



KERRY
VISUAL ARTISTS'
SHOWCASE

2016

Cover Image: *Cóir Gaoithe*, Multi-plate (copper) etching & aquatint, 370mm x 385mm, 2016
Deirdre McKenna

FOREWORD

It was my great pleasure to be invited to participate in the selection of artwork for the Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase 2015 and 2016. County Kerry is a haven for artists and the selection process was not an easy one. We have, however, selected work which is of high quality, illustrating a range of styles and approaches, and which will be enjoyed by many who come to see the work.

I want to congratulate all participating artists for the time and effort that was involved in the submission process. I also want to commend the Kerry County Council Arts Office for an unrelenting commitment to supporting the visual arts in Kerry. A thriving and vibrant cultural scene is deeply important to life in the region, and not just from a tourism perspective. Hopefully, the Visual Artists' Showcase of 2015 and 2016 will go some way towards highlighting and supporting the work of these Kerry-based artists, and be positioned alongside other events which nurture the arts across the region.

Orla Flynn

Head of CIT Crawford College of Art & Design

Kerry has a strong tradition of being a source of inspiration to visual artists. Both the people and the place provide an abundance of raw material to the creative mind. Kerry County Council is aware of the value visual artists bring to their county, that their work is seen in the county and appreciated by people locally, nationally and internationally.

It is extremely important that artists work is showcased. Providing a selected show in 2015 and 2016, opening at the gallery in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, has given a new opportunity for the wider public to engage with some of the best art work in Kerry today. The Arts Office, in consultation with the arts sector identified the need for a curated show of work from Kerry artists. This project is co-funded by Kerry County Council and the Arts Council, and aims to promote the variety of work and styles, all of such a high standard, that exist in Kerry today.

I would like to thank Orla Flynn, of CIT who curated the show, the Arts Office staff for their work in bringing this to fruition, and to all the artists who applied for the exhibition. I hope this showcase will prove effective in promoting awareness of the actual standard of visual art in Kerry, the variety of work and the sheer skill of artists across the county. We are proud to have so many talented artists living in Kerry and wish all concerned continued success in their careers.

Le gach dea ghuí,

Kate Kennelly

Arts Officer, Kerry County Council

The arts are an intrinsic part of County Kerry; for centuries it has been a place that encourages artistic creativity in all its forms. Furthermore, the arts bring great economic and cultural benefits to the county.

As part of the public consultation process for the Kerry Arts Strategy 2016 – 2021, the need for exhibition opportunities for visual artists was identified.

The Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase has been Kerry County Council's first response to this identified need. The number and quality of applications for inclusion in the showcase necessitated a second exhibition in 2016, which follows the initial showcase of works by nine other artists held in 2015. Both events show the work of some the best artists living and working in Kerry today.

The seven artists included in the second part of this showcase are once again working in a range of artistic media reflecting the best in contemporary practice, and the work of Des Fitzgerald, Joseph Keating, Diana Muller, Deirdre McKenna, Pat Owen, Diarmuid O'Sullivan and Miroslava Pavelvoka is a testament to the depth of talent in the county.

I would once again like to thank Orla Flynn who curated this exhibition, the Arts Office for organising this showcase and the Arts Council for their ongoing financial support.

Moira Murrell

Chief Executive, Kerry County Council

Experiencing great artistic talent should be an essential part of our daily lives; our local artists need to be able to exhibit their work and the public need a place to experience their talent. I am therefore delighted to see that the Kerry Visual Artists' Showcase presents us with such an occasion.

The fact that there are limited exhibition opportunities in the county is something that Kerry County Council is aiming to address in its current Strategic Plan, beginning here with this curated exhibition.

The seven exhibiting artists are all living and working in the county, which clearly shows that contemporary visual arts practice is alive and well in Kerry, and the work they have each chosen to exhibit is a demonstration of the range of vision and creativity within contemporary visual arts.

Taking place in the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, this is indeed a great opportunity for the public to experience the wealth of artistic talent present in the county.

Cllr Michael O'Shea
Mayor of Kerry

ARTISTS

Des Fitzgerald

Joseph Keating

Diana Muller

Deirdre McKenna

Pat Owen

Diarmuid O'Sullivan

Miroslava Pavelvoka

DES FITZGERALD

Tralee born Des Fitzgerald graduated with a BA (Hons) Degree in Fine Art at CIT Crawford College of Art and Design in 2014. Sculpture, photography and filmmaking are of particular interest to him. Des is a member of Studio8-Kerry Contemporary, which provides an important platform for his work, whilst also supporting his creativity as an independent artist.

Humour and anxiety play a big part in my work. Themes are inspired by everyday life and utilise familiar objects and imagery. The narrative, impact and power of visual images intrigue me. That split second emotional charge we get when our eyes focus on a 'surreal' vision.

My photography often transforms the mundane and can be playful and quirky.

*'Oh, thank you, Basil', 455mm x 260mm,
Digital pigment print on Hahnemuhle cotton rag, 2015*



JOSEPH KEATING

Joseph Keating was born and raised in Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry. He emigrated to the U.S. in the 1980s. Returning to Ireland in 2009 he now lives in Ballinskelligs. In 2010 he enrolled in Crawford College of Art and Design and graduated with a B.A. (Hon.) Fine Art in 2014.

My practice to date has sought to address the perception of memory and connection to people, place and culture. This examination has been framed within the context of change, the constant, seemingly random flux of the human experience and the transitions between the inevitable gains and losses of living. The work has developed to examine the transitional context. That moment when allegiance to any outside collective (family, community, etc.) is suspended, a transformation based entirely on individual personal principal and responsibility.

The work for this show is based on suicide, which directly or indirectly, touches most families in Ireland.

That Barn There, Oil and Charcoal on Canvas, 20" x 30", 2016

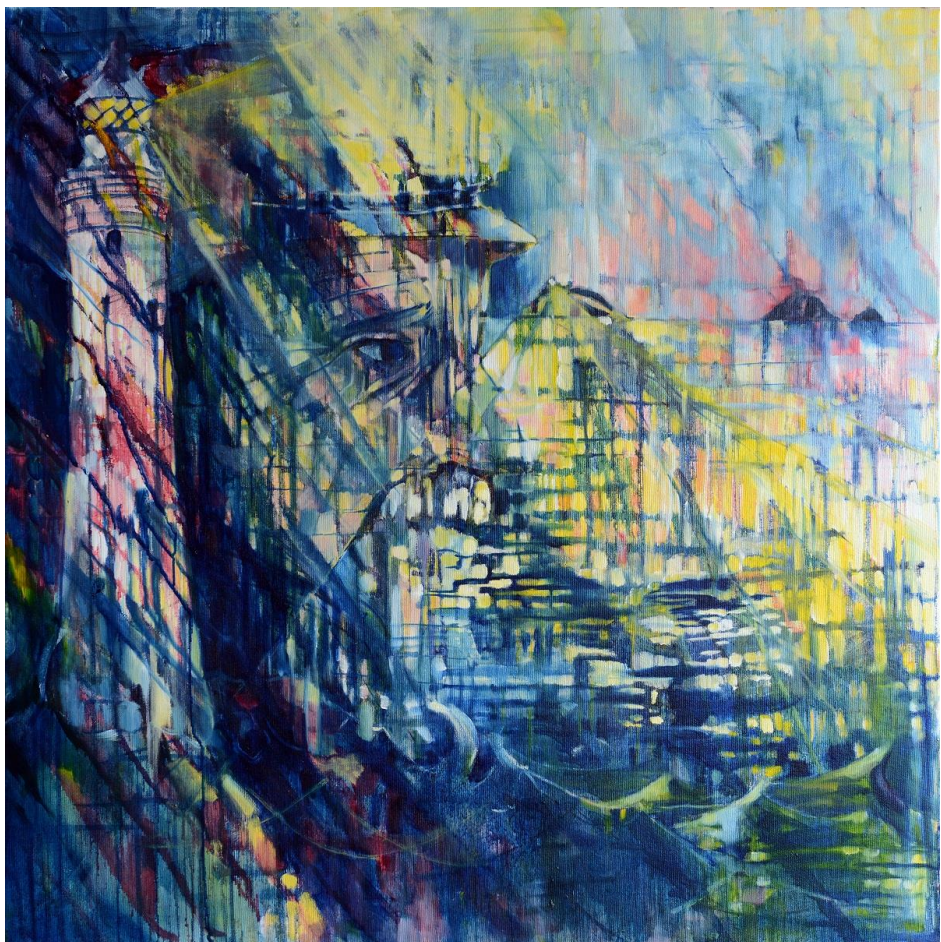


DIANA MULLER

Diana Muller lives and works at Brushwood Studios, Co. Kerry. She was raised and educated by artists. She focuses on landscape, portraiture and visual narrative. Her work hangs in private and public collections in Ireland and overseas. She has exhibited in solo and group shows in Kerry, Dublin and New York.

Since I was a child I have reflected and processed my world through art. As an artist it seems one can't help but mirror your times, your culture and environment. My aim is to do this in a way that will uplift the viewer. In a world so full of negativity and ugliness I make it my business to move people in what I hope is a positive way. I believe there is beauty in anything if you look at it from the right angle.

Eye Full of Light, Oil on Canvas, 36" x 36", 2016



DEIRDRE McKENNA

Deirdre McKenna is a native of Dingle town in West Kerry. She graduated from the Crawford College of Art and Design in 1999. She has exhibited in New York, Chicago, London, Belfast and various galleries in Kerry, Cork, Galway and Dublin. She was officially selected for Impressions Biennial 2015, The Gathering 2013 and Oireachtais Exhibition 2008. Her work is in the collections of The Community Hospital, Dingle, Co. Kerry, The Skellig Hotel, Dingle, Co. Kerry and private collections in Ireland, UK, Switzerland and USA. Deirdre has taken part in residencies at Cill Rialaig, artists retreat in Ballinskelligs and at Cló Ceardlann na gCnoc in Donegal. She was awarded the Madghie Hughie Eoin Scholarship in 2013, bursaries and commissions from Ealaín na Gaeltachta and Kerry County Council. She has recently been selected for 25 -celebrating 25 years of Cork Printmakers at The Atrium, Cork City Hall and for Present -at the Center for Contemporary Printmaking, Connecticut, USA.

"Much of my art practice deals with the culture and traditions I have grown up with on the Atlantic seaboard. My work often deals with maritime crafts and traditional vessels."

Caulking Ilen, Copper plate etching & aquatint, 265mm x 185mm, 2016



PAT OWEN

Pat Owen earned a BFA in Painting from the University of Southern Maine. She has studied drawing and design at the Art Institute of Chicago, sculpture with Anthony Padavano and most recently etching with Niall Naessens. Her work has been exhibited at the Riverside Studios in London, the West End Gallery in Portland Maine, the Frank Brockman Gallery and The Millcove Gallery Cork. She was a recipient of an Artist in Schools Bursary from Kerry County Arts Council.

The work depicted here is a response to the concept of trust. I have used the bar-code, a universal symbol, encountered daily, yet ignored, to express trust in something we don't necessarily understand. Trust is an enigma that we perceive as illusive and subjective. Therefore I enclose and shroud the symbol in a neutral environment, allowing it to float unencumbered, its only relevant anchor are the numbers that give the image voice.

CP, Mixed Media on Panel, 36" x 48", 2016



DIARMAID O'SULLIVAN

Diarmaid O'Sullivan graduated from Crawford College of Art & Design in 2013 with a BA Hons in Fine Art, specializing in Oil Painting. Since then, he has exhibited extensively throughout the country. The Killarney born artist is currently living and working in Cork City and is a member of STUDIO 8-Kerry Contemporary.

Beauty can be found in the most ordinary things and places. Through still life painting, my aim is to capture such beauty.

Untitled, Oil on Canvas, 50cm x 70cm, 2016



MIROSLAVA PAVELVOKA

Miroslava Pavelkova is originally from Slovakia. She is living in Kenmare Co. Kerry since 2007. After attending art, craft and design courses in Tralee, Miroslava continued with her studies in Crawford College of Art and Design in Cork, from which she graduated in 2014.

In photographs of landscape I search for remote daily visual experiences. I focus on shapes, forms and lines, rather than on direct representations of objects or scenery. Through selective framing I hope to bring forward new compositions, free from visual references. This departure from dominance of reality enables the brain to create new emotional and cognitive associations, rewarding the brain with yet undiscovered inner territories.

Composition 1, Photograph on Fuji Matt Paper, 210mm x 297mm, 2016



Thanks to

Exhibition Curator, Orla Flynn
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs

This Showcase is co-funded by
Kerry County Council and the Arts Council



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs