

Pierce Hackett – Elemental Responses

As a child in the Dublin of the 40's, Pierce was discouraged from his preoccupation with drawing on every available surface including margins and flyleaves of schoolbooks. From his parents' Victorian perspective the Artistic life was likely to include one form or another of 'starving in a garret'.

In the 1950's Pierce Hackett moved to England where he was to live for 25 years before returning to Ireland. The Tate Gallery in London was a revelation with its wonderful collection of work by J.M.W. Turner and the call to Art could no longer be resisted. Pierce enrolled for drawing classes at St. Martin-in-the-Fields and subsequently studied under Leon Underwood.

In 1961 Pierce married a grand-daughter of the Gaelic scholar, Seamus O'Duirinne, and her uncle Robert Adams, the Sculptor, encouraged him in oil painting. Robert introduced him to his circle of friends in the Artistic communities of Hampstead and of St. Ives, and to the thoroughly enjoyable atmosphere of creation, discussion and polemic regarding directions in Art and the tensions between traditional, developing and abstract forms.

On returning to live in Ireland, at first on the rugged west coast, Pierce was able to devote an increasing amount of time to painting and eventually, by 1993, he was painting full-time.

Hackett's painting reflects an eclectic interest in a select number of Painters. His particular favourites include Turner and Goya, for their overwhelming imagery, and Sorolia and Sargent, for their felicity of style and brushwork. A Celtic sensibility and awareness informs his paintings of the Irish landscape and Hackett often finds titles for his work in the Irish language - Gaeilge - which he speaks.

Pierce has travelled widely in order to see the original works of his favourite Artists and maintains studios in Dublin and in Andalucia.

He shows in a dozen galleries in Ireland and the U.K. and his work is in Irish collections, public and private, and abroad.

Carmel Dorney