IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Winter 2017

Happy New Year! I hope you had a peaceful holiday season and wish you and your family a very healthy and happy 2017.

Staff Update

The museum staff is growing. I am pleased to announce that Claire Puzarne has been promoted to assistant director of the museum. Many of you know Claire so I know you will join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved promotion. On January 4, 2017, Margaret Vaughan joined our team as assistant manager. Margaret comes to us from the New Britain Museum of American Art. She received a BFA from the University of Hartford, and is currently enrolled in a master's program in American studies at Trinity College.

Elizabeth McGarry, the museum's visitor services assistant for the past year-and-a-half, recently took a full-time position at Quinnipiac University's School of Business. Many thanks to Liz for all her work at the museum. Finally, Kathryn Sweeney will join our team as the new visitor services assistant. Kate recently received a BFA in drama and linguistics from New York University. She has been working at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford. Please join us in welcoming Kate and Margaret to the museum.

New Acquisitions

We are pleased to announce the addition of three new paintings to the museum's permanent collection. Two of the paintings depict country life in Connemara, one of the areas most adversely affected by the Famine. *Connemara Girls* (c. 1880) by Sir Thomas Alfred Jones and *The Connemara Spinner* (c. 1840, Irish School). Henry Mark Anthony's *View of the Rock of Cashel from the Village* displays the traditional seat of the kings of Munster. The surviving buildings are unique among Irish Romanesque churches.







These paintings are currently in Ireland and England but will arrive soon and be on view at the museum in the spring.

Docent Program

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer docent at the museum? If so, an information session will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at 3 p.m. at the museum for potential docents to learn more about the program (please rsvp to ighm@qu.edu if you plan to attend). If you are unable to attend this session but would like additional information on the docent program, visit the website at www.ighm.org and click on the "Support" tab.

Works on Loan

The museum has several pieces of art out on loan to the New Bedford Whaling Museum in New Bedford, Massachusetts, for its exhibition "Famine, Friends & Fenians." This exhibition runs through August 2017. Please consider visiting the museum if you are in the area. The website is www.whalingmuseum.org/.

The Knights of Columbus Museum's exhibition "Fleeing Famine," featuring several sculptures from the IGHM collection, is ongoing. More information can be found on the website www.kofcmuseum.org/.

Spring Events

Through the generous support of our many donors we are able to continue offering a variety of programs. A special thank you to all donors from September 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016, listed on the attached list. For the spring schedule, please visit www.ighm.org.

We are very grateful for your ongoing commitment to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum. We hope you are able to enjoy the museum in the coming year by attending a lecture, discussion or program or by encountering our new works of art or revisiting a favorite one. For those who are interested in supporting the museum, please visit the museum's website to complete our <u>online giving form</u>. Or mail a check made payable to "Ireland's Great Hunger Museum" to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518-1908.

Very sincerely,

Grace Brady Executive Director



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