

Uri Aran

Take This Dog for Example

31 March - 25 June 2023

The Douglas Hyde is delighted to present the first institutional exhibition in Ireland by renowned artist Uri Aran. Through his work, Aran explores the basics of language, behaviour, perception, and the rules and conditions of social interactions. Why are certain meanings ascribed to certain things? Titled *Take This Dog for Example*, Aran's exhibition presents new and ongoing works layered throughout the gallery space.

Uri Aran has a decidedly unfixed relationship to media and materials, combining aspects of sculpture, video, painting, drawing, and installation, while challenging the traditional formal constraints of each. Aran's visual language ranges from text and time-based work to the assembly of familiar everyday objects, which he processes, combines and unites to create ensembles that hover over the boundary of the familiar and the unexpected.

Central to *Take This Dog for Example*, is the sculptural work *Bread Library* (2020 - 2023), which reproduces the Latin alphabet in bread letters. This expansive work invades the senses as visitors descend into the gallery space and brings forth ideas of bread as a vehicle for the transference of memory and knowledge, and the foundation of language. *Untitled* (2020 - 2023), another ongoing work, uses unique cast bronze forms to create sentence-like compositions across the gallery walls. Bronze, a material often associated with authority's permanence, here becomes fluid.

While the "dog" in the exhibition's title, and appearing throughout the exhibition, is a recurring device in Aran's work. As he states "animals function as an icon of sentimentality, vessels for the full spectrum of human emotion through the projection of language onto them, they're blameless...located in an idolized primordial domain from the perspective of society."

Throughout his practice, Aran constructs a language of indeterminate signifiers in an ongoing pursuit of graphic and linguistic systems, pushing these systems to the point of disintegration. "The discord of meaning in language is something I'm interested in", he has explained. "I don't know if it's because English is not my mother tongue; I see a delay of meaning. I see things as mediated—almost everything is quoted." As a result, new contexts of meaning emerge, reconstructing, extending, manipulating and subverting existing genres and hierarchies. He suggests that an object or word's legibility is not inherent, but rather conditional: its comprehensibility reliant on context.

This exploration evolves around the use of familiar objects, signs, forms, images and gestures, which he relates to one another by superimposing a multitude of linguistic structures, material categories and temporal axes. In the exhibition at The Douglas Hyde, located on the campus of Trinity College Dublin, materials and the language of learning trace through multi-faceted works, from Sesame Street's Ernie to study desks, from blackboards to slide projectors. These ensembles are familiar and disconcerting at the same time, resulting in encounters that are simultaneously playful and deeply sombre.

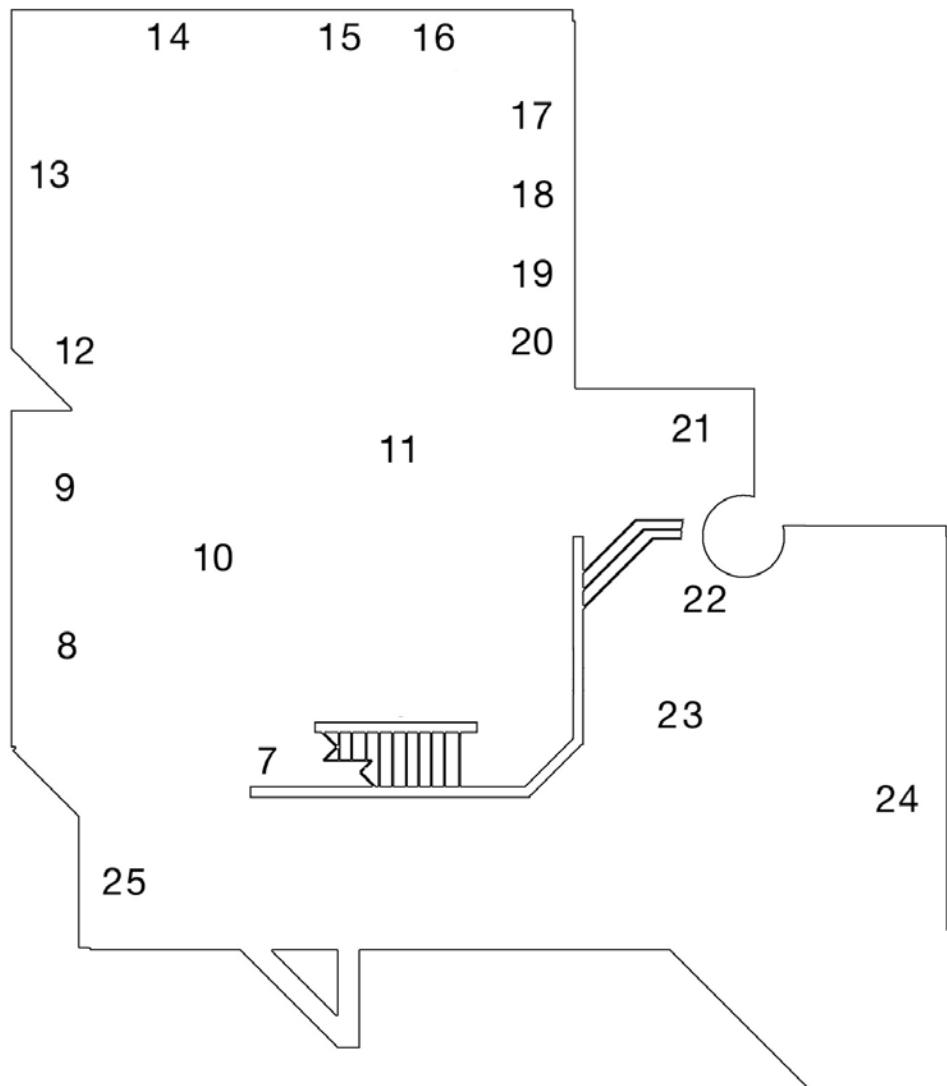
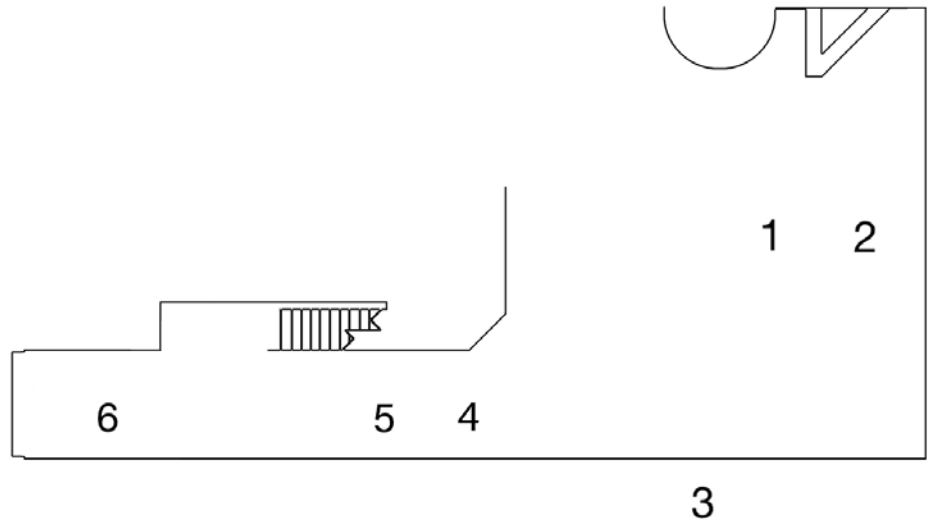
Aran's works on paper and paintings, such as *The Fastest Boy In The World, Fossil & Slide* (2022) also employ diverse materials, ranging from oil pastel, graphite, coloured pencil and newsprint. They oscillate between abstraction and representation, with clearly readable portraits or scenes alternating with gestural or coloured compositions. Originating as an everyday practice in the artist's studio, the drawings and paintings are made of intuitive markings, human and anthropomorphic forms, and handwritten notations that interweave elements of memory and mapping of thought.

Whether, film, painting, drawing or installation, Aran's work explores the humour, poetics and manipulations of everyday objects and popularly held beliefs. He calls attention to the nuances within a world of givens. Rather than mediating our perception of meaning, he opens things up, allowing language to breathe, to bleed; the pictorial becomes material becomes linguistic, and then cycles back again.

Special thanks to mother's tankstation Dublin | London, Sadie Coles HQ, London, and Andrew Kreps, New York, for their support of the exhibition along with the Irish Museum of Modern Art for their production residency, in particular Janice Hough, and thank you to Trinity Arts Workshop for their assistance in the production of new ceramics, especially Robyn Paterson, and Al's Bakery, Terenure.

Uri Aran

List of Works



Uri Aran

List of Works

Entrance

1. *Untitled*, 2020 – 2023, Corn husks, leather, thread and mixed media on plinth, dimensions variable.

2. *Foundation*, 2020, Single channel video, TRT 05:01.

3. *Untitled*, 2023, Bronze, patina and mixed media, dimensions variable.

4. *Eyes In My Back*, 2023, Newsprint, oil pastel, graphite, china marker, wood stain, ink and chalk on blackboard, 122 x 182 x 9.5 cm.

5. *You, You & You, Out*, 2023, Newsprint, oil pastel, graphite, China marker, wood stain, ink and chalk on blackboard, 122 x 182 x 9.5 cm.

6. *Untitled (Answers)*, 2020 – 2023, Five channel video.

Main Level

7. *Bread Library*, 2023, Bread, plywood and mixed media, dimensions variable.

8. *Untitled*, 2020 – 2023, Lenticular print, 160 x 106.7 cm.

9. *The Fastest Boy In The World, Choosing*, 2022, Oil, oil pastel, graphite and wood stain on MDO, 43.2 x 37.2 cm.

10. *Untitled*, 2023, Wood, ceramics, newsprint, corn husks, thread, trim and mixed media, 85 x 120 x 60 cm.

11. *Untitled*, 2023, Wood, canvas, ceramics, newsprint and mixed media, 80 x 200 x 90 cm.

12. *Friend, (With Good Route)*, 2023, Oil, oil pastel, acrylic and wood stain on MDO, 29.8 x 21.6 cm.

13. *Good Route*, 2020, Wood, ceramics, oil clay, paper, wax, bronze and mixed media, 63.5 x 81.3 x 19.1 cm.

14. *Untitled*, 2023, Wood stain, pigment, clear polyurethane, varnish and chalk on blackboard, 122 x 182 x 9.5 cm.

15. *The Fastest Boy In The World, Learning Desire*, 2022, Oil, oil pastel, graphite and wood stain on MDO, 35.6 x 29.8 cm.

16. *Matches*, 2023, Gesso, oil, oil pastel, ceramics, graphite, colour pencil, ink, wood stain and corn husk on stretched canvas, 40 x 48 cm.

17. *The Fastest Boy In The World, Fossil & Slide*, 2022, Gesso, oil, oil pastel, graphite and wood stain on MDO, 37.5 x 34.9 cm.

18. *Fastest Boy In The World, Keyframe*, 2023, Gesso, oil, oil pastel, graphite and wood stain on MDO, 43.2 x 37.2 cm.

19. *The Fastest Boy In The World, Clue Tray*, 2021, Oil, oil pastel, gesso and wood stain on MDO, 43.2 x 37.2 cm.

20. *Everything*, 2023, Oil pastel, graphite, wood stain, newsprint, ink and resin on MDO, 28 x 21 cm.

21. *Untitled*, 2006 - 2023, 35mm slide, dimension variable.

Lower level

22. *Untitled*, 2023, Ceramics, under glaze pencil and trim, 22 x 28 cm.

23. *1001*, 2023, Ceramics, under glaze pencil, thread and mixed media on plinth, dimension variable.

24. *Untitled*, 2013, 7 c-prints and frames, 115.5 x 95 cm.

25. *Clean*, 2020, Single channel video, TRT 07:03.

Uri Aran

Artist Bio

Uri Aran lives and works in New York. His work has been exhibited extensively, with recent solo exhibitions including: *House*, Gavin Brown's enterprise, New York, 2020, *Tenants Like These*, Sadie Coles HQ, London, 2019, *Mice*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2016, *Two Things About Suffering*, Sadie Coles HQ, London, 2016, *Sensitivo*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2014, *Puddles*, Peep-Hole, Milan, 2014, *Five Minutes Before*, South London Gallery, London, 2013, *here, here and here*, Kunsthalle Zürich, Zurich, 2013, among others. Aran's work has also appeared in international exhibitions including the Liverpool Biennial (2014), Whitney Biennial (2014) and Venice Biennale (2011 and 2013).

Associated Events

Artist Talk

Uri Aran in conversation with Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith.
Saturday 1 April, 2pm

Tour

Led by art critic and educator Declan Long.
Wednesday 19 April, 6pm

Non-visual Exploration

Led by artist Clare McLaughlin as part of the Seen-Unseen Project. This tour is for and with people who are visually impaired.
Friday 28 April, 2.30pm

Online Sonic Workshop

Led by artist Rian Treanor responding to Josh Tonsfeldt's work.
Thursday 4 May, Time TBC

Open Forum

Led by one of our Student Forum Members.
Thursday 18 May, 6pm

Response Series

Musician Alon Benjamini responding to Uri Aran's work.
From Thursday 1 June

Curator's Tour

Led by The Douglas Hyde Director and Curator Dr Georgina Jackson
Wednesday 14 June, 6pm

Booking is required for some events. For further details and to sign up to our mailing list please visit our website.

www.thedouglashyde.ie

Opening Hours

We are now open on Sundays from 12pm to 5pm! We are also open Wednesday to Saturday from 12pm to 5pm and Thursdays from 12pm to 6pm.

Support Us

There are many ways you can show your support; through a once-off donation, joining us as a Friend or Patron, or partnering with us on new initiatives. In doing so, you are enabling artists to make their most ambitious work to date and helping to bring that work to new audiences. For more information talk to one of our gallery assistants or visit our website: www.thedouglashydegallery.ie