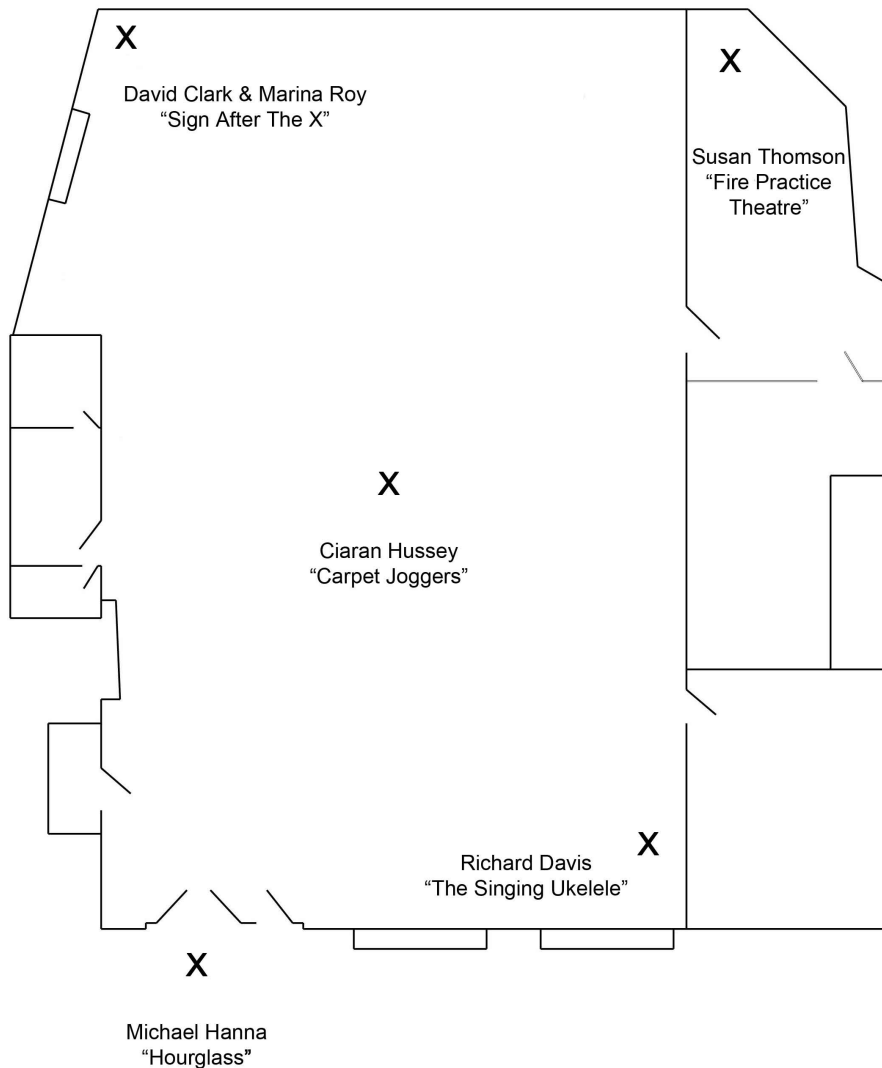


## Digital Arts in the Gallery: New Media Showcase



In 2003, in response to the increase in artists working with new media technology, Queen Street Studios set up a Digital Studio within their premises. With increasing demand, came an expansion of premises, the development of the programme and facilities. Then in 2008 the Digital Studios became an independent not-for-profit organisation and The Digital Arts Studios (DAS) was born. DAS promotes the convergence of art and technology and recognises the importance of providing facilities, resources and training in this rapidly advancing field. DAS continues to develop and expand, and its residency programme is now well established. The programme aims to encourage and support new and established artists in the creation of innovative, challenging and experimental new work. The programme offers four international residencies and twelve UK & Ireland residencies each year. This exhibition has provided DAS with a timely opportunity to showcase the work of some of these artists. The works on show here represent a diversity of strategy in terms of each artist's engagement with the digital, whilst providing an exemplary demonstration of how new media technologies intersect with visual art.

**Michael Hanna**

*Hourglass* (2011)

Digital Arts Studios UK & Ireland Artist in Residence 2010

The main focus of my recent practice is speech, both scientific methods of analysis and the physical elements involved in speech production. This work exists within the shared contexts of contemporary art, linguistics and experimental music. My artistic concerns in this area include symbolism, codes/ciphers, persuasive language, the physicality of speech and systems of understanding, particularly the application of existing systems of understanding to new material. Recent work has taken a range of forms including acoustic and video installation, wall drawing, photography and sculpture. The work in this exhibition develops these concerns, exploring symbols more broadly than the focus on speech.

**Ciaran Hussey**

*Carpet Joggers* (2011)

Digital Arts Studios UK & Ireland Artist in Residence 2011

Ciaran's work revolves around the psychological effects that contemporary capitalist society has placed upon its practitioner. Through a multidisciplinary practice he draws attention to aspects that define us in an age of technological advances and uncertainty. In a world of paper-thin representations, instant gratification and blurring of reality we are left with a sense of numbified emptiness, repetitiveness, alienation and a general lack of apathy. We have developed an agitated sense of expectation, as we await some form of salvation, in the guise of commodities, services, fame and celebrity, that will deliver some solace, but instead are left with a niggling dissatisfaction and a constraining feeling of being cheated. Currently his practice involves highlighting these aspects using the medium of sound installation and playing with people's notion of aspirational expectancy with subtle black humour.

**David Clark & Marina Roy**

*Sign after the X* (2010)

Digital Arts Studios International Artist in Residence 2010 (David Clark)

This encyclopedic interactive website examines how the letter X became part of Western languages and how it has been used as a cipher for otherness and the unknown. The letter X is one of the most simple of graphic gestures and yet it has a complex history and mysterious presence in our language. As a survey of meanings and histories, it looks at how the letter X has influenced the realms of law, psychoanalysis, medicine, technology, geography, and linguistics.  
[www.signafterthex.net](http://www.signafterthex.net)

David Clark is a media artist living in Halifax, Canada interested in experimental narrative form and the cinematic use of the internet. He produced the interactive narrative works: '88 Constellations for Wittgenstein', 'Meanwhile' and 'A is for Apple'. Marina Roy is an artist living in Vancouver, Canada who makes images, objects, and animations. She collaborates on performances and videos and has a writing practice in the form of essays and book publications.

**Richard Davis**

*The Singing Ukelele* (2011)

Digital Arts Studios UK & Ireland Artist in Residence 2004

The Singing Ukelele is a modified traditional musical instrument. With no strings, the ukulele has been remade with digital technology to enable the user to perform the instrument in a new way using sensors and open source hardware. The ukelele can play five sounds, activated when the user covers the light sensors on the neck of the ukulele. Only one sound can be played at a time. The sounds are heard through the built-in speaker, earphones can also be plugged into it. Turning the dial changes the pitch of the sounds. Further possibilities include the ability to plug the guitar into effects pedals allowing for further manipulation of sound.

Richard Davis recently merged his background in visual art with his passion for music whilst studying a Masters in Digital Media Art at the University of Brighton. He creates interactive works, which allow the audience to participate in sonic composition, experimentation and music through sculpture, hacked instruments and found objects.

**Susan Thomson**

*Fire Practice Theatre* (2009)

Digital Arts Studios UK & Ireland Artist in Residence 2005

Residing somewhere between fiction and documentary, this two screen film shows firefighters practicing their skills on a tall purpose built house in a fire station. This is depicted as if it were a piece of theatre, a rehearsal or ritual in a theatre where only one play is performed. There are different levels of fiction. A script is performed by actors playing firefighters; lines are swapped, dramatically forgotten and a scene arrives early. The house is unlivable, sinister, the piece reminiscent of a psyche where trauma and desire are endlessly replayed.

Susan Thomson is a video/film artist and writer originally from Scotland who has exhibited and screened her work at venues internationally including P.S.1 and X Initiative, New York, the Tate Modern, UK, the National Review of Live Art and the International Video Art festivals of Alcoi and Valencia, Spain. She has also written for many publications including Circa, The Times and Women's News. She has recently written a book, 'The Swimming Diaries' which is on sale at Artbook at P.S.1 M.O.M.A, New York. She is currently participating in a collective curatorial think tank project with Danish based Kuratorisk Aktion. She is also producing an Irish Film Board short in early 2011. She holds an M.A. in Visual Arts Practices at DLIADT, Dublin, a degree in Modern Languages from Trinity Hall, Cambridge University and a Masters in European Literature from Magdalen College, Oxford University. She has received a number of Visual Arts bursaries, including an Arts Council New Work Award, a South Dublin County Council Award, and Culture Ireland Award.  
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