Joy Gerrard


Computer-generated cibachrome prints, mounted on aluminium panels, I/1. 46 x 46 cm each

Joy Gerrard's photographic work seems an appropriate articulation of the urban changes that have been so evident in Cork city over recent years. In the reconfiguration of urban space as a result of the city's regeneration and outward expansion, there is also reconfiguration in the way in which we come to experience and visualise the city.

Joy Gerrard's *Image Group 1998* is a pairing of two photographs which seem to embody these perceptual changes. Both photographs show a building under construction, perhaps an office block or residential complex, but the photographs differ in the distribution of space within the frame. Viewing the first photograph, the gaze is confronted by a skeleton grid of windows, floors and walls. There is no horizon to this image; the image appears 'locked-in.' The formal rigidity of this image seems to reduce the presence of the photographer; it seems rather more like an automated scan of a building than an impulsive snapshot.

This image is constrained with another, which shows — presumably the same building — from a more pedestrian angle. This is how we might view the building if we were passing it on our way to work. There is a horizon to this image, but it's a manufactured one, made up from cranes, scaffolding and the provisional architecture of the site. The sky appears a constant, smooth stone grey — the stuff of advertising imagery, lacking any sense of changeability.

Gerrard's work does not force opinion, but rather raises questions about how we perceive and negotiate the built environment.

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