



## Charlemont grant report

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| Recipient name:              | Dr Kathryn Milligan  |
| Discipline and subject area: | Humanities and Social Sciences; Musicology and History of Art and Architecture |
| Amount and year awarded:     | €1,961 in 2020   |
| Title of project:            | A Four Nations Art History? The G. F. Watts Memorial Exhibition, 1905-06       |



### Summary of findings:

Since submitting my application in 2019, and receiving this grant in early 2020, many things have changed, and my planned research and collaborations have been much delayed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Eventually, however, in February 2022 I was able to travel to London for a course of archival research to consult a wide range of sources relating to the Watts Memorial Exhibition including a full suite of the exhibition catalogues, associated primary source materials such as letters and diaries, as well as seeing some of the artworks that were included in the four iterations of the exhibition.

Additional secondary research undertaken during this period of travel also greatly extended by understanding of the art historical contexts for this exhibition and its planning, and it has greatly enhanced my understanding of the exhibition – its planning, administration, and the significance of Dublin being included in the cities it toured to.

A key finding from this research trip were details of the insurance and travel arrangements for several of the works in the exhibition; highlighting an interesting commercial and highly practical aspect of the exhibition’s organisation. This material in particular will be used to further explore and outline the interconnected travel and insurance routes for fine art in Ireland and Britain in the long nineteenth century.

### Plans for continuing collaboration:

As my research continues to develop in this field, I intend keep in contact with the curators, archivists, and scholars that I meet during this period of research, with the intention of continuing to share information and plan towards an in-person collaborative event in the future.

### Published work and publication plans:

The research associated with this Charlemont Grant will form a key part of a new monograph which I am currently writing, with the working title of ‘Entertaining Art: Visual Culture and Spectacle in Nineteenth Century Dublin’ which I hope to propose to a publisher in early 2023.

### Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

Materials stemming from this research will be presented at the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland in 2022; I also intend to convene on this topic at the British Association of Victorian Studies of Association for Art History Annual Conference in 2023.



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### **Collaborations and planned collaborations:**

If possible, I hope to collaborate with industry and academic colleagues for the planned conference panel in 2023, bringing together scholars and curators working on the shared art histories of Ireland and Britain and the history of travelling exhibitions.

### **Outreach and engagement activities:**

I expect that research from this period of study will feature in my ongoing public-facing work, including lectures and courses at the National Gallery of Ireland (and other cultural institutions) and my own social media pages.