

**Media Release**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2019**

**Mark Dion: Our Plundered Planet  
4<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**

Hugh Lane Gallery is delighted to present the first solo museum exhibition in Ireland by US artist Mark Dion entitled *Our Plundered Planet*. This exhibition addresses the serious and topical issue of global warming and the resulting consequences for our planet. Dion presents a critical discourse on the relationship between nature and civilisation and reveals his long-standing interest in and knowledge of the earth's eco systems. Informed by his studies of ecology, botany and ethnography, he invites us to take a hard look, not only at the natural environment, but also at our inherited philosophical ideas about nature.

***Our Plundered Planet*** is a commentary on human treatment of the natural environment, tempered with a dose of humour and playfulness. At a time when greenhouse gas emissions from human activities are at historically high levels and the polar glaciers are melting, Dion's work poses questions of human responsibility - the relationship between human beings and our biospheres and between Cultural and Capital ecologies which are intrinsically linked and interactive.

"*Our Plundered Planet* continues the Hugh Lane Gallery's commended practice of interrogating contentious issues through the visual arts. The message is grave but it has appeal to a wide audience with its playful imagery including wall paper of jelly fish, curiosity cabinets and noble birds a top glittering detritus. It is a "must to" experience" Barbara Dawson Director

"*Against The Current*, Mark's sculpture of a severed eel, grew out of his research residency in Limerick, 2015. It's an elegy for the depletion of wild species in Ireland's rivers. A visceral sign of the cuttings of our River Shannon by modern engineering". Michael Dempsey, Head of Exhibitions.

The exhibition opens in Hugh Lane Gallery, Parnell Square, Dublin 1 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April and will run until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2019.

Details of the exhibition and images are available on request from Jessica Hayden: [jessica.hayden@dublincity.ie](mailto:jessica.hayden@dublincity.ie) (01) 222 5571  
or Valerie Jones: [valerie.jones@dublincity.ie](mailto:valerie.jones@dublincity.ie) (01) 222 5554

**ENDS**

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A limited edition print titled "A Guide to the Birds of Dada and Surrealism and Their Influences" created by Mark Dion especially for this exhibition is available. Please contact Jessica Hayden at [jessica.hayden@dublincity.ie](mailto:jessica.hayden@dublincity.ie) or on (01) 222 5571.

A fully illustrated colour catalogue will accompany this exhibition with essays by art historian Prof. Dr. Petra Lange-Berndt and art critic Patrick Jaojoco.

**Mark Dion** was born in 1961 in New Bedford, Massachusetts, USA. He gained international reputation in the 1980s for his large, site-specific installations - works he fills with materials he gathers, categorizes, and displays in the manner of an archeologist or anthropologist. He plans his projects with detailed drawings in red or blue pencil and his installations draw on the techniques of scientific enquiry and museum displays of natural histories.

This exhibition coincides with EuroMAB 2019 a conference on Biospheres. Organised by Dublin City Council's Parks Department held in Dublin Castle and Dublin Bay Biosphere Reserve, Ireland from 2 to 5 April 2019.

Hugh Lane Gallery  
Charlemont House  
Parnell Square  
Dublin 1