley and Mairead O'heocha's work exhibits at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, from Friday 12th December to Wednesday 25th February.