



# Working with the weather



*Winter Dawn*, pastel, 41 x 53cm (16 x 21")



*Breakers on the Bar*, pastel, 30 x 41cm (12 x 16")

Sudden and drastic changes in the weather are an everyday occurrence in the northernmost point of Ireland. Follow the diary of pastellist **Ros Harvey** as she makes the most of the weather.

**A**rtists in Ireland are exceptionally privileged. In this country we are treated as cultural assets and are even exempt from paying taxes. In this land divided by internal conflict we are considered neutral, and can entertain and be entertained by anyone interested in art. Even better, there is a strong tradition here of buying original works instead of reproductions. To be an artist in Ireland is the most varied, exciting and rewarding life I could ever imagine.

As artists it's really important that we recognise and cherish the special place we hold in people's minds; however, our position is fragile, because fashions change, fuelled by folk like interior designers. I try never to take anything for granted and continually accept challenges and push my materials to their limits. I have to accept the challenge presented to me by the oscillating nature of our winter light, switching back and forth to different paintings as demanded by the weather.