

Artist	Ramon Kassam
Title	<i>Model</i> (2016)
Medium	acrylic with tacks on linen
Notes	Exhibited as part of 'Works', at the Green on Red Gallery, Dublin, 19 th May – 8 th July 2016 Purchased in 2016 from The Provost's Fund for Contemporary Art



b. 1981, Limerick

Ramon Kassam graduated with a BA in Fine Art Painting from the Limerick School of Art and Design in 2007 and has been exhibiting work regularly since 2010. His approach can be described as radical, as with much of his recent work he aims to deconstruct the conventional relationship between the artist and his creations. While, typically, a painting might be seen as an expression of the artist's 'Self', Kassam attempts to remove his own presence from his works. This process includes incorporating items such as screws, tacks, wood and plastic into his paintings which reinforce the material quality of the work and further its independence from the artist. Furthering this idea, Kassam plays with the compositions of his works; scenes may be viewed from unusual perspectives, such as at foot-level in *Study for his flag* (2016). In other cases the canvas represents multiple viewpoints, cropped at one end and colliding at another. As the Cubists broke their painted surface to enhance the physical presence of the artwork, Kassam too designs his pieces to be representative of something more than the artist's persona. In keeping with this concept many works are named in the third person, *His re-worked Kassam* (2016), for example.

The artist has had a number of solo exhibitions in his native city, most recently 'Gallery' at the Limerick City Gallery of Art (2015). Notable group exhibitions include Ireland's International Visual Art Biennial, EVA International (2014) and the Arca Archa Exhibition in Boston (2012). Alongside his practice as an artist, Kassam has been an active participant in the developing arts scene in Limerick, acting as Director of Wickham Studios from 2009 to 2011, and assisting in the establishment and running of the Occupy Space, an artist-led voluntary organisation which encourages and supports emerging artists and exhibits their work.

Kassam's work has attracted considerable admiration since the early stages of his career; in 2007 he was presented with an award for Outstanding Achievement in Fine Art by the Revenue Commissioner of Ireland. The artist has also been the recipient of several residency awards, such as the Royal Hibernian Academy 'Tony O'Malley Residency Award' and a project residency granted by the Irish Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The information in this article has been taken from www.ramonkassam.com

This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers
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