

# BURRENESQUE

A Mixed Media Exhibition by

Gordon D'Arcy



[12] Rockforest Road



[16] The Turlough



[8] Gleninagh from Green Road

THE KENNY GALLERY 2004

G. D'Arcy '03





[1] *Once upon a time at Eagle's Rock*

You are invited to the opening of

## BURRENESQUE

An exhibition of new paintings

by

**Gordon D'Arcy**

in

The Kenny Gallery,  
Middle Street, Galway

on Friday 30th January 2004

at 6:00 for 6:30pm

This exhibition will be opened by

**Rod Stoneman**

Director, Huston Film School  
National University of Ireland, Galway.



[13] *Skaghard Castle*



[44]  
*Burren  
Flowers and  
Man  
Islands*

*BURRENESQUE* is the culmination of two decades of exploring, photographing, sketching and writing about the extraordinary place that is the Burren. It is a personal presentation of my emotional engagement with a wild, nature-filled environment. Thus, natural themes – landscapes, and flora and fauna - dominate, but representations of historical and mythological, quirky and subtle, real and imagined themes, have somehow also found expression. A variety of media and material - watercolour, coloured pencil and oil pastel on tinted paper, acrylic and pastel on wood and scraperboard - has been employed, in an effort to accommodate the exhibition's diverse thematic and subjective demands.

I remember clearly the intensity of my initial sense of engagement with the Burren and though living on the other side of the Island I knew that one day I would make it my home. What I did not realise was that this fascination would not only remain but would intensify and grow with the years. The region's international status as a plant and archaeological haven is well publicised and indeed celebrated but I have come to see this merely as a veneer; it is the concentration of diverse riches, both natural and social, tangible and aesthetic, historical and contemporary, that render this one percent of Ireland so unique. Nor does it end there. To the casual wanderer the Burren emanates a strange mysterious quality - a product perhaps of the fluctuating fortunes and tragedies of the region's inhabitants, since the earliest times – the memory of which remains, to be released only at the pace of the drip, drip of the dissolving limestone.

Most visitors - passing through in coaches or cars - miss out on this; a fact that might be regarded, selfishly, as a saving grace. But in these days of increasingly sophisticated tourism and broadening education, this is no longer good enough: it is time for the immense potential of the Burren - particularly as an educational centre - to be realised. We can only imagine the possibilities: the stimulation for learning; the wholesome sense of freedom; the potential for personal growth etc. Children from stifling urban circumstances, exposed to this wonderful outdoor classroom and playground, would be obvious beneficiaries.

I have seen the Burren change over the two decades, but a lot less detrimentally than many other parts of the west. The establishment of the National Park and the restriction of its interpretation to the peripheral villages has been crucial in maintaining the region's character. However, pressures attendant on agricultural intensification, land reclamation and housing trends threaten certain irreplaceable values - the quality of the groundwater, for instance. But a role of the artist is to expose and emphasise the positive and if I have occasionally strayed away from the celebratory, it is in an attempt to deal with some distracting bewilderment or other, immune to the assuaging word.

I hope this exhibition will help to focus attention on this extraordinary, precious and vulnerable place.

**Gordon D'Arcy January 2004.**



[3] *Winterage*



[34] *Whimbrels at Island Eddy*





[4] *Common Seals and Terns, Ballyvaughan Bay*

TITLE	MEDIUM	H x W (inches)
[1] <b>Once upon a time at Eagle's Rock</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	13x9"
[2] <b>Golden Plover on Turlough Hill</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x13"
[3] <b>Winterage</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x13"
[4] <b>Common Seals and Terns, Ballyvaughan Bay</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x16"
[5] <b>Wheatears at Wedge Tomb</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x13"
[6] <b>Oystercatchers, Fanore</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x13"
[7] <b>Stonechat</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	8x15.5"
[8] <b>Gleninagh from Green Road</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	12x15.5"
[9] <b>Wild Swans at Carron</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	12x15.5"
[10] <b>Glen of Clab (field sketch)</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	8x12"
[11] <b>Drover's Road, Formoyle</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	15x12"
[12] <b>Rockforest Road</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	6x15.5"
[13] <b>Skaghard Castle</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x7"
[14] <b>Irish Saxifrage, Blackhead</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x7"
[15] <b>Burnet Moths on Field Scabious</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x7"
[16] <b>The Turlough</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	7x9"
[17] <b>Hazel</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x7"
[18] <b>"Sancta Maria de Petra Fertilis"</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	9x7"
[19] <b>Sea Pinks at the Flaggy Shore</b>	<i>watercolour</i>	12x15.5"
[20] <b>Yellowhammers</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x8"
[21] <b>Ghosts at Mount Vernon</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	10x14"
[22] <b>Aspens, Poulavallan</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	8x12"
[23] <b>O'Donnell's Cattle Raid</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12.5x21"
[24] <b>Black Guillemots</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	8x12"
[25] <b>Primordial</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x9"
[26] <b>Poll na gColm</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x8"
[27] <b>Clearing mist, Kilcomey</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	9x12.5"
[28] <b>Courting Shelduck at the Rine</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	8x12"
[29] <b>Gerritt</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	13x14"
[30] <b>Westropp and Hedgehogs, Ballykinvarga</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	9x12"
[31] <b>Fox in the Hazel</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	9x13"
[32] <b>Penitential Stations, Glencolmille</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x8"
[33] <b>Skylarks</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x8"
[34] <b>Whimbrels at Island Eddy</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	13"x19"
[35] <b>Hazel Coppice</b>	<i>Oil Pastel</i>	12x9"
[36] <b>Moonsteps</b>	<i>Scraperboard</i>	7x12"
[37] <b>Inside the Souterrain</b>	<i>Scraperboard</i>	9.5x5.5"
[38] <b>Silage Time</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	17x24"
[39] <b>Fossil Burren</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	17x24"
[40] <b>Rock Forest</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	24x34"
[41] <b>Rock Dance</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	24x34"
[42] <b>East Burren, from the Air</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	15x36"
[43] <b>Rockrose Dawn</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	15x36"
[44] <b>Burren Flowers and Man Islands</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	15x36"
[45] <b>People's Art, Poul nabrone</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	24x34"
[46] <b>Rock Steps</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	36x15"
[47] <b>Turlough Hill, 2004 B.C</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	24x48"
[48] <b>Burren Pines</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	36x12"
[49] <b>Ice Age Legacy</b>	<i>Oil Pastel/Acrylic on Wood</i>	16x24"

*All works are now available for sale • Dimensions are in inches (excluding frame)*



[18] *"Sancta Maria de Petra Fertilis"*



[42] *East Burren, from the Air (detail)*



[2] *Golden Plover on Turlough Hill*



[14] *Irish Saxifrage, Blackhead*



[49] *Ice Age Legacy*



[6] *Oystercatchers, Fanore*



# GORDON D'ARCY



[38] *Silage Time*



[48] *Burren Pines*



[19] *Sea Pinks at the Flaggy Shore*



[9] *Wild Swans at Carron*

## Education:

1971: B.Sc. Civil Engineering: Queen's University, Belfast  
1975: [M.I.C.E.]: Member Of The Institute Of Civil Engineers.  
1983: M.Sc. Environmental Sciences: Trinity College, Dublin

## Employment:

1971-77: Dept. of Finance. N. Ireland:  
1977-84: Forest & Wildlife Service: Assistant Divisional Engineer.  
1985- Freelance Writer, Artist, & Environmentalist.

## Art Exhibitions:

Largely environmental themes - representational and derivative.  
Contributed to many combined artists' exhibitions throughout Ireland.

## Solo exhibitions:

1975: Scraperboards, Belfast & Newcastle.  
1983: Oil Pastels, Dublin.  
1987: Oil Pastels, Dublin.  
1989: Oil Pastels, Dublin & Galway.  
1991: Oil Pastels, Galway.  
1994: Oil Pastels, Galway.  
1996: Oil Pastels, Galway.  
1998: Oil Pastels, Galway.  
1998/9 Oil Pastels, Roundstone & Belfast  
2001: Pastels (with ceramic artist Anne Towers), Aillwee Cave

## Publications:

1976: Birds at Lough Beg [Blackstaff Press]  
1981: Guide to the Birds of Ireland. [Irish Wildlife Pub]  
1986: Pocket Guide to the Birds of Ireland [Appletree Press]  
1987: Pocket Guide to the Animals of Ireland [Appletree Press]  
1992: Natural History of The Burren [Immel Pub.]  
2000 Ireland's Lost Birds [Four Courts Press]  
• Illustrated & written contributions to various magazines, periodicals, academic publications & books, including; "The Book Of The Burren" (Tir Eolas. 1991).

## Educational Work:

- Annual Environmental Course for teachers (Dept. of Education approved), since 1986
- Adult Education Courses; Limerick, Ennis, Galway, and Louth.
- Wildlife talks & painting classes for children; class and field work.
- Heritage specialist in Heritage in Schools Scheme (INTO & Heritage Council).
- Contributed to many talks, debates, radio & T.V. programmes on the environment.
- Outdoor field trips, especially in the Burren, Co. Clare.

## Design Work

- Concept and implementation for Burren Exposure centre, Ballyvaughan, (1997).
- Concept implementation for natural history section Dundalk Museum, (1998).
- Design consultation for new Burren Centre, Kilfenora, (2001).



[7] *Stonechat*



[40] *Rock Forest*



[46] *Rock Steps*



[10] *Glen of Clab (field sketch)*



[5] *Wheatears at Wedge Tomb*

## THE KENNY GALLERY

Middle Street, Galway, Ireland.  
Tel: +353 91 534760 Fax: +353 91 568544  
Email: art@kennys.ie

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm  
Kennys on the Web: [www.kennys.ie](http://www.kennys.ie)