

Patrick Jolley at Limerick City Gallery of Art

By Cristin Leach

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In the dark, flickering light of Patrick Jolley's films, something gripping occurs. It's not uncanny; it's too active for that. It's catastrophic. It causes an adrenalin rush with nowhere to go.

In his ten-minute masterpiece *Burn*, the occupants of a house appear oblivious to the inferno all around them. In *Here After*, which was shot in an abandoned Ballymun flat, normally static domestic objects move and disintegrate with unexpected violence and energy. The mattresses that plunge through a hole in the roof crumple and bounce under their own spring-loaded weight.

Black and white film stills feature cobras on a bed in India and eerily frozen interiors captured in Finland.

This show was planned before Jolley's sudden death, aged 47 while filming in Delhi last year and it includes the posthumously finished film, *Sitting Room*. He was an Irish artist of deserved international standing, already represented in the MoMA Collection in New York. His work induces an almost addictive feeling of slightly panicked, mesmerised inertia. It is intelligent, urgent, visually compelling art.

Cristín Leach, April 2013

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