The Model

Press release for immediate publication

Mainie Jellett; *Decoration*
Thu. 26 Nov. 2026 – Sun. 24 Jan. 2027

Landmark Work by Mainie Jellett Comes to The Model on Loan from the National Gallery of Ireland

The Model, Sligo, will present Mainie Jellett's celebrated painting *Decoration* on loan from the National Gallery of Ireland, bringing one of the defining works of Irish modernism together with significant paintings by the artist from The Niland Collection.

The exhibition, which runs from 26 November 2026 to 24 January 2027, offers a rare opportunity to explore the artist's pioneering contribution to the development of modern art in Ireland.

Mainie Jellett (1897–1944) was a pioneering figure in the development of modern art in Ireland. Among the first Irish artists to embrace abstraction, Jellett challenged prevailing artistic conventions and helped introduce European modernist ideas to Irish audiences during the early twentieth century.

Her painting *Decoration*, 1923, occupies a particularly important place in the history of Irish art. First exhibited in Dublin in 1923, the work provoked a strong reaction at a time when abstract painting was largely unfamiliar to Irish audiences. Today, it is recognised as a key work in the emergence of modernism in Ireland.

Emer McGarry, Director of The Model said of the presentation -"We are enormously pleased to welcome Decoration to The Model through the generosity of the National Gallery of Ireland. Mainie Jellett was one of the most important and radical artists working in Ireland in the early twentieth century, and this loan provides a wonderful opportunity to bring her work into conversation with paintings held in The Niland Collection. It is particularly meaningful to present these works together in Sligo, where audiences can encounter a defining moment in the history of Irish modern art."

Dr Caroline Campbell, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, added: "At the National Gallery of Ireland, we take pride in sharing works in the national collection with audiences across the island of Ireland, and internationally. We are excited to be collaborating with our colleagues in Sligo, and I look forward to seeing Mainie Jellett's seminal 1923 abstract painting, *Decoration*, on the walls at The Model. We thank the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport for their support through the Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union."

To coincide with the opening of the exhibition on Thursday 26 November, The Model will welcome Niamh MacNally, Curator of the Prints & Drawings Study Room at the National Gallery of Ireland, for a special lunchtime talk at 1pm. MacNally will explore the significance of Decoration, Jellett's pioneering approach to abstraction, and the artistic ideas that shaped her practice. The talk is free to attend, but advance booking is essential as places are limited. Visitors are invited to stay afterwards for tea and coffee and an informal conversation about the exhibition.

The presentation is made possible through the generous support of the National Gallery of Ireland and through Cultúr 2026, the Culture Programme for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

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Press Information
For further information, images or to arrange interviews, please contact: majamoser@themodel.ie
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