

## ACOUSTOOPTICALDINORATORIO

A painter paints pictures on canvas, musicians paint on silence; same difference.

*ACOUSTOOPTICALDINORATORIO* is the inspiration of the Irish artist, Alan Healy who states...“In keeping with our duty as artists to change the inherent form and destiny of any matter we use to express ourselves ... in my work, I try to elaborate on parts and sensations of this experience; that is, to bring attention to the materiality of James Joyce’s work and perhaps reveal something of the alchemy that he alone understood.”

*ACOUSTOOPTICALDINORATORIO* is an exploration of sound and vision set against the backdrop of James Joyce’s monumental literary work *Finnegans Wake*.

So what is *ACOUSTOOPTICALDINORATORIO* ? If we break down the title, the music is the ACOUSTO, the OPTICAL are the canvases, the DIN is the cacophony when all of the musicians play their own pieces of music simultaneously and the ORATORIO is the chatter afterwards.

The performance and exhibition features the musical and visual works of around 40 artists. Each artist will play 30 seconds of music, until all have played. This section will be followed by 2 minutes where all the artists play their own piece simultaneously sounded in by the timekeeper. At this time various others join in, conductors, ballet dancers, viewers with movie cameras, and more.

So how will it all sound? Nobody knows yet. How will it look? The artists with musical instruments will be seated in a spiral facing out. The vocalists will form an inner circle facing out. There will be four conductors, at the north, south, east and west aspects of the circle. They will wear earphones and conduct whatever they are listening to and there will be canvases by all of those participating on display in the Frances Keevil Gallery, Double Bay.

As a participating artist and musician, you will have a dual role. You will be given a canvas in late January so that you can produce an artwork for the exhibition in the Frances Keevil Gallery that will coincide with the performance. It would be preferable if you could produce an artwork that will relate to and hold the title of the piece that you intend to play. Your second role will be to play that piece of music first for 30 seconds and then for 2 minutes.

One of the many pleasures of *Finnegans Wake* is that it still remains poetry and chaos, rather than something analysed and known to be safe, this event and exhibition, with the visual and associations of the visual, sound and the associations of sound may be as meaningful as it may seem meaningless; this remains to be seen and hear this work we listen, participate and wait.