



Introduction: *The Body Electric*

[Audio from the soundtrack for *The Body Electric* - *ethereal music with voices*]

Emer McGarry: Hello, and you are very welcome to The Model's new podcast series. I'm Emer McGarry, the artistic director here and that's the sound of multi-disciplinary artist, Suzanne Walsh, who composed that track especially for these podcasts. So, since The Model has been closed recently, we decided that we would create this digital space that we invite you to tap into whenever you wish, to catch up with our unique and eclectic take on contemporary culture. We hope that it will work for you and the way you live your life during these lockdown days.

In these podcasts, we're going to present some new artworks, especially commissioned music and performances as well as readings and discussions, and as always, we'd love to hear your opinions and ideas and we hope that you'll engage in dialogue with us on our social channels. First of all, we're going to look at the intersection of literature and visual art and particularly a technique that enables different disciplines to come together, coalesce and create something new and this is called ekphrasis.

Since our current exhibition, *The Body Electric* riffs on Walt Whitman's iconic poetic celebration of the human being, we thought that it might be interesting to allow you to envision the show through the eyes and interests of some of Ireland's most accomplished writers. So with that in mind, we invited eight poets to respond to their chosen artworks through the written word and we're delighted to share this work with you in these

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podcasts. Throughout the first six episodes I will be joined intermittently by Tara Bergin, one of our selected writers, who will share her insights into her own creative practice with us along the way. While all the readings and performances that you'll hear are very different, at heart they're all ekphrastic works and I very much hope that you will enjoy it and also that you will have a chance to look at the accompanying publication and digital exhibition on our website and you'll also find, credit, bios and further information on The Model.ie.

[Audio from the soundtrack of *The Body Electric*]

[Running time 2:41 minutes]