

**PRESS RELEASE: July 2013**



**BEASTS OF ENGLAND, BEASTS OF IRELAND**

Curated by Stephen Brandes

8 June 2013 – 8 September 2013

Main Gallery, VISUAL

Ben Long (UK), Djordje Ozbolt (Serb/UK), Polly Morgan (UK), Francis Upritchard (NZ/UK), Dan Hays (UK), Yuriy Norshteyn (Rus)  
Stephen McKenna (IRL), Garrett Phelan (IRL), Isabel Nolan (IRL) & Martin Healy (IRL)

This exhibition is co-presented by VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art, Carlow Arts Festival, (Éigse 2013) and Carlow Local Authorities Arts Office.

Exploring the symbolic, metaphorical and emotive value of animals this exhibition presents work by contemporary Irish and international artists.

Since Aesop, and indeed further back into history, human values have been projected onto animals as a vehicle for exploring our relationships with one-another and the world around us. This exhibition considers some of the ways animals have been deployed symbolically within contemporary art practice.

The exhibition borrows its title from Old Major's anthem in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, a prime example of an allegorical tale, where human politics are conveyed through animal characters. UK artist Ben Long's nine-meter high sculpture of a rearing horse fashioned from aluminum scaffolding takes centre stage in the Main Gallery.

Stephen Brandes is a practicing artist, based in Co Cork. Born in Wolverhampton, UK, he moved to Ireland in 1993. In 2005, he co-represented Ireland at the Venice Biennale and has since continued to show his work both nationally and internationally. Stephen has curated several exhibitions, most notably 'Superbia', Ballymun, Dublin, 2002; 'Traffic', by Jennifer & Kevin McCoy, Visualize Carlow, 2009 and 'When Flanders Failed', RHA Gallery, Dublin, 2011 with Matt Packer.

**Artist Talk:**

There will be a panel discussion on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. Detail Contact Box Office for further information 059-917 2400 or visit [www.visualcarlow.ie](http://www.visualcarlow.ie).

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**For interviews, high-resolution images or additional information:**

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#beastsofengbeastsofire



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