

Links and Connections

**Graphics by
Margaret Irwin
Pieces 1- 31**

**Ceramic Sculpture by
Katharine West
Pieces 32 - 49**

**April 23rd - May 27th 1999
An Dámhlann,
Spiddal Craft Centre, Co. Galway**

**Guest Speaker:
Theo Dorgan, *Poetry Ireland***

Margaret Irwin - Artist's Statement

*"My earlier work derived largely from the seemingly organic forms of the pre-historic monuments of Connemara. More recently, however, I have been using images and familiar objects as a metaphor of ideas and concerns common to us all. The theme of the Famine informs three of the images presented. A further three are concerned with the ideas of FREEDOM/FATALISM loosely linked to the work of CALDERON DE LA BARCA in his verse-drama *La Vida Es Seuno*. This year's work is much more general but explores the possibilities of roads, barriers, openings and things that trigger memory.*

Most of the work is etching on copper plate using one or sometimes two plates. In a few works I combine etching on copper with an overprint from carborundum on aluminium. Some prints are from a carborundum plate alone. All of the work is carried out in my studio in Claddaghduff. I print all of my "Editions" myself."



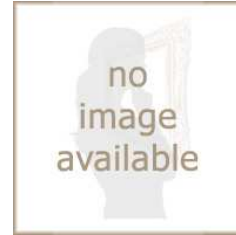
1. Leaving by the old road
Framed: £835
Unframed: £725



2. The hidden road
Framed: £850
Unframed: £740



3. The hidden road (b/w)
Framed: £650
Unframed: £545



4. Famine soup pot, Moyard
Framed: £635
Unframed: £545



5. Finding Finland, Spruces
Framed: £625
Unframed: £545



6. Finding Finland, bare pines
Framed: £625
Unframed: £545



7. Sweet flower of youth
Framed: £635
Unframed: £560



8. Trampled, trampling
Framed: £615
Unframed: £545



9. The final road (either colour)
Framed: £455
Unframed: £380



10. Ancient fields (colour)
Framed: £435
Unframed: £365



11. Ancient fields (b/w)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £255



12. Thisbie's wall
Framed: £380
Unframed: £325



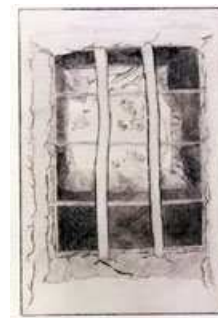
13. Forbidden fruit (colour)
Framed: £415
Unframed: £365



14. Forbidden fruit (b/w)
Framed: £270
Unframed: £220



15. Window of hope (colour)
Framed: £415
Unframed: £365



16. Window of hope (b/w)
Framed: £270
Unframed: £220



17. Dream choice (colour)
Framed: £415
Unframed: £365



18. Dream choice (b/w)
Framed: £270
Unframed: £220



19. Points of view (colour)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £290



20. Points of view (etched drawing)
Framed: £220
Unframed: £180



21. Points of view (b/w)
Framed: £255
Unframed: £220



22. Choosing the hard road (colour)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £290



23. Choosing the hard road (b/w)
Framed: £255
Unframed: £220



24. Sweet dreams (colour)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £290



25. Sweet dreams (b/w)
Framed: £255
Unframed: £220



26. Gateway to the sky (colour)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £290



27. Gateway to the sky (b/w)
Framed: £255
Unframed: £220



28. Seeing through, Cleggan (colour)
Framed: £325
Unframed: £290



29. Seeing through, Cleggan (b/w)
Framed: £255
Unframed: £220



30. Sea moods (colour)
Framed: £365
Unframed: £310



31. Shroud for a memory
Framed: £415
Unframed: £365

Katharine West – Artist Statement

'This work is about liquid; how it flows; what it preserves and how it is held.'



32. Pour
Porcelain - 2 elements
1:12x16x13cm
2:8x23x12cm
£580



33. 'Contemporary Archaeology Series #3'
Porcelain - 2 elements
1:6x19x7cm
2:8x16x6cm
£255



34. Arrangement #1
Stoneware
3x21x3cm
£255



35. Arrangement #2
Stoneware
3x21x3cm
£255



36. 'Contemporary Archaeology Series #5'
Porcelain
1:7x12x6
2:2x14x3cm
£325



37. Gilt
Porcelain, stoneware and gold lustre
1:8x21x10cm
2:4x20x8cm
£220



38. 'Gilded Mother'
Porcelain, stoneware, gold & mother of
pearl lustre
1:6x22x16cm
2:5x14x23cm
£220



39. 'Inside #1'
White clay
45x60x40cm
£1,445



40. 'Inside #2'
White clay
40x100x45cm
£1,535



41. 'Inside #3'
White clay
70x120x60cm
£1,535



42. 'Palette #1'
White clay and porcelain
18x66x44cm
£1,625



43. 'Palette #2'
White clay and porcelain
72x76x76cm
£1,625



44. 'Palette #3'
White clay and porcelain
60x76x76
£1,625



45. 'Palette #4'
White clay
16x90x60cm
£1,625



46. 'Palette #5'
White clay and porcelain
15x69x69cm
£1,625



47. 'Slabhra #1'
White clay
70x120x60cm
£1,445



48. 'Slabhra #2'
White clay
55x115x65cm
£1,445



49. 'Slabhra #3'
White clay
63x88x42cm
£1,445

Technique

The large pieces are coil-built. This involves using lengths of rolled clay which are gradually blended together and stretched to gradually build up the form. These pieces are built very slowly in stages so that the clay can stiffen between layers in order to sustain the weight of the next layer. The clay is then stretched using hand and metal kidney shaped tool. The exterior surface tension is contrasted in the interiors of some of the pieces with the rhythmical evidence of the process of coil-building.

The smaller pieces are handbuilt, press-moulded or slip-cast. Press-moulding and slip-casting involve the fabrication of a plaster mould. In the case of slip-casting, liquid clay known as slip is poured into the dry plaster mould. The plaster absorbs the liquid in the slip causing a skin to form on the interior surface of the mould. The excess slip is then poured out of the mould and the piece is extracted from the mould once the clay is strong enough to retain its form. I use slip-casting particularly because of the sensuous, fluid interiors which can be formed by the pouring of the liquid slip. They are in direct contrast with the exteriors which can be carved and will record any texture lying within the interior of the mould. Slip-casting in my work is used to produce forms in porcelain which use the technique to exploit the qualities of the material and the translucency of the porcelain.

The work in this exhibition.

The most recent work in this exhibition; the 'Inside' and 'Palette' series came out of a preoccupation with illness and the decay of vital organs. I used the concept of the 'Palette a Saignée' as a metaphor for the container, holder of essential organs. The 'Inside Series' and the forms contained within the 'Palette' series were developed from research involving early medical drawings.

The 'Contemporary Archaeology' series is part of a continuing study of archetypal forms from our past and their connection to us as human beings. These particular pieces were based on a collection of fragments of early blown glass with their constricted sinuous necks and fragmented bodies.

The Slabhra series is about an imaginary liquid which is contained and transferred from one form to another.

"Her sculptures creep and unfold along the gallery floor, bulbous when they play at life – organs, perhaps, or entirely new beings not known to biology – but broken at the edges, unwilling to be fully beautiful. With surfaces like hessian, the sculptures stretch clay so thinly you know they could shatter, yet their formal strength pretends they're strong as mountains and as naturally conceived." The Sunday Times

The dimensions are listed as height by width by depth, and given in centimetres.

This exhibition is dedicated to Rodney.