

Mumming animation

Mumming is a fluid free-flowing art form that has allowed for the incorporation of new meanings into old rituals. In the artwork *Mumming Animation* the Tynan sisters re-interpret Mumming for a contemporary art audience by celebrating the tradition through the use of new media.



Mumming Animation still 1 (2012) © Eimear & Grainne Tynan

The drawings depict mumpers from various nations and time periods, indicating the past and present relevance of Mumming, both nationally and internationally. The unifying characteristics of the Mumpers' disguises are highlighted as the video convey both continuity and change across the tradition. The hand drawn images reflect the homemade, time-consuming elements of the costumes. Looped morphing animation was chosen as a medium in which to work as the repetitious quality parallels the ritualistic nature of the Mumming tradition.

Drawing forms an integral part of both artist's practice and this particular work is composed of 70 collaborative sketches. The artists explore the manipulation of these hand-drawn images through the use of video editing software, creating an animation. The art work combines our individual interests and professional backgrounds in the fine arts and social sciences.



Mumming Animation still 2 (2012) © Eimear & Grainne Tynan

Gráinne and Eimear Tynan are sisters who have collaborated on several artistic projects whilst also continuing their individual visual arts practices. The ongoing project *Hunting The Wren* looks at the relevance of historical objects and rituals to the construction of meanings in the contemporary world. The starting point for this work was shared childhood memories of Mumming in Fingal, Co. Dublin. The custom of mumming incorporates a plenitude of art forms, including: story-telling, dance, music, costume making, and weaving. The tradition is at risk of dying out and requires annual performances to remain vibrant and relevant to a rapidly changing culture.

Gráinne and Eimear Tynan, *Mumming animation*, Mummers Unconvention, Bath, 2012.

Their collaborative work on Mumming was awarded a *Travel & Training Bursary* by The Arts Council of Ireland in December 2012 and was shortlisted for Siamsa Tire's *Emerging Artist Award* in July 2011. For more information see: www.huntingthewren.tumblr.com