

# CULTURE IRELAND

Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016

## Culture Ireland supports Irish art installation '*Joining the Dots*' as part of UEFA Euro 2016 celebration of culture in Paris

The Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Heather Humphreys TD, is delighted to announce that Culture Ireland is funding the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris to curate a special art installation, *Joining the Dots*, by Paris-based Irish collaborative duo Cleary Connolly. The installation will feature in the Place de l'Europe in Paris along with installations from all countries participating in the UEFA Euro 2016 Football Championships.

Place de l'Europe is a City of Paris initiative which aims to celebrate European culture during Euro 2016 with a series of artistic displays and installations in front of the Hôtel de Ville, Paris City Hall. A diverse programme of activities is being offered free to the public for the duration of the football tournament.

Cleary Connolly were specially commissioned by the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris to create the installation. The exhibition, which is also supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Irish Embassy in Paris, will be officially opened by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason this evening, with theatrical and musical interventions by playwright and performer Sonya Kelly and musician and visual artist Macdara Smyth.

### Speaking today Minister Humphreys said:

"It is wonderful to see the city of Paris using the occasion of the football championships to promote culture from across Europe. Paris is renowned for its creativity, and being featured in the Irish Pavilion is a wonderful opportunity for Cleary Connolly, particularly at a time when Paris will be host to so many international visitors."

### Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason remarked:

"The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Embassy of Ireland are proud to support Ireland's pavilion at the Place de l'Europe celebrating the EURO2016 and the festive events supporting the football competition. I encourage Irish and other visitors to Paris to visit our pavilion and see for themselves our innovative and exciting installation which is an excellent example of Irish contemporary creativity."

Ireland's Pavilion takes the form of an enormous lightbox displaying an animation based on perception studies of biological motion and the movement of footballers in particular. *Joining the Dots* is inspired by the work of Swedish psychophysicist Gunnar Johansson, who in 1973 demonstrated that to recognise a human in motion, it is not necessary to see the subject in its entirety, only a few dots pinpointing the skeleton or frame are needed. Irish artists Cleary Connolly have applied these principles to a study of footballers in motion, each represented exclusively by thirteen moving dots. These figures create an installation which reflects Irish creativity and is luminous and lively.



CENTRE CULTUREL  
IRLANDAIS

PARIS



Culture Ireland  
Cultúr Éireann

1916

Claí Comórtha  
Céad Bliain  
Centenary  
Programme



An Boinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Cleary Connolly use new technologies to offer spectators an engaging experience. Their work has been exhibited internationally, notably at the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin; The Barbican, London; le Centre Pompidou, Paris; Secs Pompéia, São Paulo; Yokohama Triennial, Japan; The National Gallery, Prague; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris; *Lumière* in Derry in 2013 and *Lumière* in Durham in 2015.

Ireland's National Pavilion also presents a selection of contemporary, hand-crafted furniture, conceived by WhackPack, Ireland.

**Note to Editors:**

The Irish Pavilion is open until 10 July:  
Wednesday – Sunday: 1pm – 10pm  
Closed Monday and Tuesday

Place de l'Europe  
Pavillon Irlande  
Place de l'Hôtel de Ville de Paris (entrance at Avenue Victoria)

For further details, please contact Project Manager Hannah Rickard at the Centre Culturel Irlandais [assistant@centreculturelirlandais.com](mailto:assistant@centreculturelirlandais.com)