

Preview Oct 15, 6pm - 8pm
ArtBox, 3 James Joyce St. Dublin 1.

Cecilia

Opening hours: 11am - 5pm, Wednesday - Saturday

2039 brings together new work by artists **Emer O Boyle** and **Méadhbh O'Connor**.

Curated by **Dr. Hilary Murray** and presented by UCD Parity Studios and ArtBox, the exhibition explores the parallels that bind the pursuits of both artists and scientists, in a continuum of reciprocal influence.

Early in the life of the solar system, dust and rock circling the sun were pulled together by gravity into planets. But Jupiter, the largest planet, kept a number of the pieces from coalescing. Instead, its gravity disrupted the formation process, leaving an array of unattached asteroids.

The exhibition takes its title from one of these asteroids orbiting the sun between Jupiter and Mars. It has been there since the dawn of our solar system. Only 23km in diameter, it travels alone, 600,000km from any other object in space. It travels in the Main Asteroid belt among billions – maybe even trillions of asteroids. On February 14th, 1974, it was observed and named. It's called asteroid 2039 Payne Gaposchkin.

In 1925, **Cecilia Payne Gaposchkin** discovered the composition of the stars. Her PhD work on reading stellar spectra underpins all modern astronomy. Her insufficiently recognised story is the impetus for a new body of work by **Emer O Boyle** in drawing, video and installation.

Emer works collaboratively to draw out individual stories within collective contexts. Her projects, outside of the studio to gallery trajectory have been funded by Create, Dublin Fringe Festival, EU Partnership for Peace Programme 2, Amnesty Voice Our Concern, GLORIA – Global Robotic Telescope Intelligent Array an EUFP7 project and University College Dublin. She is co-founder with Prof. Lorraine Hanlon and director of UCD Parity Studios. For their contribution to 2039 Emer would like to thank UCD astrophysicists **Dr. Antonio Martin-Carrillo** for his detailed observations in identifying and imaging asteroid 2039, **Prof. Lorraine Hanlon** for the use of WATCHER, a robotic telescope she built in 2006 South Africa, **Dr. Dimitri Scholz**, Director of Biological Imaging, Conway Institute, UCD, for electron microscopy imaging of a poppy seed and **Dr. Julian Menuge**, UCD Geological Sciences for the loan of a meteorite which crashed into Arizona 49,000 years ago.

Méadhbh O'Connor produces large-scale sculptural installations that mix handcrafted objects, engineered constructions and ephemeral materials. Her projects are all, whether directly or indirectly, propelled by her interest in science. For 2039 at **ArtBox**, Méadhbh explores the role of fiction as a domain in which complex and seemingly unlikely ideas can be processed through the imagination. Here she creates a world which combines Baroque and Gothic Revival styles, the scientific instrument, references to the astronomical, to the Sci-Fi subgenera of Steampunk and Planetary Romance; echoing tropes which persist in Science Fantasy today, often serving as elaborate backdrops to alternative worlds. Recent exhibitions and awards include Welcome Disturbances, The LAB, Dublin, 2015; Sculpture Workshop Award, Fire Station, 2015; Unknown Shores (solo exhibition), O'Brien Centre for Science, UCD, 2014; UCD Science Artists In Residence Award, 2013; powers + √roots, Pallas PP/S, Dublin, 2013.

This project is curated by ArtBox Director Dr. Hilary Murray.

*Image: Emer O Boyle, taken with UCD Watcher telescope,
P.I. Prof. Lorraine Hanlon
processed by Dr Antonio Martin-Carrillo.*



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