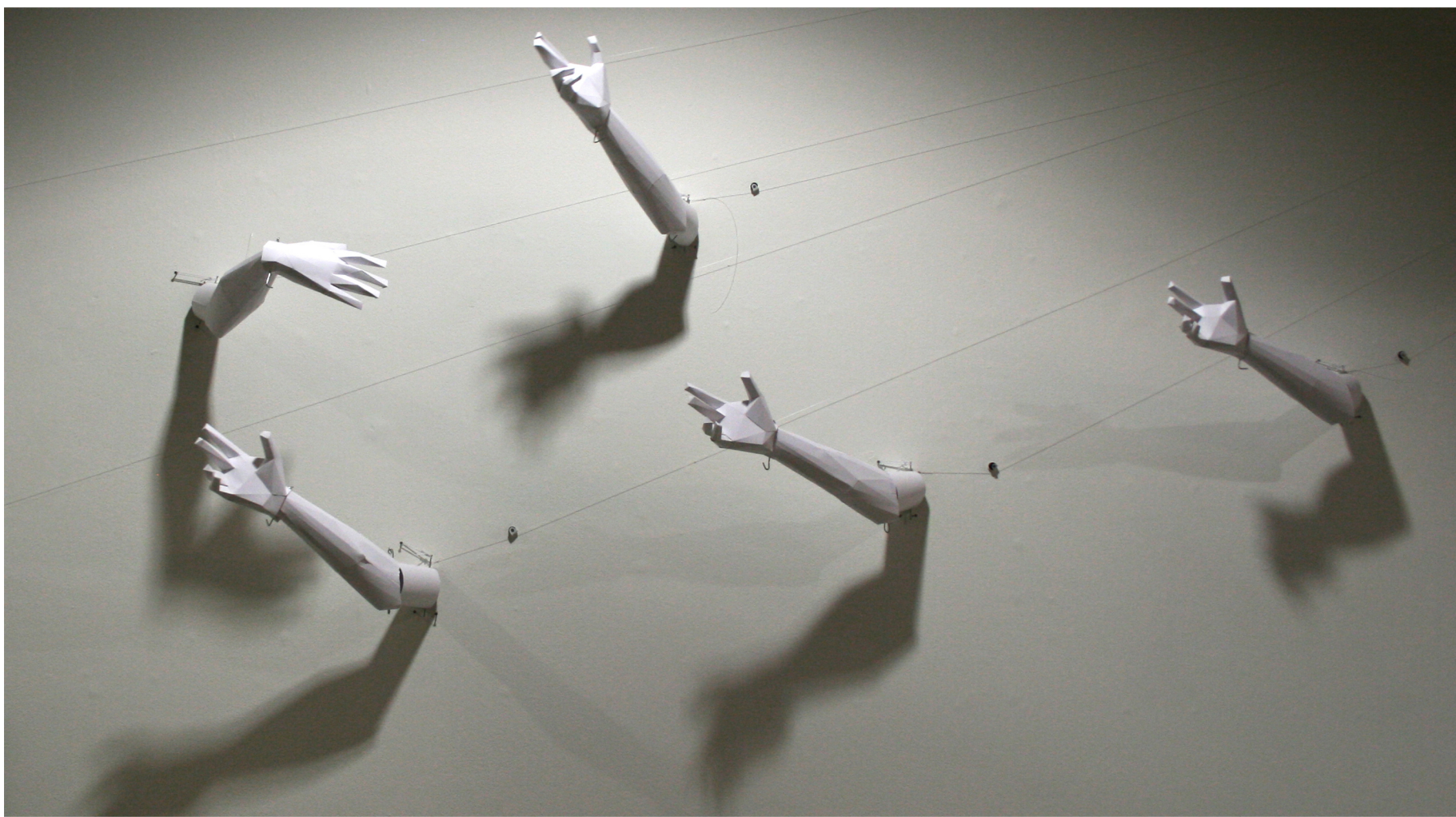


REVIEW

Art: Plunge



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The National Gallery of Ireland has lent two recently commissioned works from its portrait collection to Vera Klute's show in the Royal Hibernian Academy. *Portrait of Sr Stanislaus Kennedy (b 1939) Social Justice Campaigner* is an oil painting produced in 2014, while Garry Hynes (b 1953), Theatre Director, Co-founder of Druid Theatre, in porcelain and concrete, entered the national collection in 2016. Klute won the Hennessy Portrait Prize in 2015, and her facility in moving between media is astounding. This show reveals a mid-career Renaissance-style polymath who can draw, paint and sculpt in various formats, as well as make mechanically functioning objects and digital animations. Highlights include the wondrously engineered *Move Along*, a wall-mounted mechanical paper arm installation; and two other delightfully motorised works, *White Cloud* and *Black Cloud*. *The Grand Scheme* is a floor-to-ceiling projected animation. Her self-portrait *Growth* is made from wax and polystyrene. All of Klute's work is completed with artful intelligence, deftness of hand and acute attention to craftsmanship, never compromised. This is multifaceted and deeply layered work that plays tricks as often as it takes itself seriously.

Cristín Leach

RHA, Dublin, Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Wed until 8pm, Sun noon-5pm, 01 661 2558