



Laura Owens

This American painter combines a magpie-like use of art historical sources with her own idiosyncratic style. Owens's paintings and drawings draw the viewer into a fantastic world of tropical gardens populated by hybrid creatures. The largest, which features a pair of lovers, draws on Hindu relief carvings, while another, featuring circles arranged like flowers in a basket, is reminiscent of pop art. Her works have a dark side, as the cartoon-like birds (such as in the untitled work above) and caterpillars in the nature pieces compete for space with threateningly weird plant life. This menacing quality is most notable in the works that obliquely comment on contemporary US foreign policy, such as the gigantic canvas that recalls the Bayeux tapestry and whose decorative style does not detract from the savage violence depicted. Owens's work conveys disturbing subject matter in a vivacious, richly ornamental manner.

Catherine Leen

Douglas Hyde, Dublin, Mon-Fri 11am-6pm (Thu 11am-7pm), Sat 11am-4.45pm, free (01 608 1116)