

# Dublin

The city according to art

*Drawing upon the camaraderie proper to a small city and buoyed by the fruits of recent improvements in postgraduate art education, visual arts practice in Dublin is growing in confidence and quality, suggesting that the city's artists are rising to the considerable challenges of living in a globalised urban environment.*

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Keep heading uphill, and you're on the way to **Mother's Tankstation** (Watling Street), run by artists Finola Jones and David Godbold, who live over the shop at this scene-setting gallery for 'difficult-to-collect' artists. Check your day carefully, though, as Mother opens her doors from Wednesday to Saturday only. None of which stops the space from digging out the best of the younger generation of Dublin-based artists. On your way home, why not rush past the exhibits in Guinness's frightening theme-museum and find the Gravity Bar, a porter-serving establishment with a view, plonked in a giant glass canister high above the city.

On the north side of the Liffey, behind the Four Courts, sits the rather minuscule **This Is Not A Shop**, an artist-run space and producing organisation where events tend to be short but rather sweet, ranging from interventions on the nearby Luas tram system to – remarkably – group shows. Also attempting to make much of little is the just-opened **Oonagh Young Gallery**, and the collective efforts of **Monster Truck Gallery & Studios**, nestled among the antiques dealers of Francis Street. Meanwhile, Kevin Kavanagh Gallery (Great Strand Street) is ploughing a slightly lonely furrow in Great Strand Street, though its shows are generally worth the detour.

left, from top: Nina Canell, *Slight Heat of the Eyelid* (installation view), Mother's Tank Station; exterior view; *Slight Heat of the Eyelid* (installation view)



Mother's Tank Station

