

FROM THE DIRECTOR: Úna McCarthy



Welcome,

Limerick City Gallery of Art (LCGA) is delighted to have commissioned this body of work from Mary Burke, which forms this exhibition, *At Home on the Farm*.

The celebration of the working and domestic lives of farmers in County Limerick is at the heart of the exhibition – it is not a romantic view but neither is it harsh; rather it is a sensitive and realistic view of the various aspects of rural living in Ireland in the 21st Century.

Mary Burke is a highly regarded artist who, after a successful project in ~Tallaght, Dublin and Stradbally, Co Laois she was interested in stretching her sightlines and I was interested in a celebration of this changing metaphysical and physical environment of rural Ireland. This rich exhibition is the result of the openness of the participating farmers and Mary's obvious passion for this project.

This exhibition has received support from many people and I would like to thank, most especially, the five farmers who agreed to work with us on this exhibition, without whom this would have not been possible. My sincere thanks to Manchán Magan and Niamh Nic Ghabhann for their two very insightful and eloquent essays, which capture the essence of Mary's work and the centrality of rural Ireland even as we become more urbanized. My sincere thanks to Liz Kelly who has produced an inspiring Public Engagement programme and Sara Dowling who has ensured that we can share this programme with a wider audience through an online programme. The team at LCGA deserve very warm thanks, special mention must go to Siobhan O' Reilly whose interest, patience and support is a vital component of our exhibition programme.

I would also like to acknowledge our wider public whose support of LCGA allows us to flourish; to the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon whose strategic funding of LCGA allows us to push artistic boundaries and to Limerick City and County Council for their ongoing support which is critical to our existence. I also wish to acknowledge the support from Teagasc whose interest in this exhibition far exceeded expectations.

At Home on the Farm is a compelling exhibition of new work that brings to life the challenges and the changes that are part of life on a farm. Without the artist, Mary Burke, none of this would have been realized and I want to thank her most sincerely for her vision, ambition and generosity in making this an exhibition to treasure and celebrate the farming life in Co. Limerick.

Úna McCarthy, Director/Curator, LCGA.