



**Alliance Française de Cork Exhibiting Artist Interview**  
**AF Cork Exhibition Programme 2015/2016**



Hazel Ramsay (aged 24) is a Welsh born photographer interested in historical materialism of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in its repercussion on contemporary society.

She recently graduated from the Crawford College of Art and Design and has been exhibiting her work in Sarah Walker Gallery in West Cork and Solas Art Gallery in Leitrim.

She is currently living in county Kerry.

**When did you decide to become an artist?**

Ever since I received my first colouring book when I was about three, there was no stopping me!

**What inspires you?**

Everything, I could walk down the street and see an object or a sign or overhear a conversation that sparks an idea in my head. I think that, as an artist, it's important to take in all that is going on around you as means for inspiration.

**Have you been influenced by other artists?**

Yes, a lot, through going to exhibitions and consulting the Internet, which is great for looking up artists.

I have also been influenced by my peers through College, exchanging my ideas with them has worked very well for me.

**What role does education play in the development of an artist?**

I think it plays a very important role. I believe that as an artist you are constantly learning. This learning does not always have to be a formal education, but it certainly does help and opens more doors for you in the art world.

**Is there such a thing as a good artist and a bad artist? If there is, how do you define this difference?**

I don't think there is such a thing as a good or bad artist. For sure the aesthetics of some art may not be to everyone's taste, but in my opinion that is why the art world is so diverse and exciting.

**Do you think that the majority of art has become globalized in terms of style and content?**

I do think there is some content that seems to be overdone and nearly *cliché*. Nevertheless, there is nothing wrong with using a context that has been done before – it would be extremely difficult not to. It's just the individual route people create that is interesting to me. I think the Internet has a lot to do with this.



*INPRINTS* runs in AF Cork Galerie from 10<sup>th</sup> December – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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[www.alliancefrancaisecork.com](http://www.alliancefrancaisecork.com)  
[facebook.com/afcork](https://facebook.com/afcork)

**What is the exhibition about?**

This exhibition is based on a fictional book I read, called "*News from Nowhere*". This book was written by William Morris, a very famous designer. In it, he creates his utopic vision of what society would be like in the future, based on common ownership and democratic control over the means of production.

He looks back to the Medieval times before our community was segregated by owners and workers.

I de-construct this theory through a contemporary outlook and explore how his ideas may have been successfully or not integrated into our community today.

**How do you market yourself?**

I market myself through exhibitions and social media.

**Have you sold work previously and if so by what means?**

Yes, I have sold work mostly through exhibitions or private commissions.