



ARTIST BIO: LIAM RYAN

Between 2005 and 2006 in Dublin, I was part of an Art group called the Defastenists (now disbanded). Defastenist art was based on exploring our individual obsessions, no matter how ugly or anal. We had a Defastenist manifesto and, in an absurdest manner, we also had a Defastenist nation state, a national anthem, a Defastenist written language, a Defastenist currency, a Defastenist lottery, a Defastenist newspaper, a Defastenist postal system and a Defastenist monarch.

My favourite thing about the group was that we held a bi-weekly cabaret, in two venues, over a year and a half. Events at these cabarettas included pole dancing from Sophie Iremonger (minister for the erotic), propagandist rhetoric from Gary Farrelly (der kunst fuhrer), Radio broadcasts from the D.K.R. (Defasten Kunst Republik) from Gary Farrelly and myself (the minister for morality), we had Seanan Kerr (minister for immorality) read all the bad news from the newspaper, while we all threw wet pieces of paper at him, until he began to scream at us, we had human sacrifices to Baal the god of materialism, from David McDermott (minister for etiquette) and we also had readings of correspondence, which Dr. Paul O Brien (minister for historical propaganda) had with a 93 year old Belgian, who only ate black things, called Bela Pinoru. Paul O Brien also wrote an extensive false history for the movement, which put its roots in Germany in the teens, deriving from the earlier (fictitious) movement, Losbindungkunst. A further background history stretched back as far as the seventeenth century.

The movement was very short lived, but nonetheless, there have been two MA dissertations written about the movement by Irish students, and recently, this year, one PHD thesis has been written by a student in New York.



LIAM RYAN: CURRICULUM VITAE

Date of Birth: 11-03-82

Nationality: Irish

EDUCATION

2002-06: BA in Fine Art from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

2008-09: MA in Fine Art from Central St Martins at Byam Shaw.

EXHIBITIONS

2009 *17 Ingredients* at Bash Studios, London. Curated by Blanche Craig and Shama Khanna.

Diamond Dust Salon; Andy Warhol, Rene Ricard, Robert Hawkins and Liam Ryan at Pollock Fine Art, London. Curated by Steven Pollock.

Bing Bang Bong, in the Stone Gallery, Dublin. Curated by Anne Hendrick.

2008 *About Time*, in the Stone Gallery, Dublin. Curated by Anne Hendrick.

Hackney Wicked, in the Residence Gallery, London. Curated by Ingrid Z and Laura May Lewis.

Die, In Popular, in Slaginc Gallery, London. Curated by Pav Von Mxski.

Don't Stop Me Now- the Body beyond Death, in Trolley Gallery, London. Curated by Hannah Watson.

Bing, Bang Bong, staged in two disused shops on Redchurch St in Shoreditch, London.

2007 *Boyle Arts Festival*, Boyle, Co. Roscommon, Ireland.

CEAD IN CHINA 2007, travelling show. The show was exhibited at 411 Galleries, Shanghai in March, at Hotel Equatorial, Shanghai in April, at the Central Academy of fine art, Beijing in April and at Redstar Cultural Hotel, Hangzhou in May. Curated by Karen Loughrey.

Don't Cry – Work! In the Back Loft, St. Augustine St, Dublin. Curated by Padraic Moore.



- 2006 *Catalyst* in Catalyst Arts, Belfast, Ireland. Curated by Brendan O' Neil.
- 2005 *New Irish Painting*, in the Context Gallery, Derry, Ireland. Curated by Marian O' Kane.

With the Defastenists, featured in the *Quadrant 2005* group show in the Belltable arts Centre, Limerick, Ireland. Curated by Anya Von Gosslyn.

Exposition to Mark the Expansion of the Great Defastenist Empire, Defastenist group show in Liberty hall, Dublin. Curated by Padraic Moore and Donna Marie O Donovan.

Featured in Defastenist group show, *Electro-Wurst 2*, Prenzlaurberg, Berlin. Curated by Padraic Moore and Donna Marie O Donovan.

Featured in Defastenist group show, *Foundation of Nation State Defastena*, Celbridge, Co Kildare, Ireland. Curated by Padraic Moore and Donna Marie O Donovan.

Featured in Defastenist group show in Arthouse, Temple Bar, Dublin. Curated by Oliver Whelan.

Featured in Defastenist group show, *Der Defastenkunstbunker*, the Cultivate centre, Temple Bar, Dublin. Curated by Padraic Moore and Donna Marie O Donovan.

RESIDENCY

- 2007 Had a two-week residency at the *Cill Rialiaig Project*, Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

- 2007 Acted as set designer for a staged production of Bach's *Christ Lag in Todes anden* by eX Tenebris, staged at the Pavilion, Dublin and at the Helix, Dublin. Directed by Eric Fraad.

AWARDS

- 2008 Received a scholarship from Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland to do an MA in fine art at St Martin's Byam Shaw School of art.
- 2006 Received the annual Royal Dublin Society *Taylor Prize* for painting.