

MOSTLY CONNEMARA



Exhibition of Paintings by George Campbell RHA
at the Kenny Art Gallery Galway September 1977

Official opening by Brian Quinn
Thursday 1st September 1977 at 6.30pm



Foreword

George Campbell is George Campbell. He is a special man. His likes only comes once in a generation. During the Renaissance we had scholars who through diligence, skill and dedication achieved a near totality of human knowledge. George is such a man. He is an observer, a commentator, a gleaner and, above all, a pilgrim who sees into individual as well as national souls. Without George we would miss so much that makes up not only the Irish experience since Independence but also we would not be so aware of the impact of the European ideal. Without him we would have struggled through the landscape blind though the sun blazes, unfeeling although all around us the soil moves, the air gives forth its messages, insensitive because we stumbled past the hue within the colour, deaf because we failed to hear 'the soundless footsteps on the grass', choked off because we missed 'a sound of singing, trailing, distant, high and sweet'.

But there is even more to George Campbell. We have a man hardened by life, wise in the ways of erring humanity, the George who wants to lift us out of the political mire by bringing the children of North and South together and mix them up so decisively that all the old images and reflexes vanish, the fears disappear, and thus a sense of being children on the Island of Ireland will be reborn and renewed.

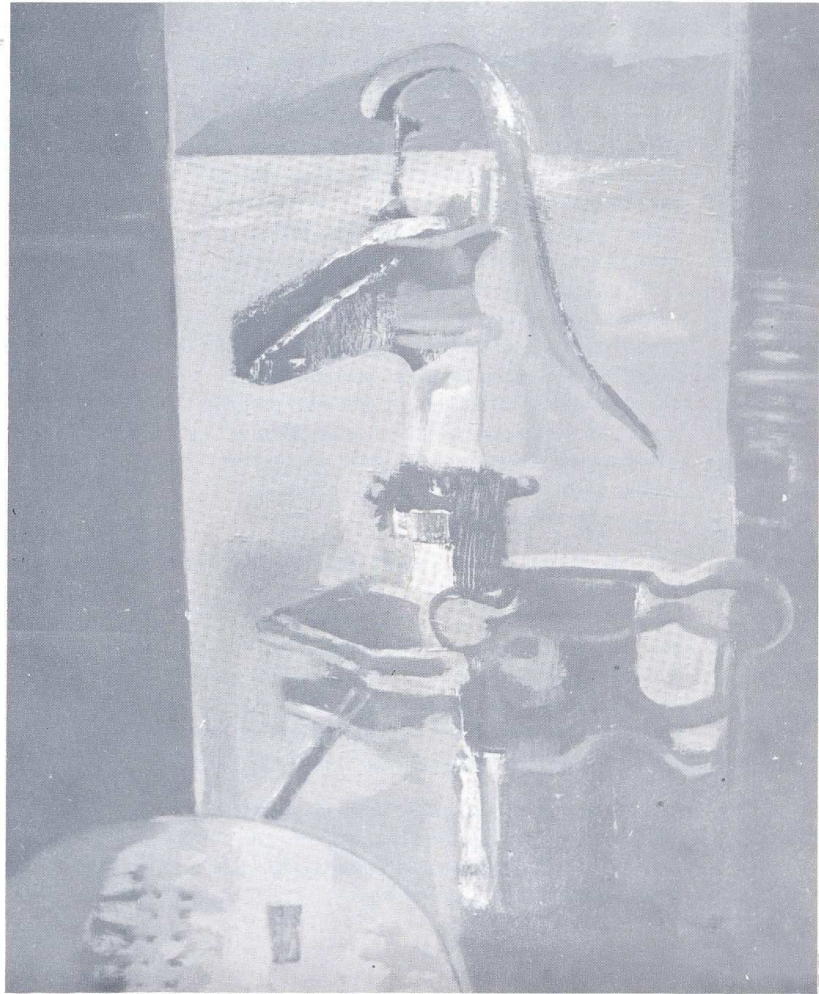
George does not fear to hit those whose rigidity of mind and approach stultifies talent, ability and genius. The men in gowns and mortar boards quail when George lifts his lance on high.

The world knows this distinguished artist through his work — and what a world — that of the circus, Spain, Ireland, the colour in the hedges, the shape of the clouds. I have known him on and off for a long time. We have met in quiet pubs in small streets, on shady street corners, in an alcove at an exhibition, by a hedge as George watches a plant change in the light, as a fighter, a prober and a fierce champion of perfection.

We must all treasure and guard his unique gift. In this century the Irish story has had, or will have, its bad moments, its mediocre concepts, its foolishness. But there will also be, should be, and can be the sense of high adventure, a belief in achievement, a determination to do better in the best sense as expounded by Robert Kennedy in his campaign in California. All our best attributes, our tunes of glory, our brightest banners need their knights, — George is one of them. We have a nation as old as ERETZ Israel. There is a saying there 'the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off'. The blazing craft of George Campbell is also seen and felt and absorbed 'even afar off'.

Brian Quinn

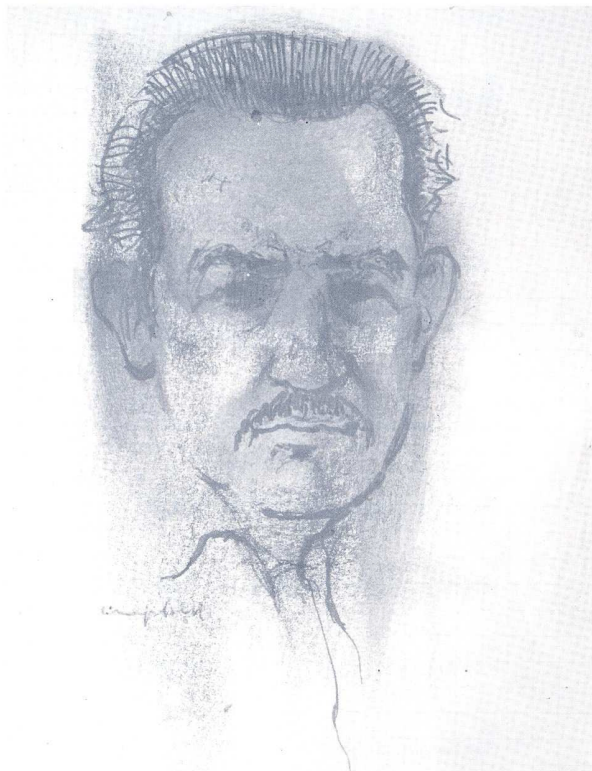
Old pump outside my door, El Palo



1. Glendalough, Wicklow	£365	12. Islands from the Clare coast	£165
2. Twin Beaches, Connemara	£450	13. Changeable weather	£300
3. Toledo, October	£400	14. From Roundstone	£275
4. Bloody Foreland, Donegal	£375	15. Old window and door, Malaga	£280
5. Quiet evening, Galway	£335	16. Two far off beaches	£280
6. A fresh day, Connemara	£335	17. Autumn evening near Roundstone	£280
7. Well kept fireplace, Donegal	£295	18. Clare coast	£280
8. Bringing in the nets, El Palo	£295	19. Bloody Foreland, Donegal	£260
9. Autumn, Connemara	£295	20. Outside pub, closing time	£220
10. Ballyrubbock, Connemara	£300	21. Connemara coast and sea birds	£245
11. Mostly Sardines	£260	22. Rocks and sea, night, Connemara	£245

23. Grey evening, Connemara	£280	34. Crabs and Chestnuts	£275
24. North west Donegal	£340	35. Orchard workers, Andalucia	£275
25. My room Burgos	£300	36. Snow, Wicklow	£275
26. Street musicians no. 2	£340	37. From my window, Toledo	£450
27. Symphony Orchestra no. 2	£385	38. Sower	£175
28. Clare coast, Winter	£275	39. Rain threatening, Inishlackan	£280
29. Memory of Arcos de la Frontera	£335	40. West coast, Autumn day	£300
30. Fighting cocks	£335	41. Ballyrubbock from Roundstone	£235
31. Deserted cottage, Inishnee, Connemara	£335	42. Near Ardaraigh, Donegal	£550
32. Old pump outside my door, El Palo	£320	43. Dun Aengus, Inishmór	£450
33. Very old window, Utrera	£385		

George Campbell by George Campbell



George Campbell RHA

1917

Born Arklow, Co. Wicklow

1962

Won first prize in Open Painting Exhibition for artists of any nationality living in Ireland or Great Britain.

Completed history of making of film 'Of Human Bondage'.

Won award in Exhibition of Modern Church Art held by An Chomhairle Ealaíon/The Arts Council.

1965

Commissioned to design stained glass windows for new Galway Cathedral, St. Dominic's Athy, and new Cathedral, Umtali.

1966

Won Douglas Hyde Award for best Historical Painting.

1969

Awarded Irish landscape Prize in Oireachtas Exhibition.

1970

Completed series of articles for the publication 'Artists International'.

1971

Appeared on BBC programme 'Self Portrait'.

1972

Twice subject of BBC programme 'Profile'.

1973

Subject of film 'Things Within Things' (RTE), Gunther Wulf Studios (Jim Jones Director).

Exhibitions

Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin
Irish Exhibition of Living Art, Dublin
Oireachtas Exhibition, Dublin
Open Painting Exhibition, Belfast
Arts Council Gallery, Belfast
Biannual Exhibitions at
David Hendriks Gallery, Dublin
One-Man Exhibitions in Belfast, New York,
Boston, London, Gibraltar, Malaga and Cape Town
Retrospective Exhibition at the Arts Council
Gallery, Belfast
Regular One-Man shows at the
Tom Caldwell Gallery, Belfast
and the Kenny Art Gallery, Galway

Collections

Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin
Trinity College, Oxford
Beaverbrook Art Gallery, New Brunswick
Abbott Collection, Boston
Nottingham Educational Committee
An Chomhairle Ealaíon/The Arts Council
Arts Council of Northern Ireland
Radio Telefís Éireann
International Post Office, Berne
St. Mary's College, Twickenham
Aer Lingus
Bank of Ireland Group
Irish Life Assurance
Museum of Fine Arts, Málaga
Museum of Fine Arts, Antequera
Leicestershire Education Committee
St. Mary's College Oxford University
Trinity College Oxford University
Allied Irish Investment Bank Ltd.
The Park Hotel, Virginia, Co. Cavan

Private collections throughout the world
including those of

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster, Lord Crowther,
Mr. John Huston, Mr. P.J. Carroll, Mr. Harold Pickering,
Mr. John Sisk, Mr. N. Bernstein, Mr. Montague Kavanagh,
Laragh Inn, Laragh, Ernie Anderson, Stefan Von Reiswitz,
Fernando Taverna, Lady Mary Campbell.

Brian Quinn

Brian Quinn is Associate Editor of the Irish Independent. He was Editor of the Evening Herald for seven years and Production Editor of the same paper for five years.

He is a graduate of University College, Dublin, in Modern History, Politics, Constitutional Law and International Law and holds the Diploma in Public Administration. As an undergraduate he assisted in their research activities, Sir Henry McNally of Cambridge in Military History, Professor Roger McHugh in preparing work on the Famine and Dr. R. Dudley Edwards in his publications on Daniel O'Connell. He is co-author with John Finegan of a life of Anne Devlin, the devoted friend of Robert Emmet.

Mr. Quinn has written extensively on many subjects. He contributes Leading Articles to the Irish Independent, interviews ranging from Esther Rantzen to Field Marshal El Shiekly of Egypt, and is involved in the production of the national newspaper. His specialist interest is in Middle East Affairs and, in particular, the Land of Israel. As a music critic he covered the Festivals in Bayreuth, Stockholm and Copenhagen as well as important events in London and Paris.

Mr. Quinn is a member of the Arts Council, a Director of the Irish Film Theatre and a Trustee of the Endeavour Award given annually by the Central Remedial Clinic, Clontarf, Dublin.

Mr. Quinn is married to Alice (nee Ward) and has three daughters and a son.