

Ailbhe Ní Bhriain

Interval IV, 2025

Interval IV is a monumental Jacquard tapestry by Irish artist Ailbhe Ní Bhriain. It is woven from silk, wool, cotton, and Lurex and combines photographic and collaged sources to create a richly layered scene that is both precise and dreamlike. The work brings together three distinct visual strands: archival portraiture, contemporary buildings damaged by war and climate disaster, and photographs of subterranean caves and tunnels. A Victorian era portrait—typically an emblem of industry, empire, and permanence—is disrupted by images of underground geological formations and fragments of contemporary ruins. These juxtapositions situate the scars of human ambition within the deep time of geology, a register that unsettles all notions of stability and endurance.