



CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

*Provence*



Portrait of Isabel Nolan. Courtesy of the artist and Kerlin Gallery.

## ISABEL NOLAN

*499 seconds*

**Richard Rogers Gallery**

13th March - 16th April 2023

Château La Coste is delighted to announce a solo exhibition titled *499 seconds* by the multi-disciplinary Irish artist, Isabel Nolan, which will feature painting, sculpture, and a large-scale new tapestry by the artist.

Nolan's exhibitions are historically rooted in big subjects: cosmology and deep history; religion and mythology; and mortality and love. Her works are alert to the behaviour of humans regarding each other, other animals, the environment and objects alike. Exploring the "intimacy of materiality", Nolan's output ranges from hand-tufted wool rugs illuminated with striking

imagery to improvisational coloured pencil drawings and deliquescent paintings made with water-based oils. Borrowing imagery from diverse sources including, astrophotography, neolithic tombs and trecento painting, in concert, they are both enchanted and alienated by the world we've made, expressing humanity's deep need for connection, as well as celebrating our startling achievements in science and culture.

The acts of reading, drawing, and writing are indispensable processes for Nolan, to reflect on both the wider world and on herself, and these basic activities form the basis of the works in this exhibition. The paintings in *499 seconds* are filled with vivid colour and fluid forms to create ethereal yet joyous canvases complete with movement and energy. Natural forms such as plants, waves and sunsets are present alongside patterns and geometric shapes verging on abstraction. Nolan's works pose fundamental questions about the way in which the chaos of the world is made beautiful or given meaning through human activity: celebrating the profoundly normal, yet very strange experience of being alive and the delicate nature of existence, and the extraordinary fact that we know it takes exactly 499 seconds for light leaving the sun to reach the surface of our earth.

Isabel Nolan states: "The arc of almost everything I've proffered in public, in exhibitions or texts is quite similar. It goes as follows: Life is often hard and without meaning in any grand, a priori sense. Art is a good way to find meaninglessness beautiful. Meaning must be invented. And those inventions must be contested and questioned, and never taken for granted."

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **ABOUT ISABEL NOLAN**

Born in 1974 in Dublin, Nolan continues to live and work there. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in galleries and institutions across North America, Europe and Asia, including Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver; Mercer Union, Toronto; London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE, London; Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Kunstverein Graz, Austria; Kunstverein Langenhagen, Germany and Musée d'Art moderne de Saint-Étienne, France.

### **ABOUT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE**

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix-En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

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