

Cill Aodáin & Nowhere Else

A collection of Poetry by **Terry McDonagh** with illustrations by **Sally McKenna** – with preface by **Seamus Cashman** – is to be launched by **The Mayo Men's Association**, with **Mary Davis** as guest speaker, on Monday May 26th 2008 at 7.30 pm in The Garda Club, 8-10 Harrington Street, Dublin.

The great song of Cill Aodáin
was in full swing
when bones were weapons,
the universe was flat
and animal tracks were ghostly trails.

This countryside endured before
Eve listened to the snake, prior to
blushing, invasions, honeymoons and
Disneyland
-even before we learned
to draw back curtains to see the moon.
I set out from this place
it seems to turn to wherever I am.
from Cill Aodáin & Nowhere Else

'Yeats said it is "always necessary to affirm and reaffirm that nationality is in the things that escape analysis." In this personal journey away from and back, and away again and again, Terry McDonagh reaffirms things that escape our analysis in growing up, especially that extraordinary clasp on the psyche of birthplace and places where we have lived. His words will echo in some readers' memories, or create images for others. Sally McKenna hears in these lines echoes of youth and age; and responds here with images that carry through a lifetime; from brightly coloured celebrations to those delicate swirlings of the ash, thornbush and oak, from her abstract or surreal insights to the actuality of people on the land, within the landscape. All her pictures discover the poet's place. Here, in conversing word and picture, is Cill Aodáin of the mind, Cill Aodáin of all our minds on this ancient island where our tribes blooded land and people for affirmation, for generation.'

from Cill Aodáin & Nowhere Else
(Seamus Cashman)

Terry McDonagh was born in Cill Aodáin, Kiltimagh, Co Mayo in 1946. His plays include *The Dark Side of a Dream; Anything for a Fiver; I wanted to bring you flowers* (translated as *Ich kann das alles erklären*); *Eternity Under Lucifer the First*; and *Children of the Whip*.

His first collection of poems, *The Road Out*, was published in Hamburg in 1993 by Olaf Hille Verlag. His subsequent collections include *At Home In My Shoes* (Celtic Corner Verlag, Hamburg, 1997); *A World Without Stone/New and Selected Poems* (Hamburg, Blaupause-Verlag, 1998); *A Song for Joanna*, Hamburg-Melbourne A Journal in Verse (Hamburg, Blaupause Books, 2003).

I'm On A Train - Twelve Strange Songs are based on twelve poems from *The Road Out* and have been put to music for voice and string quartet by Eberhart Reichel. *Elbe Letters Go West/Briefe von der Elbe* was published by Blaupause in 1999. He has also published a novel for children, *One Summer in Ireland* (Stuttgart, Ernst Klett Verlag, 2002); and a collection of poems for children, *Boxes* (Hamburg, Blaupause Books, 2006).

An English-German selection of his poems, *Kiltimagh* (Hamburg, Blaupause, 2001) was grant-aided by the Irish Literature Exchange. His selected poems were translated into and published in Indonesian as *Tiada Tempat di Rawa/No Places in The Marshes* (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Indonesiatera, 2004).

He lived in Hamburg from 1980 to 2005, but now divides his time between Ireland and Germany.

Sally McKenna is an artist living in Ireland. After graduating with an Art degree specializing in sculpture and painting in Arizona she continued on to complete many commissions for public buildings and homes internationally. Her mixed media wall hangings have a distinct identity that is all her own and bear the unique blending of elements identified with her personality and journey. When she first came to Ireland's shores she scavenged cast off nets from the beach and wove them into her sculptures. In Ireland she has enjoyed creating outdoor bronze full size figures and abstract exterior sheet metal and copper forms. She continues her drawing and painting as they are the heart of her sculpture. In 2000 she and her husband came to Kiltimagh in County Mayo Ireland to renovate the *Glore Mill* as a studio and an Art Center. It is the pearl of great price for her. She is the mother of four grown children scattered across the United States.

*"We all have met people on the road that stir our hearts and sometimes make us angry and sometimes bring us to tears. Terry's poems speak eloquently of the people of the place and even though I am not from here they stir me to remember my own family, relatives and friends along the way. It is a book about all of us and you will find that it resonates with you personally too. I am proud to be part of this three person – three countries collaborative. It is a blending of backgrounds and talents. Ireland, Germany and America each are found in **Cill Aodáin and Nowhere Else**. Words, design and pictures all came together to make this stunning volume of remembered and forgotten dreams."*

Terry McDonagh

<http://www.terry-mcdonagh.com/>

Sally McKenna

<http://www.sallymckenna.com/>

Irish Literary Revival

<http://www.irishliteraryrevival.com/>

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