



Artist

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

Title

Great Good Places (2011)

Medium

4 pigment baryta prints from a series of 36; Stills from the four-screen installation using video & cgi composite, colour, sound

Notes

Great Good Places was exhibited at the Domobaal Gallery London, 24th September 2011- 5th November 2011; EVA International, Limerick 19th May-12th August 2012

Purchased 2016 from The Provost's Fund for Contemporary Art

b. 1978, Co. Galway

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain is an artist and a lecturer at Crawford College of Art in Cork. It was at this institution that Ní Bhriain began her education in visual art, earning a Distinction grade for her BA in Fine Art Print in 2000. Upon graduating, she immediately began exhibiting her work; firstly at a group show in Athenry, County Galway and later in Paris, at an exhibition organised by the Dublin artist collective, the Blackchurch Print Studio.

Ní Bhriain's practice then developed towards video-making, a venture which was supported through a mentoring programme under Nigel Rolfe at the Cork Film Centre. Over the next few years, the artist earned an MA in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art, London (2004) and completed a funded practice-based PhD in Fine Art, which was awarded by Kingston University, London (2008). While pursuing her further studies, Ní Bhriain exhibited work regularly, determined as she put it "not to lose her practice to academia".

Cities across Europe, the U.S. and Asia have played host to Ní Bhriain's exhibitions and, in 2015, 'Reports to an Academy', a video installation by the artist, was shown at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) in Dublin. The significance of Ní Bhriain's artistic output has been formally recognised with several awards and bursaries such as the Moving Image Award from the Cork Film Centre (2000), the Newfoundland Travel Grant (2002), as well as a number of prizes awarded by Arts Council of Ireland, including a Visual Arts Project Award for 2017. Artworks by Ailbhe Ní Bhriain are in the collection of the Arts Council of Ireland and, now, Trinity College Dublin.

Great Good Places - For *Great Good Places* (2011), the artist meticulously constructed scenarios using filmed footage, sound and computer generated images. The title of the piece was taken from Henry James' short story, 'The Great Good Place', in which the tale of

the central figure unfolds through dreams and real experience, exploring the distinction between the conscious and unconscious mind. Ní Bhriain's *mise-en-scène* is such that we may be looking at the composite elements of a stage set, a Romantic landscape or an office space. These worlds are displayed across four separate screens and yet seem to connect, with visual and aural elements slipping from image to another. Ní Bhriain projects a space which is both familiar and surreal, combining everyday props with impossible situations and thus questioning our perception of place. A number of stills from these four screens were made into limited edition prints, four of which were acquired for the collection of Trinity College Dublin. The original four-screen film itself, *Great Good Places*, was selected for Ireland's Visual Art Biennial EVA International in 2012, and acquired by the Arts Council of Ireland thereafter.