



## Artwork of the Month

Paul SEAWRIGHT (Born Belfast, 1965)  
 Untitled (Woman and Child), 2005

Framed lightjet print on fuji crystal paper, mounted on aluminium, Edition of 6, 127 x 152 cm

Purchased from a solo exhibition, *Invisible Cities*, in the Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, 2005

This untitled work by Northern Irish photographer Paul Seawright is a welcome and timely addition to the UCC Art Collection. It comes at a time when UCC is strengthening its connections with developing countries through two new academic programmes launched in 2005, a MSc. in Rural Development, offered jointly with Mekelle University, Ethiopia, and a BSc. in International Development and Food Policy.

The most striking aspect of Seawright's photograph is the intimate connection that he creates between the viewer and the subject. Looking at this portrait, one feels the loneliness, anxiety and resignation that the woman

must be feeling as she waits in the health centre waiting room. This portrait allows us, the viewers, to share and empathize with her situation and that of many others that she represents. It gives a face to the faceless millions throughout the world who find themselves in her situation.

For a person who works in development education, Seawright's ability to create a personal connection with the subject is extremely powerful and important. Too often we are guilty of dehumanizing the plight of our brothers and sisters throughout the world. In our media, and indeed studies, the plight of people in distant countries is often reduced to overwhelming statistics and impersonal images. In doing so we deny people their dreams, hope, fears and anxieties. Thus we rob them of their humanity and dignity. Seawright overcomes this by seeking out the individual, who by her anonymity represents countless others, and allows us to share our humanity.

*Woman and Child* is included in an exhibition of works from the UCC Art Collection titled *The Art of Looking* in the Glucksman until May 7th. Also, to highlight the personal stories of people infected with HIV/AIDS throughout the world, Action Aid, the Glucksman Gallery and the Centre for Sustainable Livelihoods/Department of Food Business and Development, will host a Positive Lives Photographic Exhibition on the second floor of the O'Rahilly Building from April 7th to May 19th.

Tom Crowley  
 Department of Food Business and Development