

## **Hallucinatory Resemblance**

NCAD Degree Show (2010)

Sculpture in Context (2010) Botanic Gardens, Dublin

‘Nature he used to say, has had her day...there is not a single one of her inventions deemed so subtle and sublime, that human ingenuity cannot manufacture; no moonlit forest that cannot be reproduced by stage scenery under floodlighting; no cascade that cannot be initiated into perfection by hydraulic engineers; no rock that papier-mache cannot counterfeit; no flower that carefully chosen taffeta and delicately coloured paper cannot match!’

— Joris-Karl Huysmans, *Against Nature*

‘Hallucinatory Resemblance’, a phrase borrowed from Jean Baudrillard, depicts an artificial landscape in which the border between nature and culture has become obscured. Seductive yet impenetrable, it is a world without origins, a world of pure surface. Nature is abstracted and the viewer is isolated from it both temporally and spatially. Greenan’s work captures the cultural anxiety underlying our relationship with nature, or rather, our need to control and recreate it according to our desires. She draws particular inspiration from simulated environments such as zoos, aquariums and virtual nature tours. Whereas the latter strive to conceal their deceit, the illusory quality Greenan’s hypernatural terrain is disrupted by the subtle exposure of the structures delivering the installation. The work self-reflexively exposes its own construction and interrupts its own absorption.