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Dublin Live Art Festival 2015 – Expect the Unexpected

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Amanda Coogan
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With the return of *The Dublin Live Art Festival*, Dublin once again becomes a haven for the unexpected. Now in its fourth year, *Dublin Live Art Festival* has established itself as the premiere showcase for Irish and International live performance art in Dublin. This year, curator Niamh Murphy is focusing on the richness and diversity of performance art in Ireland. Featuring strong, home grown talent, including the irrepresible Amanda Coogan, the subtle and poignant genius of Francis Fay and the thought provoking Eleanor Lawler, as well as several other notable luminaries, the three day, *DLAF 2015* will take place in a number of venues, including MART and the historic Casino at Marino, which promises to provide a dramatic and inspirational setting.

The festival opens Friday, July 24th with an evening of on-street, public performances at *Art Lot* Dublin, the outdoor exhibition space off Harcourt Road, which has become a hub for contemporary live art, sculpture and performance. Events continue on Saturday, July 25th at *MART Gallery and Studios* in Rathmines with the seminar series, “*Where do we place Live Art?*” The seminar will bring together prominent Irish artists from across disciplines, including theatre makers,

curators and community activists to discuss the ways in which ‘performance practice informs cultural production.’ Saturday evening will also see some unmissable performances hosted by *Livestock*, a bi-monthly live art event, with artists responding to the theme of ‘*PERFORMING PLEASURE*.’ Performers on the night will include Helena Walsh, Fergus Byrne, Laura O’Connor and Tara Carroll.

The festival closes with its potential jewel in the crown, an afternoon of live performances in the *Casino at Marino* on Sunday, July 26th. Amanda Coogan, Áine Phillips, Brian Connolly, James King, Frances Fay, Eleanor Lawler, and EL Putnam will each perform pieces specifically designed to respond to the unique architecture, history, and lore of this historical site, an 18th-century neo-classical “folly” created as a pleasure house for James Caulfield, the 1st Earl of Charlemont.

If this year’s festival looks a little light in terms of events, that might have to do with the fact that the festival is broken into two sections this year. Firstly, a summer festival in July, which will be followed by a winter festival later in November. An intriguing gamble, but the *Dublin Live Art Festival* is never anything less than intriguing and always prepared to take a gamble.

Full Dublin Live Arts Festival Line Up - July 24th to July 26th

Friday, 24 July

7.00 pm to 10.00 pm - *Art Lot* Dublin, Harcourt Road, No. 24, Dublin 2
Performances by artists selected by open call

Saturday, 25 July

2.00 pm to 6.00 pm - *Mart*, 190a Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Seminar: Where do we place Live Art?

Saturday, 25 July

7.00 pm -10.00 pm - *Mart*, 190a Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6
Livestock performance: ‘PLEASURE PRINCIPLE’

Sunday 26 July

1.00 pm -5.00 pm - *Casino at Marino*, Cherrymount Crescent, Marino, Dublin 3
Performances by artists Amanda Coogan, Áine Phillips, Brian Connolly, James King, Frances Fay, Eleanor Lawler, and EL Putnam

For a full list of performers and schedule of events, please go to: www.dublinliveartfestival.com



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