



Kenneth Webb Portach

Portach

an exhibition of new paintings by

Kenneth Webb

officially opened at

The Kenny Gallery

on Saturday 28th May 2011 at 2.00pm

Guest Speaker: MICHAEL GIBBONS

No.10

Where Nature Clings

Oil on Canvas, 14x18in





No.22
Heather Bank, Roundstone Bog
Oil on Canvas, 30x48in



No.3
Twilit Bog
Oil on Canvas, 30x48in



No.12
The Calm of Heaven
Oil on Canvas, 14x18in

No.21
Lucuriant Bog
Oil on Canvas, 24x36in





No.8
Music in the Wind
Oil on Canvas, 20x16in



Kenneth Webb

- | No. | Title |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Unfolding Hues</i> |
| 2 | <i>The Grace of Water</i> |
| 3 | <i>Twilit Bog</i> |
| 4 | <i>Fluent Presence</i> |
| 5 | <i>Sunset Marconi Bog</i> |
| 6 | <i>Where Air Stores Time</i> |
| 7 | <i>The Light Grows Less</i> |
| 8 | <i>Music in the Wind</i> |
| 9 | <i>Stacking Turf, Leenane</i> |
| 10 | <i>Where Nature Clings</i> |
| 11 | <i>The Silence of Time</i> |
| 12 | <i>The Calm of Heaven</i> |
| 13 | <i>Bouquets of Heather</i> |
| 14 | <i>Lily Beds</i> |
| 15 | <i>Evening Water</i> |
| 16 | <i>Wind-Wandering Bank</i> |
| 17 | <i>Where Life's Bud Opens</i> |
| 18 | <i>Soft Breeze</i> |
| 19 | <i>Silence</i> |
| 20 | <i>Summer's End</i> |
| 21 | <i>Luxuriant Bog</i> |
| 22 | <i>Heather Bank, Roundstone Bog</i> |
| 23 | <i>Contours of Presence</i> |
| 24 | <i>The Stillness of Land</i> |
| 25 | <i>Evening Gold</i> |
| 26 | <i>Conamara Tapestry</i> |
| 27 | <i>Errisbeg</i> |

• The exhibition continues
• Monday to Saturday 10am - 5pm
• View the entire collection online.

Kenneth Webb

Portach

No.	Title	Media, Size
1	<i>Unfolding Hues</i>	Oil on Canvas, 20x36in
2	<i>The Grace of Water</i>	Oil on Canvas, 20x60in
3	<i>Twilit Bog</i>	Oil on Canvas, 30x48in
4	<i>Fluent Presence</i>	Oil on Canvas, 36x24in
5	<i>Sunset Marconi Bog</i>	Oil on Canvas, 30x60in
6	<i>Where Air Stores Time</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x36in
7	<i>The Light Grows Less</i>	Oil on Canvas, 30x60in
8	<i>Music in the Wind</i>	Oil on Canvas, 20x16in
9	<i>Stacking Turf, Leenane</i>	Oil on Canvas, 12x16in
10	<i>Where Nature Clings</i>	Oil on Canvas, 14x18in
11	<i>The Silence of Time</i>	Oil on Canvas, 14x18in
12	<i>The Calm of Heaven</i>	Oil on Canvas, 14x18in
13	<i>Bouquets of Heather</i>	Oil on Canvas, 14x18in
14	<i>Lily Beds</i>	Oil on Canvas, 16x20in
15	<i>Evening Water</i>	Oil on Canvas, 12x16in
16	<i>Wind-Wandering Bank</i>	Oil on Canvas, 10x14in
17	<i>Where Life's Bud Opens</i>	Oil on Canvas, 10x14in
18	<i>Soft Breeze</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x16in
19	<i>Silence</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x36in
20	<i>Summer's End</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x36in
21	<i>Luxuriant Bog</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x36in
22	<i>Heather Bank, Roundstone Bog</i>	Oil on Canvas, 30x48in
23	<i>Contours of Presence</i>	Oil on Canvas, 24x36in
24	<i>The Stillness of Land</i>	Oil on Canvas, 20x40in
25	<i>Evening Gold</i>	Oil on Canvas, 28x36in
26	<i>Conamara Tapestry</i>	Mixed Media, 14x21in
27	<i>Errisbeg</i>	Mixed Media, 14x21in

• The exhibition continues daily, 9.00am - 5.00pm

• Monday to Saturday through the month of June.

• View the entire collection online: www.TheKennyGallery.ie





No.18
Soft Breeze
Oil on Canvas, 24x16in

No.25
Evening Gold
Oil on Canvas, 28x36in





No.26
Conamara Tapestry
Mixed Media, 14x21in



No.23
Contours of Presence
Oil on Canvas, 24x36in



No.19
Silence
Oil on Canvas, 24x36in



Kenneth pictured on his beloved Ballinaboy Bog

Kenneth Webb Portach

"Whenever I am 'taken over' by a theme, I seem to have to start all over again and invent my own pictorial structure". Kenneth Webb has been 'taken over' by many different themes during his long career – the Forest of Dean, County Down harbours and farmhouses, seaweed, poppies, water lilies, thorn bushes, and in recent years, the bog near his studio in Ballinaboy in Connemara.

He was born in London and grew up in Gloucester on the Welsh border. He became a lecturer in the Belfast College of Art, and was Head of Painting there from 1953 to 1960. He resigned that post and set up his own Irish School of Landscape painting. It was based in Ballywalter, Co. Down but he travelled it to various interesting locations around the coast... the Glens of Antrim, Carrigart, Clifden, Kinsale, Cork city, Rosslare, Dublin etc. The school became very successful, and today it is run by Kenneth's daughter, Susan, an accomplished artist in her own right.

His visits to Clifden resulted in Connemara increasingly exercising an irresistible magnetism over him. He was gradually bewitched and seduced by the raw immediacy, the wild primitive bogscapes, the moving cloudscapes and changing light, the mountains, lakes and rugged coastline. He bought a very old derelict cottage and converted it into a studio. The wild garden with it was a combination of bog and rock and self-seeded wildflowers which he kept and carefully cultivated.

His long walks through the bog created in him a new awareness of the nuances of colour and variety of flora. He became more and more intrigued by the rich tapestry of the bog, the turf banks, abandoned and flooded workings, little lakes, the reflection of cloud and skies, the bog in moonlight, the miscellaneous plant forms at the water's edge. The terrain around his studio became the inspiration for his painting. His range of interests gradually narrowed so that his work increasingly focussed on this small area of Connemara. For him, it is imbued with a certain spirit which he finds totally entrancing. The huge stillness of Connemara, and the silence that is there as well is for him a small taste of eternity. His spiritual home physically is there. He guards his artistic isolation fiercely; he loves that place and has almost the hermit ability to endure there because no two days are ever the same for him.

As the poet John O'Donohue said *"Any of you who have worked in the bog will know that it is completely alive. It sounds as if it is dead, but the bog is a very undercover kind of territory. It doesn't let on at all, all the life that is simmering beneath it, and not just life, but memory as well, and history. It is part of the testimony of Kenneth's work that he is able to excavate that subtle harvest of memory and colour, and produce such beautiful work. Most of us who go to Connemara would be put under terrible strain if we had to compile evidence for the colour that this artist sees there. The old phrase "Beauty is in the eyes of the Beholder" is always taken as a totally subjective thing, but I don't think it is; I think it is really objective, if the eye that looks is beautiful, then somehow beauty actually comes towards it".*

One of the lonelinesses of the artist is in a sense, the uniqueness of the vision. When you look at the unmistakable landscapes of Kenneth Webb, you can really feel you are in the presence of true originality. One is reminded of that phrase of William Blake which is "Colours are the Wounds of Light".

Simply entitled "Portach" or "Bog", this series of images in oils and mixed media capture many moments of epiphany, moments that are recorded by his quality of attention and alertness, and his skill and craft as an artist.

No.2
The Grace of Water
Oil on Canvas, 20x60in



KENNYS BOOKSHOP & ART GALLERY
Celebrating 70 Years, 1940-2010
Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland
Tel: +353 91 709350 Email: art@kennys.ie

