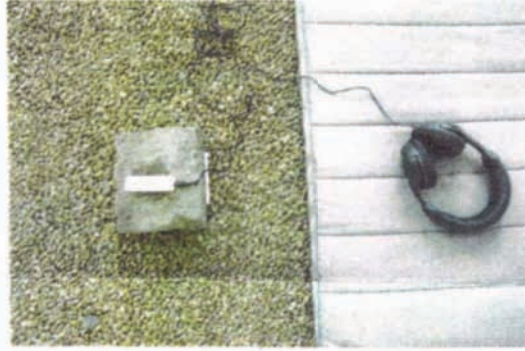


COLLECTING THE NEW *****
Imma opinion...it's great

WHAT BETTER way to celebrate the arrival of summer than for the country's leading modern art museum to take stock. This exhibition reflects the acquisition policy at IMMA, whereby works by living artists are given priority. With 42 pieces by 26 Irish and international artists on show, it's a display of the ambition the museum has for its collection. Co-curators Johanne Mullan and Georgie Thompson have put together an intriguing exhibition.

The stand-out piece is surely the stunning 'A Willow (Or Without Godot)' by Portuguese artist Alexandra do Carmo. Originally created and exhibited in 2006 as part of IMMA's residency programme, the artist takes snatches of affirmative statements



made by Estragon and Vladimir in the Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and places them in the unusual context of soundbites on an iPod. She also gives the *Godot* bench a new twist by placing two futons on the ground, encouraging the viewer to engage in the work and lay down to listen to these script snippets

on the iPod. The futons themselves are laid out upon gravel taken from IMMA's grounds (including the ubiquitous cigarette butts), adding to the surreal nature of the installation.

Other highlights include Jackie Nickerson's wonderful photograph, 'Green Room' (2005), in which nuns from the Perpetual Adoration Convent, Wexford, are surrounded by their prayer books and Agatha Christie novels. Makiko Nakamura's 'Untitled' (2002), is a painting of stunning execution, while David Roche's 'Machina' (2006) is playful with its illustrations and mechanical machinery. A series of

ink, watercolour, and pastel pieces by the venerable Patrick Hall, such as 'Black Stone Being Lifted by Angels' (2004), are exemplary examples of the painter's work, rounding off these must-see additions to the collection. (SJ) IMMA until August 8th. imma.ie