



National Museum of Ireland – Natural History



Cleary Connolly & Neil Mckenzie

Meta-perceptual Helmets at the Dead Zoo

If we have two eyes, why is our vision so limited? Why do we have so little depth perception? Why don't our two eyes offer us two different views of the world? Why don't they allow us to look behind and in front at the same time, or sideways in both directions? Looking through Michael Land's defining work *Animal Eyes*, we see that nature has explored all of these possibilities: the Hammerhead Shark has hyper-stereo vision; the horse sees 357° around itself; the chameleon has separately rotatable eyes...



Artists Cleary Connolly have spent several years developing an extraordinary series of helmets, art that can help us to explore these and other mysteries of visual perception. The artworks are

inspired by early 20th Century experiments in perceptual adaptation¹, and the complex optics were developed over eighteen months by Cleary Connolly in consultation with research institutes in Paris and Montreal², through funding from the Arts Council.

The collection has been hand-crafted in aluminium by master coachbuilder Neil McKenzie, and will be on view at the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History (known as *the Dead Zoo*), for one week only, November 9th - 16th 2014, before taking up residency at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris from December 2014 to February 2015³.

Venue : National Museum of Ireland – Natural History, Merrion Street, Dublin 2

Dates : November 9th - 16th 2014

Tuesday - Saturday: 10am - 5pm. Sunday: 2pm - 5pm.

Related Events at National Museum of Ireland – Natural History:

Tuesday 11th November at 1.00pm

Science Week 2015 Special Talk: *Metaperceptual Helmets at the Dead Zoo*

Meet artist Anne Cleary, who is one of the artistic team that created the amazing set of Metaperceptual Helmets which are on display for one week only at the Museum and discover what inspired the creation of these unique, engaging and thought-provoking pieces. Places limited, please book by emailing educationarch@museum.ie or calling 01 648 6339

Saturday 15th November at 1.00pm

Science Week 2015 Special Talk: *Metaperceptual Helmets at the Dead Zoo*

Meet artist Denis Connolly, who is one of the artistic team that created the amazing set of Metaperceptual Helmets which are on display for one week only at the Museum and discover what inspired the creation of these unique, engaging and thought-provoking pieces. Places limited, please book by emailing educationarch@museum.ie or calling 01 648 6339

Photocall

The artists will be available on site in advance of the event, with the helmets available for photography, the artists and museum staff available for interview, and volunteers to model the helmets on **Monday 3 November 2014 from 2-4pm**

Contacts:

National Museum of Ireland – Natural History:

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Artists:

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¹ [George Malcolm Stratton](#) (September 26, 1865 – October 8, 1957) pioneered the study of perception in vision by wearing special glasses which inverted images up and down and left and right.

² [Laboratoire Psychologie de la Perception](#), L'Université Paris Descartes, Paris and [École d'Optométrie](#), Université de Montréal, Canada.

³ The Perception Club, Centre Culturel Irlandais, 1 December 2014 to 21 February 2015 (details to follow).