

# EXHIBITION GUIDE

OISÍN BYRNE

GLUE feat. GARY FARRELLY

14 Dec 2018 – 3 Feb 2019

Oak Foundation Gallery

*“If utopia doesn’t exist outside the body, I sincerely hope you can construct one based on your own delusions in your own mind.”*

*GLUE* is the first feature-length film by Irish artist Oisín Byrne, with artist and collaborator Gary Farrelly. Told through manic and confessional monologues and dialogues, Gary – a cross-dressing narcoleptic – delivers a comic insight into our shattered subjectivity. As Gary comes off the mood-enhancing drugs used to treat his narcolepsy, time and identity are dislocated between places real and imagined: his flat in Brussels, a disintegrating Irish country house, the ‘floating train’ in Wuppertal, Gary’s own grave, and a maternity ward. He is linguistically pyrotechnic, quick-witted, and provocative, but it is the hesitations, slow-time and intimate space of filmmaking that produce a portrait which is both tender and brutally touching.

The film articulates Byrne’s ongoing interrogation of identity formation through linguistic models of naming, shaming, interpellation and performativity, particularly in relation to queer experience. In Farrelly’s dextrous performance, at turns good humoured and desperate, we see the shuttling of subjectivity between belonging and alienation, identification and wilful refusal of categorisation.

Long term collaborators Byrne and Farrelly periodically placed themselves in proximity to each other, inventing and instituting game spaces and terms over a period of five years. These itinerant meeting-places provided a series of elsewheres from what Samuel Beckett describes as ‘the danger [of... ] the neatness of identifications’.

Please note the film starts on the hour every hour, and runs for 52 minutes.

