

PRESS RELEASE

INFECTIOUS: STAY AWAY

UNIQUE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION EXPLORES HOW THINGS SPREAD

The world's most current exhibition is running in Dublin's ground-breaking Science Gallery until July 17th. In its first month the exhibition INFECTIOUS:STAY AWAY has attracted 20,000 visitors who have participated in the world's first live epidemic simulation, got up close and personal with a Petri dish or explored what happens when art and science infect each other.

As visitors enter the containment zone in Dublin's Pearse Street they are screened for what they might be carrying and are electronically tagged to monitor their state of infection. The INFECTIOUS exhibition has so far played host to everything from a world record attempt by viral marketing gurus Ze Frank and Jonah Peretti (www.buzzfeed.com/contests/infectious) through to public briefings on the Swine Flu pandemic, US Army Bioterrorism expert Arthur Friedlander and New Yorker columnist Lawrence Weschler.

INFECTIOUS is curated by leading immunologists Professor Luke O'Neill and Professor Cliona O'Farrelly from Trinity College Dublin with Dr Michael John Gorman, Director of the Science Gallery and is supported by Science Gallery founding partner the Wellcome Trust.

Participants in INFECTIOUS include artists and scientists from a number of countries including: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Sweden, UK, and USA.

INFECTIOUS will run until July 17th and is open Tuesday-Sunday (closed on Mondays). Admission is free and more information is available on www.sciencegallery.com

ABOUT SCIENCE GALLERY:

The Science Gallery is a world first. A new type of venue where today's white-hot scientific issues are thrashed out and you can have your say. A place where ideas meet and opinions collide. Since opening in February 2008 Science Gallery has welcomed over **185,000 visitors** to its exhibitions and events, held six major exhibitions and hundreds of talks and events. Science Gallery is an initiative of Trinity College Dublin, and is supported by Ulster Bank and Wellcome Trust, and members of the Science Circle: Dell, Google, Icon, Paccar and Wyeth.

Science Gallery, Trinity College, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT INFECTIOUS AT SCIENCE GALLERY:

Gerry McCarthy, Sunday Times Culture, May 17, 2009

"By addressing issues such as epidemics and the way that both viruses and ideas are spread, Infectious reaches places that neither art galleries nor science exhibitions normally reach."

Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, Visual Art Review, May 4, 2009

"The Science Gallery straddles the border between science and creativity in a more general sense, and this is reflected in the nature of the exhibits, which range from fairly hard science to visual art and pure theatre"

WIRED - GEEK DAD:

"In recent weeks, with concern about swine flu and words like 'pandemic' being used (and misused) by the media, this seems to be a worthwhile and timely way of addressing, though maybe not assuaging fears about epidemics and outbreaks."

<http://www.wired.com/geekdad/2009/05/disecting-diseases-in-dublin-with-your-kids/>

MATERIALS AVAILABLE:

> **Hi-resolution photography of exhibition and individual exhibits.**

Small selection attached. Photographer: Patrick Bolger

> **INFECTIOUS logo and Science Gallery logo.**

> **Video interviews with INFECTIOUS artists and scientist available on**

www.youtube.com/sciencegallery

> **Images and descriptions of INFECTIOUS exhibits available on**

www.sciencegallery.com/infectious

For more details, interviews or images please contact:

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