

Finders and Keepers

Artists

Yoko Akino
Sinéad Brennan
Thomas Brezing
Gemma Browne
Anna Campbell
Mark Campden
Gerard Cox
David Eager Maher
Sinéad Fagan
Sean Fingelton
Percy French
Graham Gingles RUA
Fr Jack P Hanlon
Michael Angelo Hayes RHA
Patrick Hickey HRHA
Jennifer Hickey
Sean Hillen
Eithne Jordan RHA
John Kelly
Caoimhe Kilfeather
Peter Knuttell
John Lambe
Sonja Landweer
Rosemarie Langtry
Gavin Lavelle
Stephen Loughman
Paul Lynam
Roxana Manouchehri
Niall Naessens
Iwona Nartowska O'Reilly
Fionnuala Nolan
Paul Nugent
Cóilín Ó Dubhghaill
Ruth O'Donnell
Declan O'Mahony
Geraldine O'Reilly Hynes
Patrick Redmond
Palimpsest Project Rianú Project
Robert Russell
Angela Velazquez
Michael Wann

Curators

Claire Halpin
Sarah Brennan
Carol Campbell
Rose Foran
John Knight
Michael McGuirk
Jean McKenna
Joe McKeown
Declan O'Brien
Mary O'Connor
Jenny O'Connor
Jess Sweetnam
Dick Sweetnam
Linda Taylor
Shabnam Vasisht

Finders and Keepers

An exhibition of artworks from the State Art Collection

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Front cover images:

Yoko Akino - *Towards the Moon*

Sean Hillen - *Sun, Sand and Cement in Temple Bar, Irelantis*

Caoimhe Kilfeather - *Scene (II)*

Rosemarie Langtry - *Ericaceous 1*

Stephen Loughman - *Jonas*

Patrick Redmond - *The Reflection*

Back cover Images:

Gemma Browne - *Forever Girls & Boys #8*

Eithne Jordan RHA - *Museum 2*

Gavin Lavelle - *Flood*

Cóilín Ó Dubhghaill - *Ritual 9*

Palimpsest/ Rianú Project - *Mise agus Tusa/ Me and You*

Finders and Keepers

An exhibition of artworks from the State Art Collection



**Foreword****Simon Harris, TD**

Minister of State at the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with responsibility for the Office of Public Works

**Barry Saul**

An Cathaoirleach, Councillor, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

In March 2015 Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW) invited a group of older people from the county to work with artist/curator Claire Halpin to select and curate an exhibition from the State Art Collection. The group met weekly to research the Collection and they also had the opportunity to visit the artworks housed in the art store of the OPW in St. Stephen’s Green on a few occasions.

Finders and Keepers is the outcome of this process.

The OPW is responsible for the management of the State Art Collection which comprises c.16,000 works. These works include both historical and contemporary paintings, original prints, sculpture, fine-art and decorative objects, music, and poetry. The Collection is on permanent display in over 400 public buildings and heritage properties nationwide. As part of its remit under the ‘National Guidelines on Public Art’, OPW is keen to encourage public engagement with the Collection and this exciting collaborative project helps fulfil this role.

Since 1994 Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council has taken great pride in developing and supporting the arts. The Council views the arts as an important service that contributes to the quality of life for those who live in, work in and visit the county. We are extremely proud of our reputation as a supportive home for the arts and believe in their intrinsic value and the vital contribution that they make to the wellbeing of the county.

We would like to congratulate Claire Halpin and all the participants. We are extremely appreciative of the support of the selected artists in bringing together this fantastic exhibition programme.



Introduction

What a project to be involved in! What an honour to have the pick of the bunch! Thousands of artworks from the OPW managed State Art Collection to choose from, with 14 people selecting and curating. It was never going to be a walk in the park albeit Moran Park!

My role was many-fold: to facilitate the group in a collaborative selection and curating process; to bring my knowledge, research and experience to the process; to make it an enjoyable learning experience for all; to encourage the group to draw on their own opinions and experience, and instill confidence in making their selections. Also, to promote within this a collaborative ownership of the project – our collection, our selection, our space.

The collaborative selection process was organised through a straightforward hands up vote – yes, no or maybe. The ‘definites’ became the key artworks from which we built the exhibition while the artworks in the ‘maybe’ side were reviewed on their own and then reviewed in the context of the rest of the selection. It was from this process that the exhibition title emerged – **Finders and Keepers** – with the group being the finders and with reference to the keep as the protective structure, the keeper as custodian of a museum or collection and the keepers as the definites in our selection process.

Claire Halpin
Visual Artist and Curator

Yoko Akino
Towards the Moon

Etching
2006
69.5 x 79.5 cm





Sinéad Brennan
You Smooth It On and Suddenly
Love is Just a Kiss Away

Glass & satin string
2012
Dimensions variable



Thomas Brezing
Made of Breath Only

Oil on canvas
2014
180 x 280 cm

Finders and Keepers

When I first saw this work, I was struck by its naiveté and innocence: Pink and Blue - girls and boys forever. As I continued to view it and her timid demeanour, I wondered what else was there - no fear I hope! I chose an appealing and thought provoking piece. The collaboration was most enjoyable, well organised and good fun. I am glad to have been part of it.

Dick Sweetnam

Gemma Browne
Forever Girls & Boys #8

Acrylic on canvas
2012
93.5 x 77 cm



Finders and Keepers

Anna Campbell was born in Newry, Co. Down in 1965. She studied at the Crawford College of Art and Design. She received a National Diploma in Art (Sculpture) with Distinction. Her skill over the years has been notable and consistent. Her work includes beautiful use of patination on elegant simplified forms. She chooses animals as her subject and her technique demonstrates her great expertise with the use of bronze. I chose this piece because of the subject and my love of animals. I loved being involved with this project, I have learned so much about art and met some lovely people.

Rose Foran

Anna Campbell
Mother and Child

Bronze
41.5 x 26 x 15 cm



On one of our interesting visits to the OPW, I saw this beautiful lustre bowl created by Mark Campden. It immediately appealed to me. I wanted to touch it! The attractive design finished in a high gloss is particularly appealing. I also admire the sense of balance in its size and shape. The artist has produced a practical, yet beautiful work of art. Mark Campden has been a potter for over twenty years. Working in the traditional majolica technique, his pieces are first formed in earthenware clay and covered with a white tin glaze. The surface then becomes his canvas for meticulous decoration. Every detail in his work is hand painted onto the piece in fluid brushstrokes, rich in imagery inspired by nature. To collaboratively select and curate an exhibition has certainly been an interesting experience. As a group, we had the opportunity to visit the OPW art store where we viewed many works of art from which we made the varied selection on view here in the gallery.

Mark Campden
Large Rimmed Lustre Bowl

Earthenware
2014
54 x 54 x 13 cm

Mary O'Connor



Gerard Cox
Biome 1

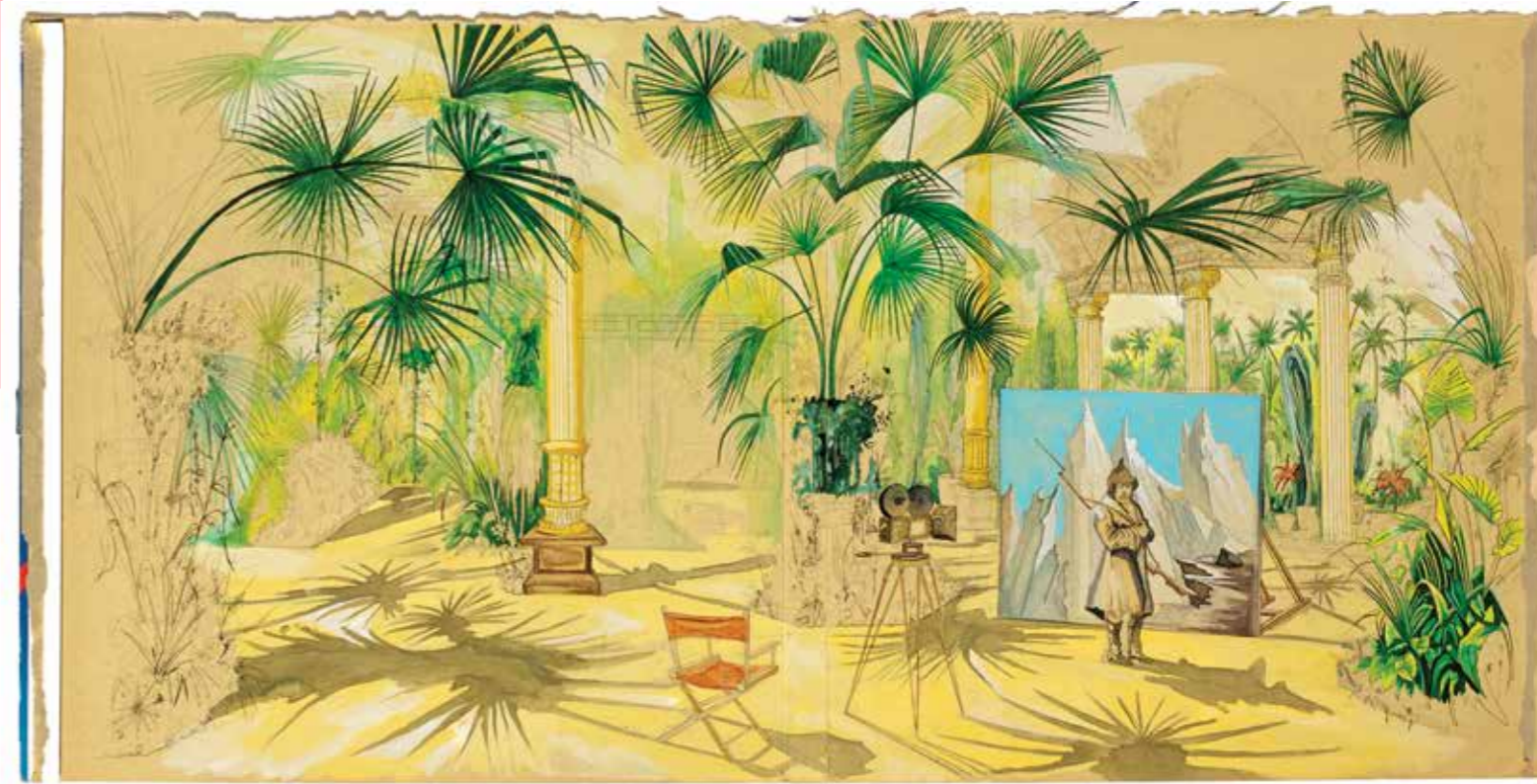
Bronze
2003
38 x 34 x 25 cm



Finders and Keepers

I like this painting for its use of colour. It reminds me of a film studio in an oasis in the middle of a desert. I loved being a part of the group in choosing the paintings for the exhibition and enjoyed the visits to the OPW to see the works of art which we would not normally see. The people were all so friendly and we got on so well.

Jenny O'Connor



David Eager Maher
Cut

Watercolour & pencil on record cover
2012
36 x 67.5 cm



Sinéad Fagan
Green Bridge

Stoneware
2011
Dimensions variable

Sean Fingleton
The Swan and Its Reflection

Oil on canvas
1989
151 x 126 cm



Percy French
A View in the Alps

Watercolour on paper
c.1914
37.5 x 44 cm



Graham Gingles RUA
Glass Bird II

Mixed media
2012
31.5 x 27 x 12.5 cm



Fr. Jack P Hanlon
Still Life with Cactus

Watercolour on paper
57 x 46 cm



Michael Angelo Hayes RHA
A Fashionable Equestrian Group at the Palace Street Gate
of Dublin Castle

Watercolour
c.1850
95 x 130 cm



Finders and Keepers

I loved this print the minute I set eyes on it in the OPW's art storeroom. At the time I did not know that Patrick Hickey was born in India – two good reasons to choose it! And, maybe there was a third – perhaps I was attracted to it because magnolias reminded me of my childhood in Nepal. That apart, as a work of art, it is delicate yet strong. It has a quiet confidence, an air of superiority even, that distinguishes it from more audacious and vibrant works. For an artist, knowing what to leave out is as difficult as deciding what to put in. I think Hickey achieved the balance perfectly... creating an image that is crisp, cool and refreshing...like a tall gin and tonic!
I feel privileged to have had an input, however small, into curating an exhibition of this calibre.

Shabnam Vasisht

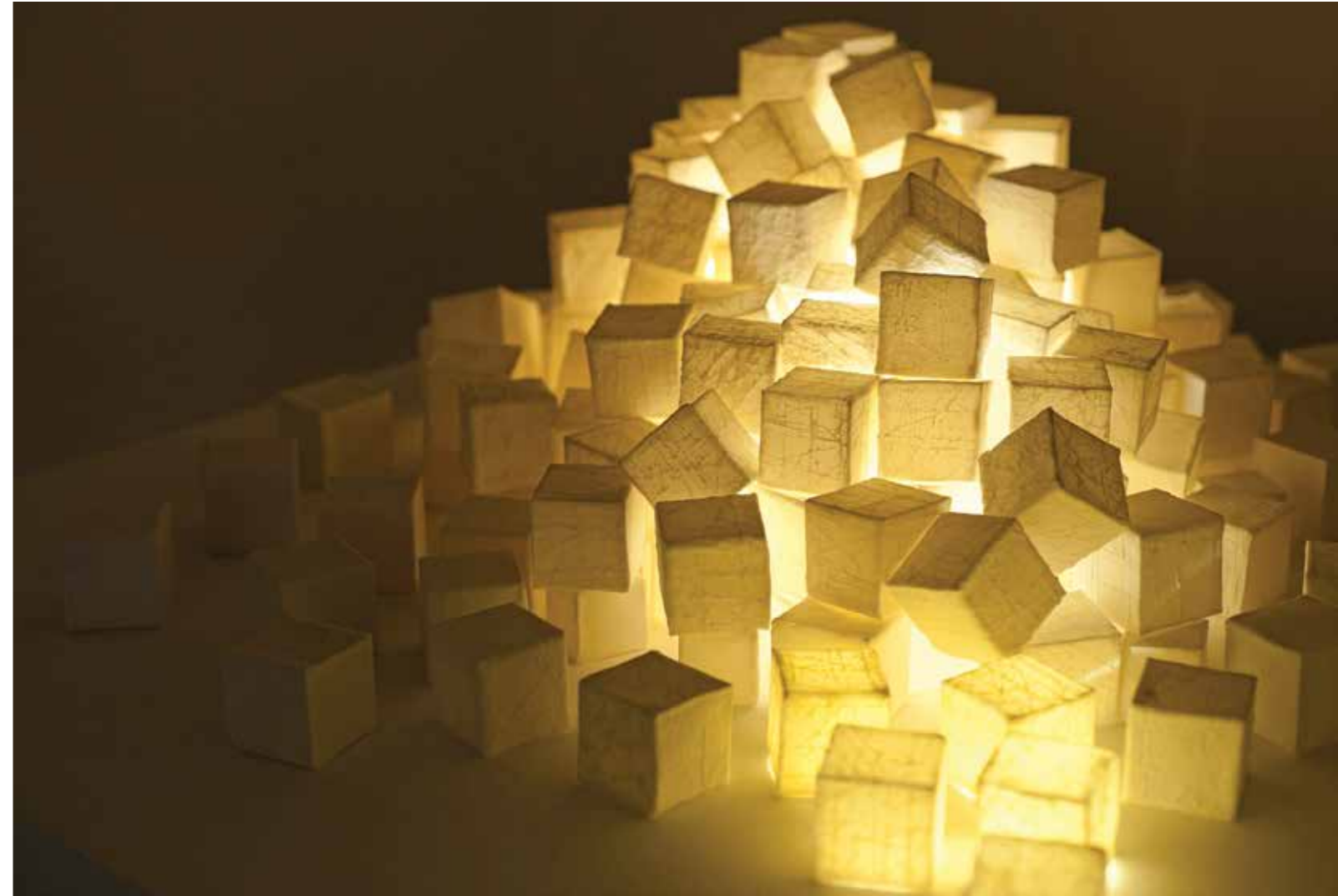
Patrick Hickey HRHA
Magnolia

Etching
158.5 x 91.5 cm



Jennifer Hickey
Within

Porcelain & mixed media
2010
140 x 80 x 70 cm



Sean Hillen

Sun, Sand and Cement in
Temple Bar, Irelandis
and

The Four Courts from the
Temple of Apollo, Irelandis

Photomontage

1997 & 1994

41 x 36 & 38 x 40.5 cm



Eithne Jordan RHA
Museum 1 /
Museum 2 /
Museum 4 /
Museum 7 /

Gouache on paper
2009
21.5 x 28 cm



John Kelly
The Sticks - Blue Sky

Oil on canvas over panel
2014
39 x 49 cm



Caoimhe Kilfeather
Scene (II)

Giclée print
2014
44.5 x 59 cm



Finders and Keepers

I find this picture serene and tranquil.

John Knight

Peter Knuttel
Near Killarney, Co. Kerry

Watercolour on paper
74.5 x 95 cm





John Lambe
Server I

Maple, copper & gold
3.5 x 35 x 6 cm

Sonja Landweer
Inverted Ovoid

Bronze
25 x 35 x 27 cm



Rosemarie Langtry
Ericaceous 1

Encaustic on board
2014
70.5 x 70.5 cm



I was first drawn to Gavin Lavelle's *Flood* because it was so colourful and full of movement. As I looked more closely I found it intriguing. It has an otherworldly feel about it. Beautiful birds and fish hover above a figure in the deep water. Are there dark buildings, houses or factories on the far bank? Off-centre a dinosaur is climbing a cypress tree. It is an intriguing work, full of alternative interpretations. Taking part in this project has been very enjoyable and a great privilege. I have always had an interest in art. This project has increased my interest. I look forward to going to many exhibitions in the future. We had exciting trips into the OPW to see its collection and such an honour to have the opportunity to choose work from such a wide ranging collection. It has been fascinating researching all the artists we have selected. I have enjoyed this part of the project and have learnt so much about the artists working in Ireland. The project was a team experience. We worked well together and were able to come to agreement as to how the exhibition would hang and which pieces might cause lighting problems. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to take part in this project. It has been a great experience.

Gavin Lavelle
Flood

Mixed media collage
Diameter 35 cm

Jean McKenna



Stephen Loughman
Jonas

Oil on gesso panel
2013
54.5 x 63 cm



Paul Lynam
Wrapped Cloud, Kilcolgan

Lambda print
2004
83 x 109.5 cm



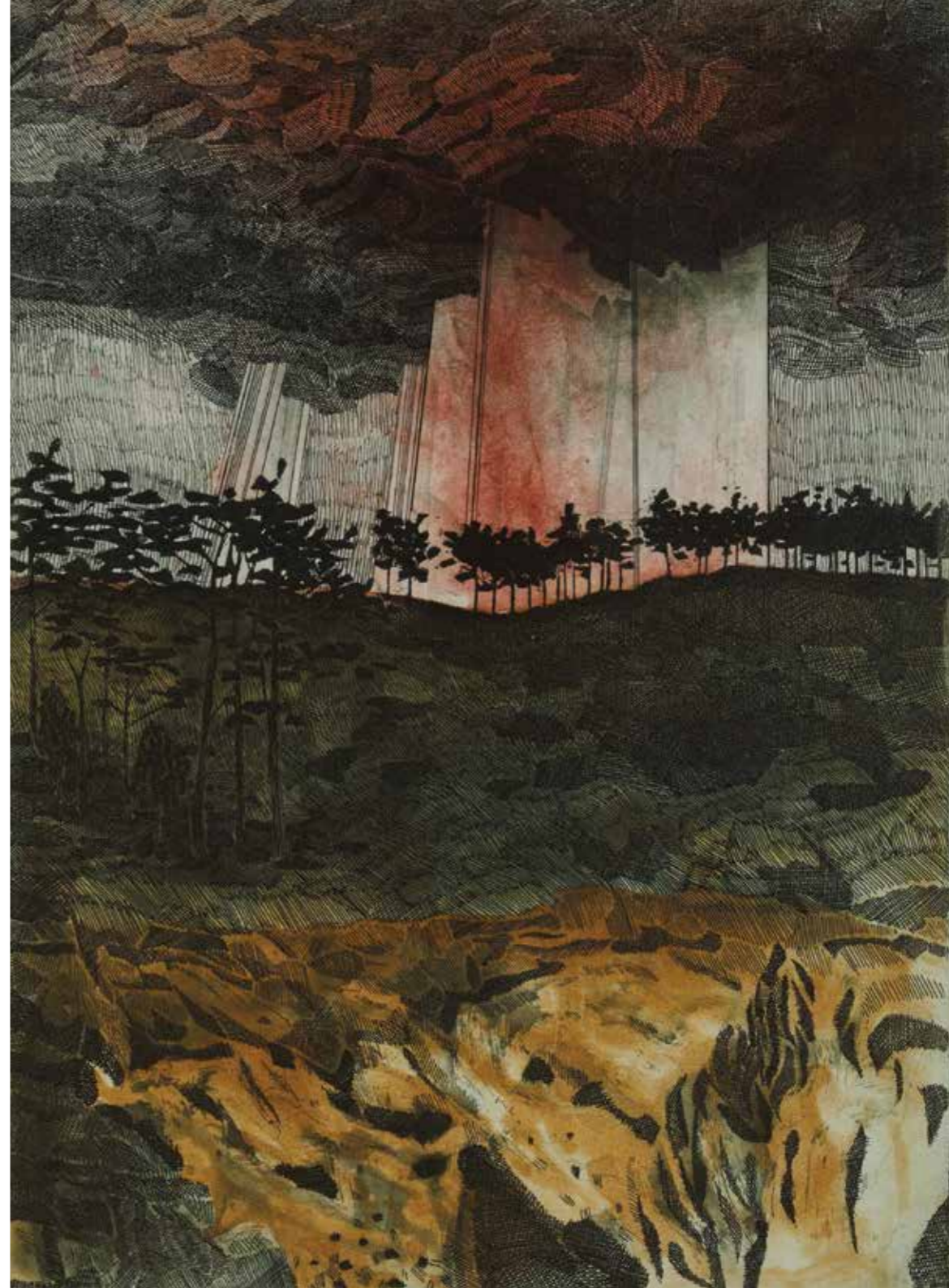
Roxana Manouchehri
Enigma 2

Acrylic on canvas & mixed media
2013
61.5 x 51 x 13 cm



Niall Naessens
The Rain is Coming

Etching
55.5 x 45 cm



Finders and Keepers

I selected the painting *The Daughters of the Harp* by Iwona Nartowska O'Reilly because I was drawn to it and like the artist's take on Ireland's most enduring emblem. The painting is based on the legend of Dagda's harp, which was said to produce Music of Tears, Music of Mirth and Music of Sleep.

Sarah Brennan

Iwona Nartowska O'Reilly
The Daughters of the Harp

Encaustic on board
2013
101.5 x 141 cm



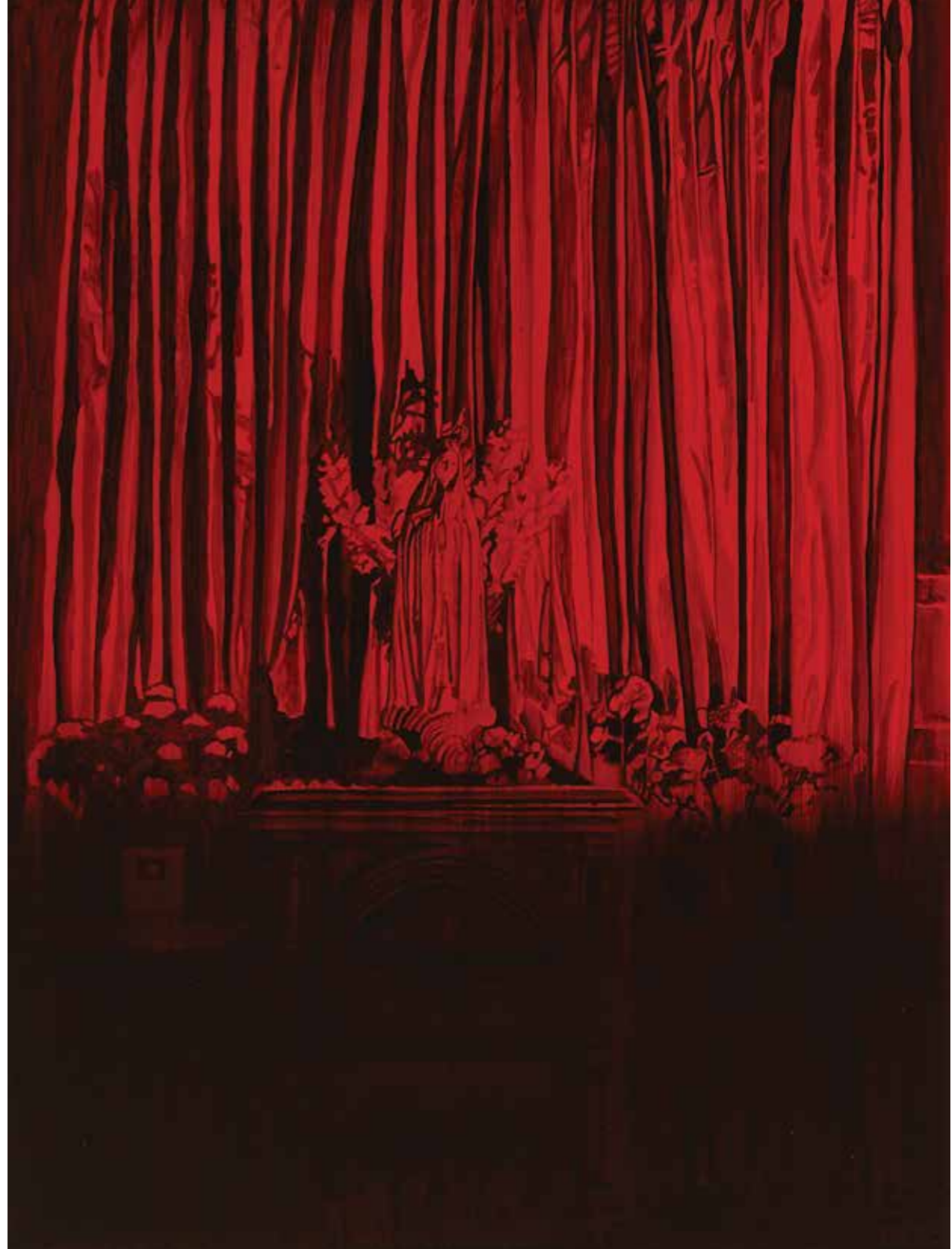
Fionnuala Nolan
World Without End

Oil on canvas
54.5 x 70 cm



Paul Nugent
Hypnosis

Acrylic & oil on canvas
2009
58.5 x 48.5 cm



Finders and Keepers

I was attracted to this beautiful beaten silver piece because it reminded me of a favourite childhood character called Rupert the Bear. I wanted to lift it and run my hands over its friendly surface.

Carol Campbell



Cóilín Ó Dubhghaill
Ritual g

Silver
2013
16.5 x 18 x 18 cm

Finders and Keepers

I selected this work because when I saw it I was drawn to its lightness in colour and form. It jumped out at me from a series of darker works around it. Its elaborate title fascinated me, particularly the sequence of the description, as I related it to the piece and it continues to intrigue me. If art is what one likes, then this is my art. The whole exercise of the collaboration was stimulating, educational and good fun. I appreciated the sharing, satisfaction, curiosity and pleasure that art can give us in its diversity.

Jess Sweetnam

Ruth O'Donnell
Small Consolations /
Medieval Mindset /
Settlement/
Prosperity /
Literature /
Fellowship /
Meltdown

Carborundum & perspex
2009
97 x 92 x 30 cm



Declan O'Mahony
Kelp Box II

Acrylic
2009
75 x 102 cm



Geraldine O'Reilly Hynes
After the Rain

Acrylic on canvas
2015
60 x 100 cm



Patrick Redmond
The Reflection

Oil on paper
2014
68 x 86 cm



The colours in this piece stand out and draw the viewer to explore and examine the detail contained within the piece. One is drawn to the symmetry of the two sides which only differ because of their colour. The images contained in the piece are open to many interpretations, but perhaps a clue can be found in the title. It is a curious, attractive and visually striking piece to view. This project was of interest to me as it was an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of art. It offered a completely new experience and the benefit of seeing what was involved in curating an exhibition from start to finish. From a starting point filled with a degree of apprehension, I now have a good understanding of what is involved in putting together an exhibition, the huge amount of work involved and the many factors to be taken into account. I have derived great benefit from this enjoyable and fun experience.

The Palimpsest/ Rianú Project
 Mise agus Tusa/ Me and You

Giclée print
 2013
 76.5 x 105.5 cm

Joe McKeown



Robert Russell
After Caravaggio (from the series Art into Art)

Mezzotint
59 x 75 cm



Finders and Keepers

When one looks at this piece you must remember timber is a natural material and may have “flaws” that the artist must take into account. On seeing this bowl it is very difficult to resist the temptation to run your hands over its smooth surface. The pyrography (scorched etching) guides your eyes across the piece, adding to its beauty by enhancing the appearance and grain of its timber. A delightful and well crafted piece.

Michael McGuirk



Angela Velazquez
from the series
Sea and Soil

Pyrography on wood
2013
8 x 28 x 25 cm

When I first viewed the piece, it took me on a journey back over 40 years to my early days in advertising to see images being produced using a technique known as scraper board drawing, where the surface of a blackened board was scraped away to reveal the white beneath and so produce a drawing. The use of light and shade makes you want to walk down this path, feeling the cool of the trees out from the heat of the sun. If you listen carefully you can almost hear the birds and smell mown grass. A journey worth taking. Being part of the project was a great learning experience, finding out how an exhibition is put together, visiting the OPW to view works of art and making our selections, whittling down those chosen to eventually end up with this selection. When I first came to the project I was wondering "What am I doing here?" Soon it became clear that what we had in common was a love of art and meeting with the group each week to discuss what we liked or didn't like turned out to be great fun. A wonderful experience that I would not hesitate to do again!

Declan O'Brien

Michael Wann
The Light That Day

Charcoal & wash on canvas
2014
152.5 x 152.5 cm



PART OF THE 30 PROJECT
 GREAT LEARNING EXPERIENCE
 OUT NEW AN EXHIBITION
 TOGETHER, VISITING
 TO VIEW WORKS OF ART
 SEVERAL SELECTIONS
 WILLIAM WILDE CHOSE TO
 PATRICK HILISEY
 MICHAEL WANN
 THE LIGHT THAT BURN.
 GEMMA BROWNE
 HILSEY, CONROY
 JENNIFER HICKEY
 IWONA NARTOWSKA O'REILLY
 ROXANA MANOUCHEHRI
 CECILIA WOOD
 LAMB
 TASHI MAHER
 NATHALIE DU ROSSELIER
 ANNE BRANNAN
 SWISS - GEM

I Find this Picture
 Serene and Strange
 John Knight

- DOONAN CROSS - THORNS
- SOLJA LAMPEN - BROTTLE, O/S K
- JOHN LAMB - WOOD
- ROS MATHIAS - CHOCOLATE BOYAR
- LAMBSON - PATTERNS
- MARION O'MALLEY - DRAWINGS
- STEVEN HILLEN - IRELANDIS
- BENNETT WILLY
- DAVID FOGHER MEAG

LIGHT THAT DAY
 WHEN I FIRST VIEWED THIS
 PIECE IT TOOK ME ON A JOURNEY BACK
 OVER 40 YEARS TO MY EARLY DAYS
 IN DUBLIN TRYING TO SEE IMAGES RE-
 PRODUCED USING A TECHNIQUE KNOWN
 AS SCRAPED BOARD DRAWING WHICH
 THE SURFACE OF A BLACKENED BOARD
 WAS SCRAPED AWAY TO REVEAL THE
 ROUGHNESS AND SO PRODUCE A DRAWING
 THE USE OF LIGHT AND SHADE
 THIS DRAWING MAKES YOU WANT TO
 WALK DOWN THIS PATH FEELING
 COOL IN THE TREE OUT FROM
 HEAT OF THE SUN.. IF YOU WERE
 CAREFUL
 BILLY
 A JOE

WE LIKED OR DIDNT LIKE
 TURNED OUT TO BE GREAT FUN
 PARTICULARLY THE SUN LIGHT
 MICHAEL... A WONDERFUL
 EXPERIENCE THAT I WOULDN'T
 HESITATE TO DO AGAIN
 ADVANCE?
 RETURN'S VIEW?

I WAS TIRED - IN A DARKISH
 ROOM: I LOOKED UP AND FOUND
 THIS LIGHT, AIRY, ELEGANT
 INTERESTING WORK - IT PLEASED
 ME. I WANTED IT.
 Ruth O'Donnell
 Curator

I was attracted to the
 beautiful beaten silver
 piece by Colin because
 it had the character of a
 repeat or #
 to lift it and
 then my
 to

- KEEP
- TO KEEP
- A KEEP - SPOON
- POWER OF A CANDLE
- FINAL MESSAGE
- KEEPERS
- CUSTODIAN OF A MUSEUM
- OR GALLS / COLLECTION
- KEEPERS

- KEEPERS
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- KEEPERS

Resources

Artists' Websites

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sinéad Brennan | sineadbrennanglass.com |
| Thomas Brezing | thomasbrezing.weebly.com |
| Gemma Browne | gemmabrowne.com |
| Mark Campden | bridgepottery.com |
| Gerard Cox | gerardcox.ie |
| David Eager Maher | davideagermaher.com |
| Sinéad Fagan | sinceramics.com |
| Claire Halpin | clairehalpin2011.wordpress.com |
| Jennifer Hickey | jenniferhickey.com |
| Seán Hillen | seanhillen.com |
| Eithne Jordan | eithnejordan.ie |
| Caoimhe Kilfeather | caoimhekilfeather.com |
| Rosemarie Langtry | rosemarielangtry.com |
| Roxana Manouchehri | roxanamanouchehri.net |
| Gavin Lavelle | lavelleartgallery.ie |
| Iwona Nartowska O'Reilly | nartowska.com |
| Fionnuala Nolan | fionnualanolan.com |
| Ruth O'Donnell | ruthodonnellprintmaker.com |
| Cóilín Ó Dubhgail | coilin.com |
| Declan O'Mahony | declanomahony.com |
| The Palimpsest / Rianú Project | clairehalpin2011.wordpress.com/
the-palimpsest-rianu-project |
| Patrick Redmond | patrick-redmond.com |
| Michael Wann | michaelwann.com |

Galleries

Cavancor Gallery	cavanacorgallery.ie
Chimera Gallery	chimera-gallery.com
Cross Gallery	crossgallery.ie
Doorway Gallery	thedorwaygallery.com
Duke Street Gallery	dukestreetgallery.ie
Green on Red Gallery	greenonredgallery.com
Highlanes Gallery	highlanes.ie
Hillsboro Fine Art IMMA	hillsborofineart.com imma.ie
Jorgensen Fine Art	jorgensenfineart.com
Kevin Kavanagh Gallery	kevinkavanagh.ie
Kilcock Art Gallery	kilcockartgallery.com
Molesworth Gallery	molesworthgallery.com
Olivier Cornet Gallery	oliviercornetgallery.com
Oliver Sears Gallery	oliversearsgallery.com
Oonagh Young Gallery	oonaghyoung.com
Peppercannister Gallery	peppercanister.com
Royal Hibernian Academy	rhagallery.ie
Rubicon Gallery	rubicongallery.ie
SO Fine Art	sofinearteditions.com

Print Studios

Black Church Print Studio	print.ie
Graphic Studio Dublin	graphicstudiodublin.com

Organisers

Office of Public Works	opw.ie
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	dlrcoco.ie

Acknowledgements

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Thanks

Special thanks to the artist/curator Claire Halpin, curators, artists and their representative galleries for their assistance with this exhibition.

Further information on the development of the project:

communitychoicecollection.wordpress.com

Curators

Claire Halpin
Sarah Brennan
Carol Campbell
Rose Foran
John Knight
Michael McGuirk
Jean McKenna
Joe McKeown
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Mary O'Connor
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Jess Sweetnam
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