

Finding a Voice: Dermot Bolger

Writer in Residence Public Events Programme

As part of the National Museum of Ireland's Decade of Centenaries Public Programme, poet, playwright and novelist Dermot Bolger will begin his six-month residency with us in Collins Barracks from March 2016. Entitled *Finding a Voice* and developed in collaboration with Poetry Ireland, this initiative will involve events in the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks and the Museum of Country Life, County Mayo.

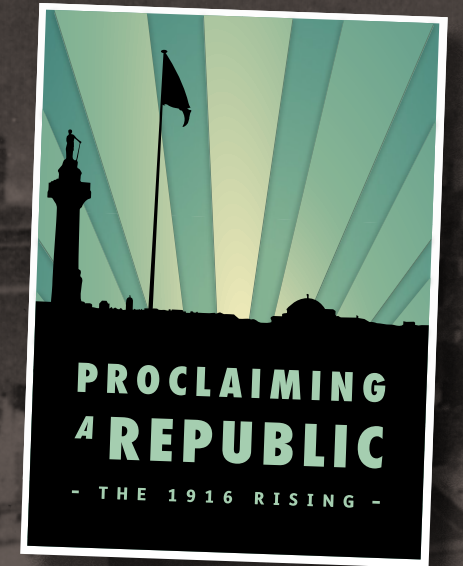
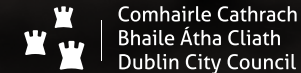
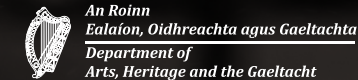
As part of the residency, Dermot will host a series of talks on the themes of war and conflict, with a particular focus on 1916 and the First World War. All these events will take inspiration from *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising, Recovered Voices: The Stories of the Irish at War, 1914-1915* and other exhibitions related to this period in Irish history.

All events are FREE but BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Bookings for events taking place in Dublin can be made online via:
<http://dermotbolgerwriterinresidence.eventbrite.com>

Bookings for events taking place in Mayo, can be made via email at educationtph@museum.ie

For further information contact Eimir O'Brien,
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NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND:
Telephone, 01 8816 515 / eobrien@museum.ie
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Finding a Voice: Dermot Bolger

Writer in Residence at the
National Museum of Ireland

museum
National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

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In Conversation with Dermot Bolger

SUNDAY 20 MARCH, 3PM

John Sheahan – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger
National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

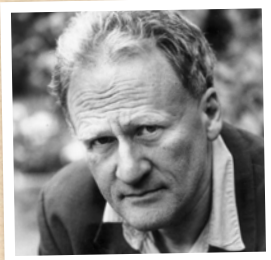
In this rare public interview with Dermot Bolger, John Sheahan will perform his latest musical composition, *Lament for Michael Mallin*, written in memory of one of the executed leaders of the Easter Rising. This is an evocative piece, whose sentiments are made tangible through Michael Mallin's last letter to his parents, which are on display in the *Proclaiming a Republic – the 1916 Rising Exhibition*.



SUNDAY 17 APRIL, 3PM

Paul Durcan – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger
National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

Major John MacBride (7 May 1865 – 5 May 1916) is one of the forgotten figures of the Easter Rising. Paul Durcan, one of Ireland's greatest living poets, is related to Major MacBride through his mother, the late Sheila Durcan (nee MacBride), who was the daughter of MacBride's older brother Joseph. In what is essentially a private reading in memory of a deceased relative, executed a century ago, Paul Durcan discusses his memories of the MacBride family and reads poems in memory of Major John MacBride, in memory of the poet's mother and of other family members.



FRIDAY 13 MAY, 2PM

Piet Chielens – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger
National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

Piet Chielens is co-director of the award winning In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres (Ieper), where he is Director of exhibitions and public programming. Piet and Dermot will discuss the journeys of those soldiers who set out from the Royal Barracks, what is now Collins Barracks, and ended at the Somme, or in the mud of Ypres. This conversation will explore how those men are remembered today, both in the land they left and in the lands where they are now buried.



SATURDAY 14 MAY, 2PM

PROCLAIMING A REPUBLIC: The 1916 Rising Exhibition Team – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger
National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

The National Museum of Ireland has the most significant range of artefacts associated with 1916. This event will take you behind the scenes with Museum curatorial staff, Sandra Heise, Brenda Malone, Dr. Darragh Gannon and conservator Hannah Power, to explore the wealth of objects associated with the Museum's Easter Week collections, some of which are on display in the, *Proclaiming a Republic* exhibition.



SUNDAY 19 JUNE, 3PM

Brian Keenan – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger
National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

Few writers have written more powerfully than Brian Keenan about the terrifying experience of being a civilian unexpectedly caught up in a conflict situation. In conversation with Dermot Bolger, Brian will discuss his experience of being held hostage in a time of war and his more recent experiences of exploring present day Lebanon, as a free man.



SUNDAY 14 AUGUST, 2PM

WRITING THE PAST: An Afternoon with Dermot Bolger & Donal O'Kelly

National Museum of Ireland – Country Life, Mayo

The award-winning playwright and actor, Donal O'Kelly has crafted a new one-man 50 minute play, *Hairy Jaysus*, which examines Francis Sheehy-Skeffington's legacy as viewed through the eyes of a Dublin street beggar today. This event will open with a rare opportunity for an Irish audience to see O'Kelly perform *Hairy Jaysus*, which opens in New York in April 2016. The performance will be followed by a reading of Dermot Bolger's poem, *The Stolen Future*, about those children who lost their lives in 1916.



SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 3PM

Jennifer Johnston – In Conversation with Dermot Bolger

National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts and History

Few Irish writers have written more perceptively about the First World War than Jennifer Johnston. Johnston will read her work in memory of family members who fought at the Battle of the Somme. She will then discuss with Dermot her life and her work since the publication of her first book, *The Captains and the Kings*, in 1972.



Writing Workshops

These two workshops will consist of a talk about the process of writing by Dermot Bolger, followed by an extensive question-and-answer session with the audience. This session will delve into every aspect of the practice and the business of writing, across all the mediums which Bolger is involved in.

SUNDAY 10 JULY, 3PM

Dublin Workshop

National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

SATURDAY 23 JULY, 2.30PM

Mayo Workshop

National Museum of Ireland - Country Life

Book Launch

SUNDAY 29 MAY, 3PM

National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History

A reading by Dermot Bolger to mark the official launch of his new novel *The Lonely Sea and the Sky*. Based on a true incident in Irish history, the book is a vivid coming-of-age novel, charting the maiden voyage of a 14 year old, Jack Roche. Having lost his father when another neutral Irish ship was sunk by a U-boat on this treacherous Lisbon route, Jack takes his father's place to earn a seaman's wage and feed his family.

