



Day of The Dead/Samhain exhibit

The Irish American Heritage Center will host its second annual Samhain/Day of the Dead art show this fall.

This year's exhibit, A Celebration of Ancestors: Celtic Samhain, Mexican Day of the Dead and Other Cultural Memorial Rituals is co-sponsored by the IAHC and Windy City Arts and runs in conjunction with the City of Chicago's Artists' Month 2006. In October, Chicago Artists Month will celebrate its 11th annual celebration with 250 exhibitions of emerging and established artists. The IAHC is honored to be a part of this vibrant city-wide event.

This year's exhibit will take the exploration one step further as Chicago artists and cultural institutions display paintings, sculpture and installations which present the similarities and differences between Celtic Samhain, Mexican Day of the Dead and Japanese Obon, all events commemorating one's ancestors.

The purpose is to bring people of different backgrounds together to view familiar rituals in new ways. Artists include Laura Coyle, Mario Castillo, Saren Thorne Hauser, Pauline Kochanski, Charlie Thorne, Laura Piazza and County Cork Ireland photographer, David Creedon.

David makes his American debut with his new exhibition "Ghosts of the Faithful Departed" at the prestigious mk Chicago restaurant which is regarded as one of the top "50 hottest restaurants in the world". The show opens on October 12th at the restaurant, and then heads to the Irish American Heritage Center.

"Ghosts of the Faithful Departed", looks at the isolation, loneliness and decay in rural Ireland set against a backdrop of the mass emigration of the 1950s to the 1980s.

Emma Whitlock of the Lupe Gallery in London has described "Ghosts" as a stunning body of work, and one that nearly moved the gallery director to tears, while Lauren Heinz of the prestigious E18HT magazine in the UK which showcases challenging and inspiring photo stories by many of the world's leading photojournalists has said that Creedon's work totally "blew them away". And they intend to do a six-page spread on the portfolio in

November.

Sarah McCarthy, who originally hails from Kanturk but now lives in Illinois is organizing the American exhibitions. She came across David's work while visiting her sister Mary Johnson at Carrigaline Framing shop and was immediately taken by the power and beauty in the images.

The photographs are very emotive and a number of people who have viewed them have become visually moved and found them to be beautiful and heart-rending. They seem to evoke memories of their youth and remind them of their own parents' homes that they may have left years ago.

David is also well known for his Black & White portraits of musicians which have a film noir style to them, amongst the many people he has photographed are Hazel O'Connor, Philip Chevron, Mick Hanley, The Saw Doctors, Johnny Fearn, Barry Devlin plus many more.

His work can be viewed at www.david-creedon.com