

WELCOME TO THE German Art Trail IN LIMERICK

To mark Ireland's 2026 Presidency of the Council of the European Union, each of Ireland's 26 counties has been paired with a specific EU Member State. Inspired by Limerick's pairing with Germany, the Art Trail invites you to explore the rich range of German artworks and works inspired by German-Irish connections found in museums, galleries, colleges, universities, and cathedrals across the city.

This brochure highlights the depth of these connections. It was initiated by the Centre for Irish-German Studies at UL, and was made possible through excellent collaboration with partners including LC&CC, the Hunt Museum, LCGA, MIC, UL and Studio GBM among many others.

Limerick's links with Germany are extensive and multifaceted, stretching back several centuries. In 1709, German-speaking refugees known as the Irish Palatines settled in County Limerick. Fleeing war and famine, they established vibrant farming communities that left a lasting mark on Irish agricultural life and culture. Since then, cultural and economic ties between Germany and Limerick have continued to flourish across engineering and industry, art, literature and music, business, and academia.

The German Art Trail offers a chance to discover some of the fascinating and beautiful results of these connections and we hope you enjoy the journey.

In addition to the Art Trail, scan the QR code to find a full programme of events taking place across Limerick City and County and links to brochures of individual institutions.



Collections

Imogen Stuart Art Trail on the Mary Immaculate College (MIC) Campus



MIC has 14 pieces by Imogen Stuart (RHA), one of Ireland's foremost sculptors with a stellar career that began in the 1940s. Born in Berlin in 1927, Imogen first visited Ireland in 1949/50, moving here in 1951, and became one of this country's most renowned sculptors, with her work placed in both public spaces and private collections throughout Europe and the U.S.

In her own words, Imogen described how she came to have a special connection with MIC: "One of the first big commissions I received after coming to live in Ireland in 1951 was from Mary Immaculate College. The renowned Limerick architect, Andy Devane, acting on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, invited me to carve three lifesize statues. My relationship with the College has lasted more than 50 years. I am very pleased that my works are beautifully situated within the College and very well cared for, which is important to me."

Scan to watch the opening of 'In Her Hands' exhibition launched by President Michael D Higgins in MIC:



Gertrude Hunt (1902-1994) and the Hunt Museum

Gertrude Hunt (née Hartmann), co-founder of the Hunt Museum was born in Mannheim, Germany in 1902. She spent her early life in the city, working for and later marrying a local antiques dealer. She moved to London in her twenties following the end of her marriage and it was there she met John Hunt (1900-1976), marrying him in 1933. Gertrude and John, or 'Putzel' and 'Jack' to their friends, traveled across Europe collecting the antiques, artefacts and works of art that would later form one of Ireland's most remarkable private collections. The Hunt Museum, located in Limerick's 18th-century Palladian-style Customs House, is open to the public.

German highlight objects in the Hunt Collection:

- 1. Statue of Apollo
- 2. Meissen Tureen
- 3. Meissen Pieta
- 4. Figure of Christ
- 5. Romanesque Enthroned Madonna



The **Centre for Irish-German Studies Book Collection** is located on the second floor of the Glucksman Library. The heart of the Collection is the Gottschalk Collection, containing several thousand items. Its most valuable items are housed in the Special Collections and Archives Department. Some of these rare finds include the only known copy of Venenum (1518) in Ireland and first editions of German translations including Joyce's Ulysses. The Collection, the largest of its kind, was donated by Jürgen Gottschalk, who founded the Würzburg Irish-German Society in 1986.



The **University of Limerick Art Collection** enriches both the University and wider public by preserving and exhibiting significant Irish artworks. The collection highlights how Irish art developed through ongoing connections with German and wider European movements and ideas.

Together, Imogen Stuart, Cecil Ffrench Salkeld, Stella Steyn and Estella Solomons reveal the vital role that German and wider European artistic exchange played in shaping Irish modernism. The UL Art Collection can be found in several buildings across the campus including Plassey House, the Main Building, the Foundation Building and the Glucksman Library.

Discover one of Limerick's top cultural attractions, the **Limerick City Gallery of Art LCGA**. Set in the heart of Limerick City in the beautiful Georgian Quarter, this inspiring gallery celebrates Ireland's artistic heritage while showcasing bold contemporary creativity.

Contemporary exhibitions juxtapose with the Permanent Collections of 18th, 19th, 20th & 21st century artworks in all medias including the National Collection of Contemporary Drawing, the Michael O'Connor International Poster Collection and the Hollander Print Workshop Prints.

Within LCGA's Collections are works by German artists, Dietrich Blodau, Tomas Brezing, Gerda Frömel, Vera Klute and Mariele Neudeker, all of whom have Limerick links.



Step inside and experience where art, history, and imagination meet.



EXPLORE THE German Art Trail



Getting around

Located on the western periphery of Europe, within close proximity to Shannon International Airport and Shannon Foynes Port, Limerick is Ireland's third largest city and designated as one of Ireland's Gateway Cities under the National Spatial Strategy (2002); it has held the title of Ireland's Smarter Travel Demonstration Area since 2012. The city has excellent connectivity with the other large urban centres of Ireland through high-quality road and rail networks. Limerick's historic core, within the contemporary urban centre has grown in a sustainable and resilient manner that has harnessed the unique location as one of international importance.



Limerick is a Sustainable Smarter City with a fleet of wheelchair accessible, zero-emission, double-deck electric buses. The 304 bus route between Mary Immaculate College, the City Centre and the University of Limerick has stops at, or near to, each venue.



The TFI Bike service is available all year 7 days a week, from 5am to 12.30am, though a bike can be returned to available stands at any time of the day.



In Castletroy, nextbike by TIER Limerick offers pedal bikes as well as e-bikes.



Many of the city centre venues are within walking distance of one another. See map to plan your walking route.



Map courtesy of Limerick C&CC

German Traces

Heinrich Böll: Limerick has long attracted the attention of German travel writers, most notably the Nobel Prize-winning author Heinrich Böll. His *Irishes Tagebuch* (1957), translated as *Irish Journal* in 1967, sold over one million copies and helped establish Ireland as a favourite destination for German tourists. Böll devotes a substantial chapter to Limerick, describing his impressions of the River Shannon, King John's Castle, and the Treaty Stone, as well as the city's strong religious culture and the inhabitants' enthusiasm for horse racing.



In Ireland and along the Atlantic Coast with the Goethe Institut



The Palatine Story



The King and I The story of the elusive Lola Montez

Saint John's Cathedral, Limerick: "The stained-glass windows of Saint John's Cathedral are among the finest examples of ecclesiastical art in Ireland. Several were produced by the prestigious Mayer Studios of Munich, whose work brought international acclaim to churches across Europe and beyond. Through their vibrant colours, intricate detail and devotional themes, these windows enrich the cathedral's gothic revival interior and highlight a significant chapter in the artistic relationship between Limerick and Germany." *George Lee*



The 1881 window from Mayer of Munich in St. John's Cathedral was donated by Harriet & Lawrence O'Brien of Southill House, Limerick.

German Art Trail