HORMSTON HOUSE

Alt-West / Alt-Thiar

Plain English Version

General Information

Alt-West / Alt-Thiar is an exhibition by the Office for Joint Administrative Intelligence.

There will also be **events**. More information will be available at the exhibition.

Themes

The exhibition explores how Ireland has changed over the last 50 years.

It looks beyond the Celtic Tiger, the period when Ireland's economy grew very quickly in the 1990s and early 2000s.

It shows that Ireland had already been developing as a modern economy thanks to collective planning, government projects and connections with other countries.

The Artists

The Office for Joint Administrative Intelligence (O.J.A.I.) was created in 2015 by two artists: Chris Dreier and Gary Farrelly.

As the O.J.A.I., the artists have created performances, installations, letters, publications, radio broadcasts and sound works.

The artists use the language and style of bureaucratic systems from the past, such as offices and administrations.

They are interested in how governments and institutions show their power.

The Exhibition

The exhibition began with an invitation by Ormston House for the O.J.A.I. to create artworks based on Limerick and the Mid-West of Ireland.

The artists spent 2 years researching the region and visiting different places.

They used this research to make new artworks.

The artworks look at how the Mid-West is connected to the world through energy, money, technology and political power. They combine facts with emotional and unusual material.

The artists have also created a fictional place based on the Mid-West of Ireland. It is called the Alternative West (Alt West). In the Alt West, the Mid-West becomes a centre of international activity.

The Artworks

Postal Onslaught

Postal Onslaught is an installation made up of more than 100 postcards.

The O.J.A.I. sent the postcards to Ormston House over a period of 2 years.

The postcards include photographs, hand-drawn graphs, maps and images from videos and news reports. They explore topics such as the Cold War, military supplies and Shannon Airport.

Shannon Airport and its Special Economic Zone are important for the Mid-West of Ireland. The airport is known for its links to American business, transatlantic travel and military transport.

The postcards look at the airport's earlier history. They explore its influence on Communist China and its links with the Soviet Union. For example, the Soviet airline Aeroflot used Shannon Airport as a place to stop on its flights.

Operational Overview

Operational Overview is a wall map.

The map was made in collaboration with Alexander Pfeiffenberger.

The map places the Mid-West at the centre of the world. It shows the region as a meeting point for political systems, technologies and personal information.

Film

The exhibition shows a new film about Sarsfield House.

The film was made in collaboration with Julia Zinnbauer.

Sarsfield House is an office building in Limerick city centre. The building is home to the National Office of the Collector General.

The artists describe the film as a "video love letter" to the building. The building has been criticised, and its future is uncertain.

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Record

The O.J.A.I. have created a new six-track vinyl record for the exhibition.

The record connects three places through sound: Shannon Airport, Sarsfield House, and Ardnacrusha hydroelectric power station. These are places where people, energy and information move.

The record includes recordings from those three places, spoken language and electronic sounds.

Funding

The exhibition is supported by Goethe-Institut.

Ormston House is supported by the Arts Council of Ireland and Limerick Arts Office.