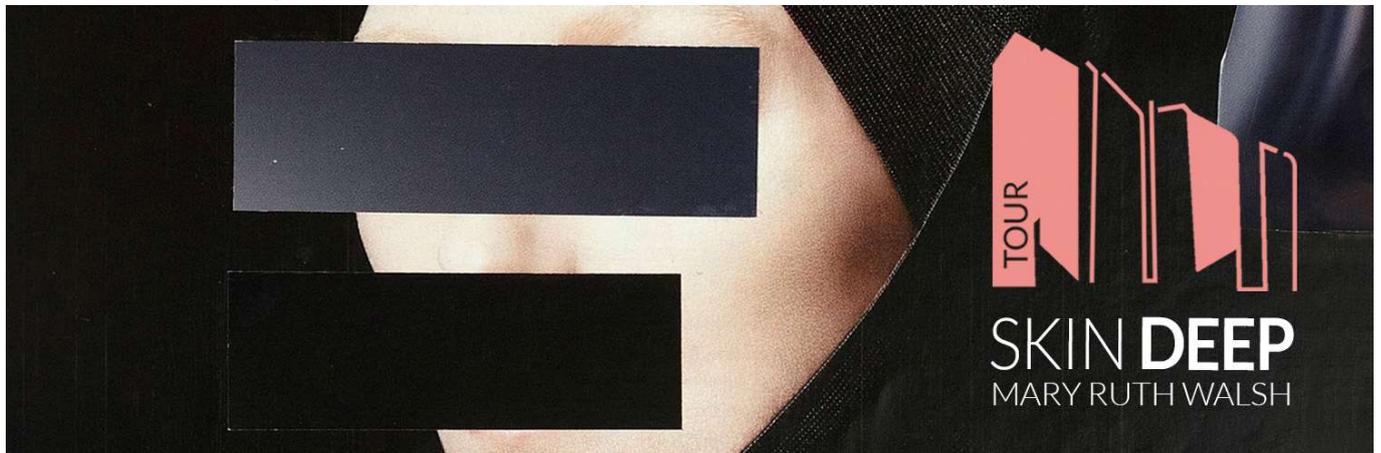




## PRESS RELEASE, *SKIN DEEP* BY MARY-RUTH WALSH



### National tour of *Skin Deep* - by visual artist Mary-Ruth Walsh

Commissioned by Wexford Arts Centre

**13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

Limerick City Gallery of Art is excited to present *Skin Deep*, a national touring exhibition by artist Mary-Ruth Walsh. Through collage, film and sculpture/installation, Walsh extends her interest in architecture and explores skin as substance and metaphor. *Skin Deep* was commissioned by Wexford Arts Centre.

This is a new direction for Walsh's obsession with architecture. Through the medium of film, collage and sculpture, Walsh explores skin's parallels to architecture. Using Arnold Böcklin's 'The Isle of the Dead' (1883) as a reference, SKIN DEEP brings us to an imaginary island, a medical-tourism destination for the pursuit of the perfect skin. Walsh aims to uncover the psychology of society's investment in skin as it continues to be a contested surface and a carrier of social standing. The work examines the impenetrable façades of contemporary corporate buildings and impassive faces that are unlined and inexpressive through medical intervention, questioning why flawless skin and flawless architectural veneers are considered important in society today.

Skin was viewed, historically and philosophically, as a porous, non-closed surface, Walsh examines how it is viewed as a bodily boundary, a wall or legible screen and bearer of ethnic information, colour and gender. She draws conceptual parallels between buildings that cannot be read through established architectural codes and skin as a bodily boundary. This is explored through tropes of seductive medical and pharmaceutical advertising. Walsh notes the parallels between buildings that are seamless, made from sheer veneers, self-cleaning and self-repair materials; they are impassive and ageless, similar to the skin from her medical island. In earlier works, Walsh took inspiration from the language of architecture and constructed imagined spaces exploring ideas relating to the built environment and contemporary culture. She created a new dialogue drawing from utopian ideals of 20th and 21st century planning and design, and juxtaposed these with vernacular architecture. The theatrical aspect of how the work is displayed parallels contemporary building facades using seductive surfaces that lead the viewer in.

Carnegie Building, Pery Square, Limerick, Ireland.

**FREE ADMISSION**

Tel: +353(0)61 310633; F:+353(0)61 310228; Email: [artgallery@limerick.ie](mailto:artgallery@limerick.ie); Web [www.gallery.limerick.ie](http://www.gallery.limerick.ie)

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 10-5pm; Sunday 12-5pm

**LAST ENTRY 15 minutes before closing**

**Closed on Public & Bank Holidays.**

Based in County Wexford, Walsh originally trained as a nurse and midwife. She graduated from Goldsmiths College London (MA) and the National College of Art and Design (BA), Dublin. Walsh has participated in national and international exhibitions and the Artist's Residency Programme in the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; RHA's experimental drawing studio, Dublin; Aabenraa Artweek, Denmark and Basecamp in Philadelphia. Walsh's work is in the collection of Trinity College Dublin and private collections.

Walsh's solo and group exhibitions include IMMA (Dublin); Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane (Dublin); RHA (Dublin); CUBEOpen (Manchester); Oonagh Young Gallery (Dublin); Highlanes Gallery (Drogheda); Parlour (New York and Italy); Arts Centres (Wexford and Galway); Cross Gallery (Dublin); Goethe Institute (Dublin) and SCOPE (Miami). Awards include Create Ireland research bursary, Arts Council of Ireland's Project, Travel Awards, Visual Arts Bursary Award and most recently Arts Council of Ireland Touring Award. Her public work extends beyond the gallery space and is both permanent and temporary.

***Skin Deep*** launched at the **Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda** in November 2020, and will travel to **Wexford Arts Centre, Wexford** from October – December 2021.

***Skin Deep*** is supported by an **Arts Council Touring and Dissemination of Work Award** and **Artlinks**.

For further information on *Skin Deep* or artist Mary-Ruth Walsh contact Catherine Bowe - Curator, Wexford Arts Centre, Cornmarket, Wexford on +353 (0)53 91 23764 or email [catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie](mailto:catherine@wexfordartscentre.ie)

Artworks are for sale, any queries please contact [artgallery@limerick.ie](mailto:artgallery@limerick.ie)



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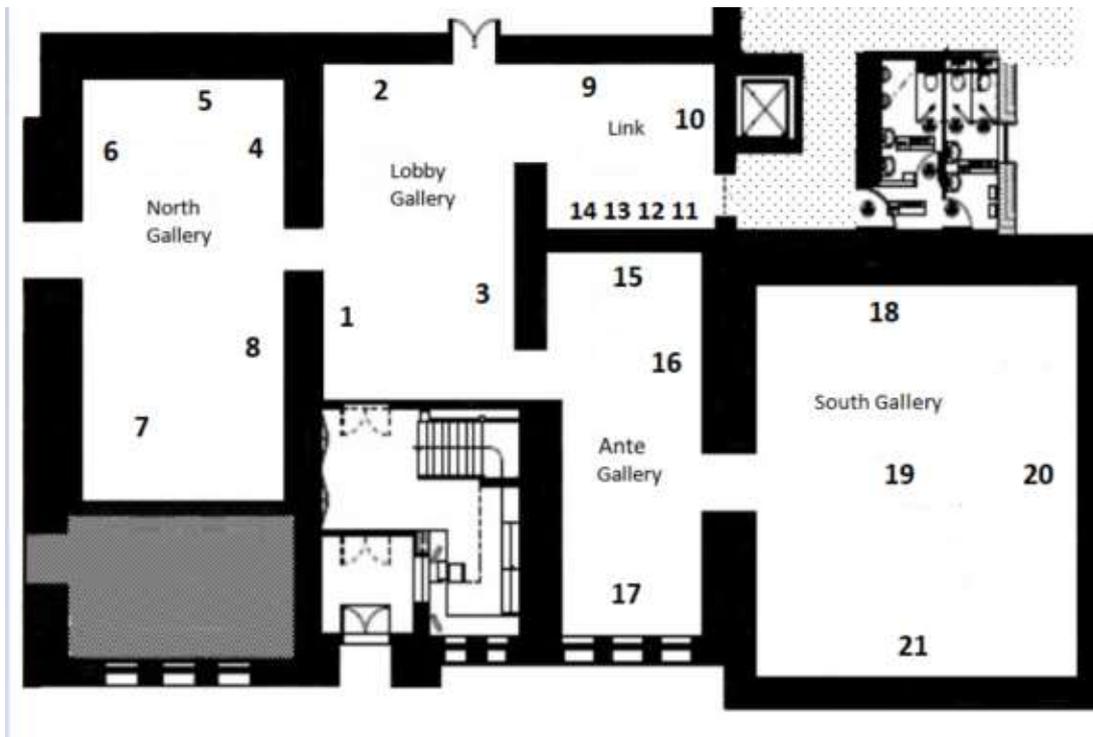
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Mary Ruth Walsh, SKIN DEEP - LCGA 2021

	Title	Medium	Dimension (high x width)
	LOBBY GALLERY		
1	<i>Passage</i>	Collage and acrylic on paper	30 x 25cms
2	<i>Studio Visit</i>	Film	variable
3	<i>Gentle Repair – I am here for you</i>	Collage and tape on paper	34 x 41.5cm
	NORTH GALLERY		
4	<i>The Order of Things</i>	Collage on archival print	40 x 29cms
5	<i>Italian Gymnasium, 2019</i>	Collage and acrylic on canvas	42 x 55cms
6	<i>Madonna and Model</i>	Collage and acrylic on paper	45 x 40.5cms
7	<i>Après Eileen Gray</i>	Industrial grade board, paint and stainless steel	200 x 200cms
8	<i>Veneta Eclipsed</i>	Collage and acrylic on paper	45 x 39cm
	LINK GALLERY		
9	<i>Sensory Block Screen Après Eileen Gray</i>	Collage watercolour and pencil on paper	46 x 35.5cms
10	<i>Soft Structure with Liquid Sunrise</i>	Collage and pen on paper	38 x 55cms
11	<i>Beautiful Building Atomized</i>	Pencil, pen and collage on paper	42 x 52cms
12	<i>Beautiful Building with suspended eye dropper</i>	Pencil, pen and collage on paper	34 x 41.5cm
13	<i>Beautiful Building with Eye Dropper</i>	Pencil, pen and collage on paper	36 x 50cms
14	<i>Beautiful Building: Beach Leaves</i>	Pencil, pen and collage on paper	30 x 40.5cms
	ANTE GALLERY		
15	<i>Intimate Entrance I</i>	Collage and pen on paper	52 x 42cms
16	<i>Intimate Entrance II</i>	Collage on paper	35.5 x 48cms
17	<i>Black Division</i>	Banner	310 x 449cm
	SOUTH GALLERY		
18	<i>Honeyed Tingle Spread</i>	Large scale print on diabond	148 x 197cms
19	<i>Nutrient Bright Bodies (in 11 pieces)</i>	found objects, perspex, jesmonite and plaster	Lightboxes x 3 variable dimensions
20	<i>Why Tilda Why?</i>	Collage and pen on paper	52 x 45cms
21	<i>SKIN DEEP</i>	Film, running time 4 mins	65" flat screen

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