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ART COLLECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

IRELAND



Inlet Sligo - S. McSweeney



This brochure was created for the exhibition of the Irish works of art in the European Parliament in Brussels on the occasion of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and it is for internal use only.

The exhibition is organised by Works of Art Service, DG COMM; in cooperation with the office of Jim Higgins, Quaestor responsible for artistic and cultural affairs in the European Parliament.

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PREFACE



The European Parliament has made it a custom to exhibit artworks from all over Europe. On the occasion of the Irish EU Presidency (first half of 2013), the European Parliament hosts an extraordinary exhibition of contemporary Irish artists. The mix of classical and modern artworks in the exhibition shows art through some of the leading Irish artists.

Not only does Irish art have a long pedigree extending back thousands of years, it is also currently experiencing a renaissance, demonstrating the continued vitality and relevance of creativity in Ireland.

As an open economy, Ireland has achieved a deep integration with the world around it. The apparent disadvantages of geography have provided difficulties to be overcome, not least through the opportunities created as a result of Ireland's integration with Europe. Ireland is noted for the high level of its education, a commitment to innovation and research and initiatives in the field of information technology. In the same brush stroke, Irish artists demonstrate resourcefulness in embracing opportunities to explore and experiment, using traditional materials with fresh vision and pushing the boundaries with new media. Ireland has been renowned for its literature with numerous Nobel laureates, now, Ireland is also demonstrating an ability to contribute to the richness of the world's visual arts heritage.

It is therefore a great pleasure for me to invite you to engage with the extraordinary Irish artworks on display here and to get to know artists from a nation that has greatly enriched European cultural heritage.

Martin Schulz

President of the European Parliament

PREFACE



Dear art lovers,
Dear friends,

Today we celebrate the beginning of the Irish Council Presidency by opening the Irish European Parliament Art Collection.

The Irish collection is one of the largest in the House with 21 paintings and 3 sculptures. The Irish pieces joined the Parliament collection between 1982 and 1993. This collection offers a breathtaking glimpse of classical and modern art in Ireland.

Three years ago the Artistic Committee of the European Parliament, which I have the honor of chairing, decided to celebrate the various Presidencies of the Council by holding rotating exhibitions with works of art from each Member State holding the Presidency.

The rotating Presidency exhibitions have been hugely successful. They have offered us the opportunity to discover the Parliament's rich collection of art pieces while also exploring European art.

The European Parliament art collection currently consists of nearly 550 pieces. The Parliament collection showcases contemporary European art from all EU Member States. Through its collection, the Parliament seeks to encourage European artistic brilliance by supporting young artists, while also promoting European cultural diversity.

It is with great delight that I invite you to enjoy the European Parliament's Irish art collection.

Jim Higgins MEP

Member of the Bureau of the European Parliament

Quaestor with responsibility for artistic events

Chairman of the Artistic Committee in the European Parliament

Vivienne BOGAN

Brian BOURKE

Denis BROWN

Cathy CARMAN

Carey CLARKE

Barrie COOKE

John COYLE

William CROZIER

Micky DONNELLY

Felim EGAN

Conor FALLON

Sean FINGLETON

Martin GALE

Tim GOULDING

James HANLEY

Patrick HICKEY

Theo McNAB

Sean McSWEENEY

Tony O'MALLEY

David QUINN

Camille SOUTER

Ger SWEENEY

Charles TYRELL

Michael WARREN



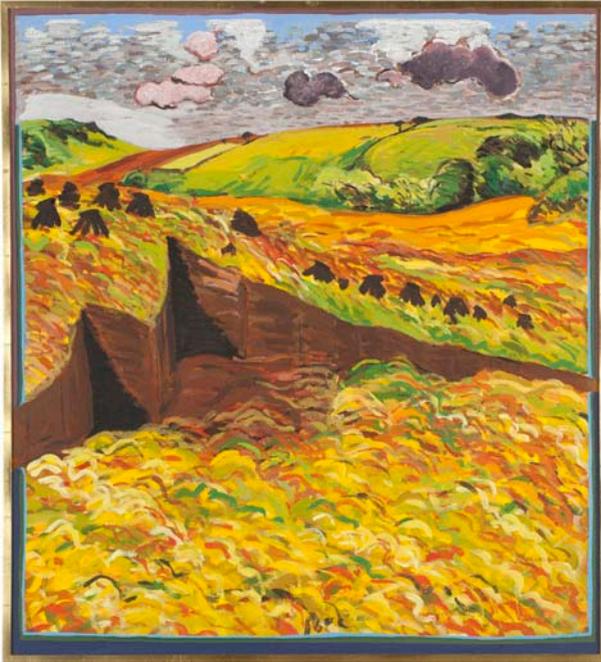
Through the long grass (1982)

121 x 75 cm

About the artist

Vivienne Bogan was born in 1951 in Limerick, Ireland. She studied at Limerick School of Art and Design and works in a variety of different media. Bogan has lived and worked in the U.S, South America, Australia, Scotland, Armenia, Cyprus and Russia. She has exhibited her work in Ireland and abroad in many group shows and solo exhibitions including the Council of Europe, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Allied Irish Bank and the Arts Council of Ireland.

Brian BOURKE



Bog cuts (1982)

118 x 108 cm

About the artist

Brian Bourke was born in Dublin in 1936 and studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin and at St. Martin's School of Art in London. From early landscapes and life-size nude self-portraits Brian Bourke's work has evolved to encompass various series that explore both his interest in observational work and fictional narrative. He has received several awards and represented Ireland at the Paris Biennale and the Lugano Exhibition of Graphics in 1965. His work hangs in the public collections of the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Arts Council, as well as numerous private collections in Ireland and abroad. He has had one-man exhibitions in many different locations in Ireland, on the continent, and in Manhattan. He has also produced sculpture, working in bronze and in wood. Bourke lives in West Ireland.



*Skin with elegantly written
text on Leprosy (1992)*

83.5 x 95 cm

About the artist

Denis Brown was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1968. Rigorous formal training in traditional calligraphy at London's Roehampton Institute (1987-1989) has formed a strong foundation for later experimental work. His work explodes from and extends traditions of calligraphy in the form of innovative works of art. Widely travelled with his work, he has lectured on four continents, and is internationally recognized as a world leader in the field of Letter Arts.

Brown has received a number of distinctions and fellowships. Recent projects include a solo performance of large-scale live art combined with multi-media projections and music filmed and recorded by the artist. Among others, his work can be seen in collections in the British Library in London, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge or in the National Museum of Ireland.



Masquerade (1992)

54 x 46 cm

About the artist

Cathy Carman was born in Portlaoise in 1952. She studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Dun Laoghaire School of Art and Chiswick Art School, London. She has exhibited widely in Ireland and abroad and is acclaimed for her large figurative work in wood, stone and bronze. Carman has received a number of awards and commissions and her work is represented in many private and public collections including the Arts Council of Ireland.

Carman lives and works in Dublin.

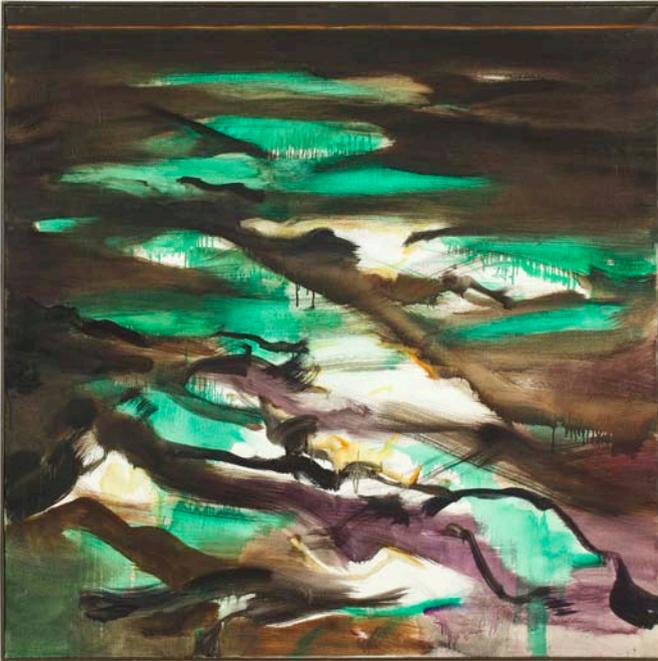


Rural Electrification, Glencullen (1992)

91 x 121 cm

About the artist

Cary Clarke studied at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin and at the Salzburg Summer Academy of Fine Art. He subsequently taught at the National College of Art and Design from 1959 to 1995. Clarke's first solo exhibition took place in the Molesworth Gallery, Dublin in 1966. He has exhibited widely in Ireland and has received numerous awards. His work is included in collections such as the Ulster Museum and the Arts Council of Ireland.



Night Lane green (1980)

128 x 128 cm

About the artist

Barrie Cooke was born in Cheshire in 1931. He moved to the US as a teenager and studied Art History at Harvard University. In 1954, Cooke moved to Ireland and had his first solo exhibition in Dublin the following year. He travelled a lot and his richly expressionist, semi-abstract paintings have been strongly influenced by time spent in such far-flung places as Lapland, New Zealand, Borneo and Malaya. Nature in its infinite variety and irresistible flux is his chosen environment and subject matter. He has also, however, painted a number of nudes.

Cooke has collaborated with a number of prominent poets including Heaney and British Poet Laureate Ted Hughes. In 1981 he became a founding member of Aosdána, an Irish association of artists. Cooke has exhibited widely throughout Europe, the US and Canada. Recent exhibitions include the Irish Museum of Modern Art, 2008 and Iziko Museum, Cape Town, 2007.

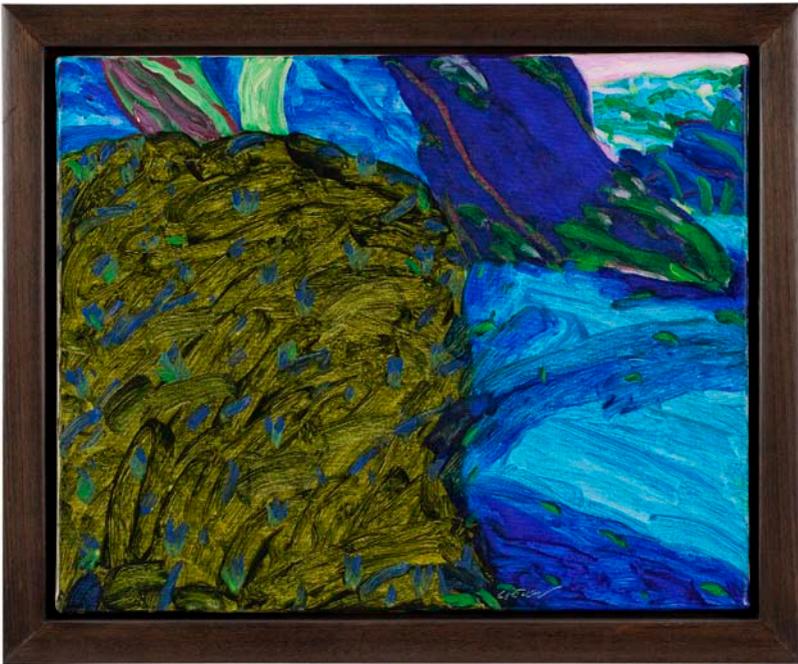


Donegal Landscape (1989)

79 x 74 cm

About the artist

John Coyle studied at the National College of Art & Design and the Glasgow School of Art as well as in Paris, Florence and Madrid. He first exhibited in Cork in 1948 and has shown his work in many public exhibitions in Ireland. Coyle was head of the Art Department and subsequently Vice-Principal of Blackrock College in Dublin and has lectured in the National College of Art & Design and Dun Laoghaire School of Art. He is best known for his painted portrait of the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, Lieutenant General O'Sullivan on the occasion of his retirement.



Sullivan's Field (1987)

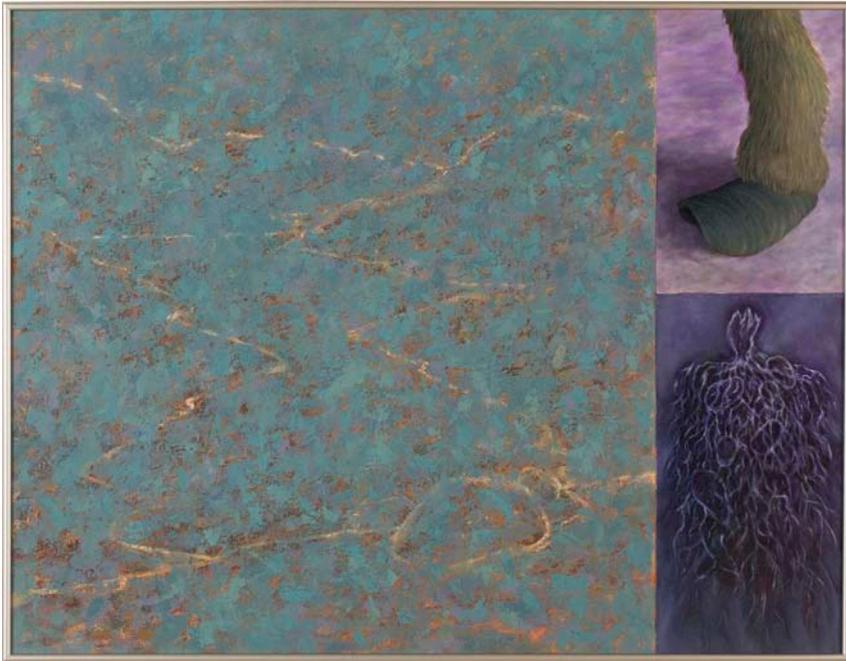
41 x 50 cm

About the artist

William Crozier was born in Glasgow in 1930 and studied at the Glasgow School of Art from 1949 to 1953. Crozier spent his formative years in Paris and Dublin before settling in London where he began exhibiting professionally at the ICA, the Serpentine and Bruton Galleries. In 1983, Crozier established a home and studio in Roaring Water Bay, Cork. The Irish landscape is a recurring theme in his work.

William Crozier was awarded the Premio Lissone in Milan in 1960, the position of Professor Emeritus at Winchester School of Art in 1987 and the Douglas Hyde Gold Medal for Painting in 1994. He was elected to Aosdána in 1992 and is an Honorary member of the Royal Hibernian Academy. Works by Crozier are held in private collections in Ireland and the UK, as well as in the national collections of Canada, Poland and Australia. William Crozier died in July 2011.

Micky DONNELLY



Killary Bay (after Paul Henry) (1991)

124 x 159 cm

About the artist

Micky Donnelly was born in Belfast in 1952 and studied at the University of Ulster from 1976 to 1981 where he earned BA and MA Degrees in Fine Art. From early work that featured Celtic motifs and subjects that bordered on Surrealism.

Donnelly's practice has expanded to encompass mixed media and installation works featuring bird cages, tartan rugs and inflated shapes that sit alongside his paintings and drawings.

Micky Donnelly received the Arts Council of Northern Ireland Scholarship at the British School in Rome in 1985. He is an elected member of Aosdana, the most prestigious affiliation of artists, writers, and musicians in Ireland. Donnelly has exhibited in solo exhibitions in Europe and New Zealand, and major group exhibitions all over the world. His work is represented in most of the important public art collections in Ireland, including those of The Irish Museum of Modern Art and The Ulster Museum. Donnelly lives in Co. Galway, Ireland.



Pool (1992)

160.5 x 140 cm

About the artist

Felim Egan studied in Belfast and Portsmouth before attending the Slade School of Art in London. He began exhibiting in Ireland in the late 1970's and is best known as painter of restrained eloquence who sparingly deploys his vocabulary of hieroglyphic motifs over monochromatic expanses of colour. During the 1990's the dialogue between paintings and his free-standing totemic sculptures, incorporating similar motifs became especially compelling.

Egan participated in the 1980 Biennale de Paris and Bienal de Sao Paulo in 1985. He has collaborated with A.R Penick and the poet Seamus Heaney. Major exhibitions of his work were held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester and the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin in 1995. Egan is represented in numerous collections, both public and private, including those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam.



Bird of capricorn (1992)

34.3 x 34.3 x 10.2 cm

About the artist

Conor Fallon was born in Dublin in 1939 and raised in Co. Wexford. He began painting while studying at Trinity College, Dublin in 1957, and then moved to Cornwall in 1965 to pursue his artistic career. In the ensuing years he turned his focus from painting to sculpture under the guidance of Denis Mitchell. His first exhibition of sculpture was held at Newlyn Orion in 1972 and in the same year he returned to live and work in Ireland.

Fallon often cited the influence of his father, the poet Pádraic Fallon, on his work. Fallon was awarded the Oireachtas Gold Medal for Sculpture in 1980 and an Honorary Associateship of the National College of Art and Design in 1993. He was a member of both Aosdána and the RHA, and served two terms as RHA Secretary. Fallon exhibited his work in solo shows with the Emmet Gallery, Lad Lane Gallery and Sligo Art Gallery, and in 1996 took part in a two-man show with Sean McSweeney at the RHA Gallagher Gallery, Dublin which went on to tour exhibition spaces around the country. Fallon died in 2007.



Coastal Scene (1992)

107 x 101 cm

About the artist

Sean Fingleton was born in Malin, County Donegal in 1950. He studied at University College, Dublin where he received a BA in English and Philosophy and a H.Dip in Higher Education. He also studied art at Letterkenny RTC (now LYIT) and briefly at the National College of Art and Design. Fingleton's painting demonstrates a fervent passion for the landscapes and seascapes of Donegal, Dublin and Wicklow, coupled with still life of a unique intimacy and immediacy. Among others his work forms part of the collections of the Arts Council, IMMA, Aras an Uachtarain, the Royal Hospital in Gloucester in England and the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

He is represented internationally and in Ireland's leading public collections. Fingleton has been the recipient of many prizes for his work, including a 1986 GPA Award, in 1993 The Fergus O'Ryan RHA Award and has been twice a prize-winner at the annual Claremorris Open Exhibition. Fingleton is also a member of Aosdána.



Tom's Place (1982)

152 X 91 cm

About the artist

Martin Gale was born in Worcester, England in 1949 and moved to Ireland at an early age. He studied painting and drawing at the National College of Art and Design from 1968 to 1973 and now lives and works in Co. Kildare. Martin Gale's work focuses on the interaction between the inhabitants of contemporary Ireland and the rural landscape and the shift from rural to urban life.

Martin Gale represented Ireland at Young Artists '72 in New York and at the XI Biennale de Paris in 1980. In 1982 he was elected a member of Aosdana and in 1996 was elected full member of Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA). His work has been included in several major surveys of contemporary and 20th century Irish art and a major retrospective of his work was held in numerous private collections and forms part of major public collection in Ireland.



Bluebell Wood (1982)

122 X 122 cm

About the artist

Tim Goulding was born in 1945 and is largely self-taught as a painter. In 1968 he moved to Allihies on the remote Beara Peninsula in Co. Cork where he still lives and works. Since the beginning of his career he has been inspired by nature, and the colour, texture and mood of his work is firmly rooted in the rugged coastlines, rocky outcrops, caves and old copper mines that populate the West Cork landscape.

Tim Goulding represented Ireland at the 'Young Artists from around the World' exhibition in New York in 1970 and the 1971 Paris Biennale and the Cagnes-sur-Mer International art fair in 1977. His work is included in the collections of the Arts Council of Ireland, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Ashmolean Library, Oxford.



The Convert (1992)

175 x 121 cm

About the artist

James Hanley graduated from University College Dublin in 1987 with a degree in History of Art and English, and studied Fine Art at the National College of Art and Design. He works in a representational style, in both painting and drawing and is an established portrait artist. He has painted over 60 official portraits, including the State portrait of former Irish Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, and a painting commemorating the inauguration of the President, Mary McAleese, to her second term of office. He is represented in many private and public collections including the National Gallery of Ireland, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Arts Council of Ireland, the University of Limerick, as well as many other national institutions.



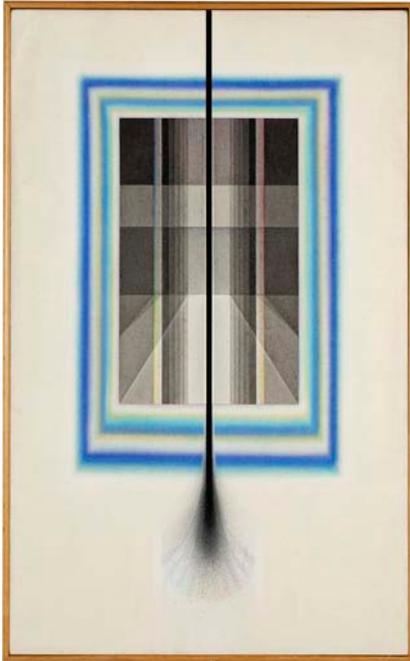
September Forest (1982)

107 x 81 cm

About the artist

Patrick Hickey was born in 1927 in British India and moved to Ireland in 1948. He studied Architecture and later History of Art and Italian at University College Dublin. He began painting in 1954, and in 1957, having received an Italian State Scholarship he studied etching and lithography at Scuola del Libro, Urbino.

Hickey exhibited at the IELA in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s, and held numerous solo exhibitions at the Dawson Gallery. He represented Ireland in numerous print biennales and he was one of the chief designers of the Irish currency notes in 1974. His painting technique developed out of his printmaking methods. Hickey was teaching in the School of Architecture at UCD for a number of years. He was Head of Painting, in the Fine Art faculty at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin from 1986-90. He worked right up to the end of his life and saw his illness as a challenge to be met and accepted. Having lived and worked with Parkinson's disease since 1974, he died peacefully at his home in October 1998.



Painting Nb 4 (1982)

168 x 105 cm

About the artist

Theo McNab was born in Dublin in 1940. He is a self-taught painter, known principally for abstract, minimalist landscapes. His paintings explore abstract perspective, time and light. He is a former professor of Fine Art at the National College of Art and Design, of which he was head from 1988 to 2000. He first exhibited at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art in 1971 and was involved in numerous international group exhibitions. Solo exhibitions include the David Hendriks Gallery (1973, 75, 80) and the Cork Arts Society Gallery (1976). He represented Ireland at the Cagnes-sûr-Mer painting festival in 1975, and has participated in several group shows. McNab won the Living Art Exhibition's Carroll's Award in 1971, the Waterford Glass Painting Prize in 1973, and the Scott Tallon Walker Prize at the Oireachtas Exhibition in 1976.



Inlet sligo (1978)

110 X 100 cm

About the artist

Sean McSweeney was born in Dublin in 1935 and lived in Wicklow for many years before moving to the west coast of Sligo in the 1980s, surrounding himself with the landscape that has been the leitmotif of his work ever since. Self-taught as a painter, his work is rooted in the tradition of Irish landscape painting that stretches back to the 1800s. McSweeney has exhibited his work in Dublin since 1958 with his first solo show in 1965 at the Dawson Gallery. In 2007 a major retrospective of his work was organized by the Model Arts and Niland Gallery, Sligo which toured extensively in Ireland. His work is included in numerous private and public collections including the Arts Council, Trinity College, Limerick City Gallery, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery, Dublin.



Winter Lines (1985)

70 x 40 cm

About the artist

Tony O'Malley was born in Callan, Co. Kilkenny in 1913 and is regarded as one of the most important Irish artists of the 20th century. He worked for many years as a clerk with the Munster and Leinster Bank and began painting in the 1940s while recovering from tuberculosis. O'Malley moved to St. Ives in Cornwall to pursue his artistic career full-time in 1960. He is best known for his series of **Good Friday** pictures. The **Good Friday** collection frequently drew on images from local Kilkenny tomb carvings, they address, often obliquely, the theme of Christ's passion. He returned to live in Ireland in 1990. He travelled frequently and the colouration and atmosphere of his work is directly informed by his travels, the energetic, vivid colours of the Isles of Scilly, the Bahamas and Lanzarote contrasting with the greys and lavenders of Wexford and Kilkenny.

Tony O'Malley continued working almost up to the time of his death in January 2003.

He was awarded the Arts Council of Ireland Douglas Hyde Gold Medal in 1982, The Guardian Art Critic's Award for Painting in 1989 and the IMMA/Glen Dimplex Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999. In 1993 he was elected Saoi of Aosdána. His work is represented in many private, museum and corporate collections worldwide. Tony O'Malley died in Physicianstown, Co. Kilkenny in 2003. He is regarded as one of the most important Irish artists of the 20th century.

David QUINN



The Meeting (1992)

110 x 135 cm

About the artist

David Quinn was born in Dublin in 1971 and he studied Visual Communications in DIT Mountjoy Square from 1989 to 1993 before embarking on a career as a visual artist. David Quinn makes quiet abstract paintings on a small scale. He is best known for his atmospheric, figurative, landscape based paintings which draw on the Mayo countryside and its vernacular architecture and gardens. Quinn has been exhibiting his paintings regularly both in Ireland and abroad since 1995, and he has completed a Fellowship at Ballinglen Arts Foundation and residencies at Roundstone Arts Week and Mountjoy Prison as part of the Arts Council's Artists in Prisons Scheme. His paintings are represented in Irish and international collections including The Irish Museum of Modern Art, The European Parliament, Bank of Ireland and the Irish Embassy in Washington D.C. He lives and works in County Mayo in the west of Ireland.



The bog after Winter (1963)

84 X 74 cm

About the artist

Camille Souter was born in Northampton, England, in 1929. She was raised in Ireland and studied nursing at Guy's Hospital, London before taking up painting while on a trip to Italy during her recovery from an illness in the mid-1950s. Returning to Ireland in 1956, Souter began her career as an artist in earnest. She has lived and worked on Achill Island regularly over the past 40 years. Themes in her paintings include loss, departure, absence and emptiness, emotions that are reflected both in Achill's physical landscape and its culture of migration. Uncompromisingly committed to painting, her work is reminiscent of the rich colouration, loosely painterly technique and straightforward gaze of French Realism.



Into the wind (1994)

140 x 154 cm

About the artist

Ger Sweeney studied painting and print at Galway RTC and later at the national College of Art and Design in Dublin. He has exhibited extensively in Ireland. In recent years Ger Sweeney's paintings have focused on developing a synthesis of abstract and figurative referents. From his smaller object like works to the epic scale pieces his practice is informed by a century of evolution and change in the language of painting. Openly engaging with the viewer and inviting interpretation, his work reflects the more progressive concerns of painting today. Examples of the artist's work may be found in the many International collections, including: European Parliament Collection, Collection of U.S. Ambassador, Contemporary Irish Arts Society and Private & Corporate Collections in Europe, USA, Brazil and Argentina. Ger Sweeney currently lives and works in Co.Mayo, Ireland.

Charles TYRELL



Untitled (1979)

139 X 139 cm

About the artist

Charles Tyrrell was born in Trim, Co. Meath in 1950 and studied at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. Since 1984 he has lived and worked in Allihies on the Beara peninsula in West Cork.

Charles Tyrrell represented Ireland at the Paris Biennale in 1982. He won the Carroll's Award at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art in 1974 and received a special mention from the jury of the 1981 Cagnes-Mer painting festival. He taught at the Dun Laoghaire School of Art (now IADT) from 1974 to 1984 and in 1982 he was elected as a member of Aosdána. The RHA Gallagher Gallery held a ten-year retrospective of Tyrrell's work in 2000. He has exhibited frequently in the Oireachtas

Exhibition and the Irish Exhibition of Living Art, and more recently he has exhibited in solo shows at the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny; Austin Desmond Fine Art, London; and Triskel Arts Centre, Cork.

Michael WARREN



Chi (1992)

43 x 48 cm

About the artist

Born in Dublin, 1950, Michael Warren lives and works in the countryside of County Wexford, Ireland. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and completed his studies at the Accademia di Belle Arti di Milano, Italy. Over the past thirty years he has regularly exhibited in Dublin, Paris, Cologne, the United States and across the globe. Warren works in bronze, timber, stone, steel and concrete. An artisan's love of material and technique is combined with a keen comprehension of Western philosophy. His commitment and achievement have long been recognised in his native Ireland where he was elected as a member of Aosdána in 1981 and as a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2008, with significant decorations and honours too from many other countries' governments and universities. He has exhibited extensively throughout the world and won the Mont Kavanagh Award for Environmental Art in 1980 and 1983 and the Utsukushi-gahara Open Air Museum Award in Japan in 1989. In 2001, Tulach a sSolais, a collaborative project with architect, Ronnie Tallon, was nominated for the Mies van der Rohe Architecture Prize.



Uachtaránacht na hÉireann ar
Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh
Irish Presidency of the Council
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