



*Blown over? Ulrich Vogl's use of glass and a curtain fails to overwhelm*

# Through the looking glass

## ART REVIEW

Goldgräber

★★★★☆

This is German artist Ulrich Vogl's first solo show in Ireland and it features a few pencil sketches, with three larger pieces made using an unusual method. Vogl has taken a large piece of painted glass and scratched a design onto the paint, behind which a glittery curtain with strands of silver plastic has been suspended. As you look at the drawing, the curtain behind shifts occasionally with the air, catching the light behind the picture, animating it.

Vogl describes this curtain as 'in wind-driven motion, acting as a mirror in which the viewer is reflected', which seems a little overblown when you consider the actual effect. Nonetheless, the pictures have a certain impact, particularly *Kronleuchter* (pictured), on which a giant, towering chandelier has been scratched out of black glass. It's accompanied by a tiny projection of the same design on the wall nearby and has a glossy, interior-design feel.

The other two works, *Meer Gold* and *Meer Silver* (*meer* meaning sea), both depict a seascape beneath a sharp

horizon, one in white with a gold curtain behind and one in grey with a silver curtain. They sit and shimmer on the wall and are undeniably attractive, the scratched paint perfectly depicting its subject matter, but again they're not quite thought provoking.

There is no doubt that Vogl's drawing skills are excellent, and the sketches, depicting figures in various positions looking out to sea, are technically good, but the show seems to lack any real cohesion.

One of his previous works, from 2004, presented a roomful of glasses, each containing a tiny model of a typical American dream home. Placed in the glasses were cardboard models of all of the First Ladies of America, each counterbalanced by a gilded silhouette of their respective husbands. When the breeze blew it caught these preened, smiling heads, making them wobble back and forth, nodding their approval – the type of humour and social engagement this show lacks.

*Victoria Watson*

Until Nov 18, Kevin Kavanagh Gallery, 66 Great Strand Street D1, Mon to Fri 10.30am to 5.30pm, Sat 11am to 5pm, free. Tel: (01) 874 0064.