



**'Our Great National Temple of  
ART AND INDUSTRY' of  
THE  
1853  
GREAT INDUSTRIAL  
EXHIBITION  
DUBLIN**



**A Joint Initiative of The Royal Irish Academy,  
The Royal Dublin Society And The National Gallery Of Ireland**

**PROGRAMME  
23<sup>RD</sup>–24<sup>TH</sup> November 2023**

## Thursday, 23<sup>RD</sup> November 2023

### National Gallery of Ireland Plenary Session

17:45

Registration

18:00 – 19:00

PUBLIC LECTURE: Dr Tristram Hunt, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum.  
**‘Spectacular gestures’: Great Exhibitions and Great Museums in London and Dublin**

*Chair:* Dr Caroline Campbell, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland

19:00 – 19:30

Q&A

## Friday, 24<sup>TH</sup> November 2023

### Royal Irish Academy Conference

08:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:30

FORMAL OPENING: Welcome from Pat Guiry, President of the Royal Irish Academy, and John Dardis, President of the RDS.

09:30 – 11:00

**SESSION 1: Exhibition Organisation**

*Chair:* Philip Cottrell, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin

09:30 – 09:50

Cora McDonagh, Project Researcher for the RDS Library and Archives and PhD candidate at Maynooth University.  
**‘Art & Industry: The role of the RDS in the organisation of the Dublin Great Industrial Exhibition of 1853.’**

09:50 – 10:10

Andrew Tierney, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College Dublin. **‘The design and architecture of the exhibition pavilion.’**

10:10 – 10:30

Lynda Mulvin, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin.  
**‘Dublin Exhibition 1853: marketing souvenirs and ephemera.’**

10:30 – 10:50

Discussion

10:50 – 11:15

Tea and coffee break

11:15 – 13:00

**SESSION 2: Industry**

*Chair:* Cathal O’Donoghue, Professor of Public and Social Policy, NUI Galway



Source: 'The Dublin Exhibition of 1853' by Thomas Rowlandson

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**11:30 – 12:15**

**Keynote 1**

Liam Kennedy, Emeritus Professor of History, Queen's University Belfast. **'A Great Industrial Exhibition in the Shadow of a Great Famine.'**

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**12:15 – 12:35**

Frank Barry, Professor of International Business & Economic Development, Trinity College Dublin. **'Manufacturing companies in Ireland in 1853.'**

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**12:35 – 12:55**

Stephanie Rains, National University of Ireland, Maynooth. **'The 1853 Exhibition and the rise of consumer culture in nineteenth-century Ireland.'**

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**12:55 – 13:15**

Discussion

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**13:15 – 14:00**

Lunch

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**14:00 – 15:45**

**SESSION 3: Empire, Art and Legacy I**

*Chair:* Finola O'Kane-Crimmins, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin.

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**14:00 – 14:45**

**Keynote 2**

Fintan Cullen, Professor Emeritus in the History of Art, University of Nottingham. **'The 1853 Exhibition: The Irish nation and the British empire, display and legacy.'**

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**14:45 – 15:05**

Paula Murphy, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, University College Dublin. **'Sculpture at the 1853 Exhibition.'**

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**15:05 – 15:25**

Philip McEvansoneya, Department of History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College, Dublin. **'1853 paintings by schools: the Corrs and other Belgians.'**

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**15:25 – 15:40**

Discussion

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**15:40 – 16:05**

Tea and coffee break

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**16:05 – 18:00**

**SESSION 4: Empire, Art and Legacy II**

*Chair:* Lisa Godson, National College of Art and Design

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**16:05 – 16:50**

**Keynote 3**

Elizabeth Crooke, Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies, University of Ulster. **'Arising from her ashes': Ireland, Ambition and the Great Industrial Exhibition Dublin 1853.**

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**16:50 – 17:10**

Orla Fitzpatrick, Ireland's Border Culture Research Fellow at the Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin. **'A truthfulness that completely defies competition': photography, collections and the Great Exhibition of 1853.**

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**17:10 – 17:30**

Muireann Charleton, Design Lecturer, Atlantic University, Sligo. **'Great exhibitions in Ireland and their influence on Irish crafts and design.'**

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**17:30 – 17:40**

Discussion

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**17:40 – 18:00**

Closing Remarks – Raghnaill Ó Floinn, RIA Historical Studies Committee

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**18:00 – 19:30**

Reception

# Associated Events and Activities

## Art & Industry: The role of the RDS in the organisation of the Dublin 'Great Industrial Exhibition, 1853'

This exhibition explores the role of the RDS in the preparation and running of this great event. It highlights how previous experience in promoting art and industry aided the RDS in preparing for this exhibition. It looks at William Dargan's role in financing and planning the exhibition building and his interactions with the Committee of Manufactures as they also prepared for the opening of the exhibition. It examines the local and international exhibits of art and industry and the involvement of the RDS School of Design with local manufactures. The antiquities collection from the Royal Irish Academy is highlighted along with contributions

of ancient Indian and Chinese artefacts from private collectors. The exhibition concludes with the role of the RDS in establishment of the National Gallery of Ireland, which was seen as one of the greatest legacies from the Great Industrial Exhibition of 1853.

The exhibition is open to the public in the RDS Library & Archives from Friday 3 November 2023 to Friday 15 December 2023 during opening hours (10.00am to 5.00 pm), and at the RIA Library from Wednesday, 8th November until Thursday, 21st December.

*The exhibition is not open on Saturdays and Sundays.*

