

# **Not What You'd Expect: Irish Painting 1919 - 2007**

*County Clare, IRELAND, 3rd Sept 07*

**An exhibition featuring the work of some of Irish history's most important painters will open tomorrow (Tuesday) at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon, County Clare.**

Beginning chronologically with a work by Paul Henry, **'Not What You'd Expect; Irish painting 1919-2007'** will include works from such legendary painters as Gerard Dillon, Jack B. Yeats, Mainie Jellet, Mary Swanzy and Norah McGuinness.

Curated by Fiona Woods of the Clare Arts Office, the selection of exhibited works will represent a broad survey of painting practice in Ireland.

*According to Ms. Woods, "We are delighted to welcome works from some of Ireland's best-known painters, as part of one of the most high profile art exhibitions ever held in this County. Many of the featured works have been sourced from the Collection of the Arts Council of Ireland and Limerick City Gallery of Art's permanent collection."*

*She explained, "The work reaches right up to contemporary times, incorporating a number of genres such as Landscape, Interior/Still-life, Portraiture, Abstract and Narrative approaches."*

To coincide with the exhibition, the Clare Arts Office is organising a series of guided gallery tours, public talks and workshops for artists.

Catherine Marshall, Chief Curator with The Irish Museum of Modern Art, currently on secondment as Visual Arts touring and Collections Advisor with the Arts Council, will provide the opening talk on Irish Painting.

On Saturday 15th September Ennis-born artist Mick O'Dea RHA will give a talk about his work, followed by a closed workshop for artists. The former National College of Art and Design tutor has won numerous awards at national and international level, including four Arnotts National Portrait Awards, the K.M.P.G. award at the Annual Oireachtas Exhibition in 1992 and 1998, and a major Arts Council Bursary in 1986.

His work is featured in a number of collections, including The Arts Council of Ireland, The Royal Hibernian Academy, The National Gallery of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, The National Self-Portrait Collection and The Cesis Museum of Art.

On 22nd September, Micky Donnelly, a leading contemporary Irish artist and member of Aosdana will give a talk about his work, followed by a closed workshop for artists. Donnelly has exhibited in many countries around the world, including solo exhibitions in Germany, Italy, Scotland, England, and New Zealand, and major group

exhibitions in USA, Canada, Mexico, France, Spain, Greece, Norway, Australia, and Japan.

His work is represented in most of the important public art collections in Ireland, including those of The Irish Museum of Modern Art, The Ulster Museum, The Arts Council of Ireland, The Arts Council of Northern Ireland, The Allied Irish Bank, and The Office of Public Works. He also has work in collections abroad, including those of the British Council, the Arts Council of England, and the European Parliament.

Every Wednesday, Marie Connole MFA will give tours for school groups, complete with educational material at 1.30 pm. A guided tour for the public will be available at 3pm each Wednesday, or at another time by appointment.

The Fine Art Graduate of The Burren College of Art received the Spiresart Outstanding Student in Art, an accommodation and studio residency award in 2005 and tuition fees bursary in 2006/07 from The Clare Arts Office, and recently The Burren College of Arts Presidents Award.

She has worked at NCAD, IMMA, and was a teaching assistant for life drawing and multi-media at the Burren College of Art. She has co-curated a number of shows and was one of the principles in the Tulca Fringe Festival in Galway in 2006. She exhibits regularly in Ireland and Europe.

Well-known radio presenter with Clare FM Marian Egan will formally launch '***Not What You'd Expect; Irish painting 1919 - 2007***' at 7 pm tomorrow (Tuesday 4th September). The exhibition will run until 23rd September 2007 at The Courthouse Gallery, Ennistymon, County Clare.

For more information or to book a place at an event email [arts@clarelibrary.ie](mailto:arts@clarelibrary.ie) or contact the Courthouse Gallery at 065 7071630. Gallery hours are 1-6pm, Tuesday-Saturday.

## **Clare Arts Development Plan 2005-2009**

### *Executive Summary*

#### **Policy Statement:**

Clare County Council will continue to embrace the arts as a key element in its strategies for cultural development and a central element in its strategies for social development.

#### **Principles:**

In doing so Clare County Council will be guided by the following core principles for the duration of this plan:

- \* Public access to and involvement in quality artistic activity is of paramount importance to arts development in the county
- \* The arts have a valuable role in society
- \* The pursuit of excellence and diversity in the arts is actively encouraged
- \* The arts will be integrated into overall development policy for the county

**Aims:**

Through this plan Clare County Council aims:

- \* To create opportunities of quality for artists and the public to interact
- \* To assist professional artists to create new work through concentrated supports and promotion
- \* To protect and promote our traditional arts
- \* To embrace the potential offered by multi-cultural influences in the county
- \* To encourage sustainable arts development
- \* To allocate realistic time-scales and resources for the achievement of the above

**Specific Areas for Development**

Clare County Council is adopting the following designated areas for development for the duration of this plan:

- \* Public access to the arts, in all forms, will be the primary development area for the duration of this plan with specific concentration of activities in geographical areas of deprivation[1]
- \* Clare County Council will continue to invest in professional artists of all disciplines by:
  - a) supporting artists to undertake new work and opportunities and
  - b) continuing to invest in capacity building initiatives
- \* Clare County Council will prioritise the ongoing development of the traditional arts and the visual arts sector

**Clare County Council recognizes that many activities will cover two or more development areas and these complimentary activities will be actively encouraged.**

**[1] Geographical Areas of Deprivation will be defined as those listed in 'The People of Clare 1001 – 2002. A Community in Transition. A Socio – Economic and Spatial Perspective'. Clare County Development Board. 2006.**

*Contact Details*

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*All arts staff are out of the office on a regular basis due to the nature of the work involved. It is \*highly\* advisable to ring and make an appointment.*

## **Clare County Arts Office**

**[http://www.clarecoco.ie/County\\_Arts\\_Offices/County\\_Arts\\_Offices.html#principles](http://www.clarecoco.ie/County_Arts_Offices/County_Arts_Offices.html#principles)**

## **Clare Arts Development Plan 2005-2009**

**[http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/cominfo/arts/arts\\_plan/2005-2009/arts\\_development\\_plan05-09.htm](http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/cominfo/arts/arts_plan/2005-2009/arts_development_plan05-09.htm)**

## **County Clare Arts Service**

**<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/arts.htm>**