



KENNY  
GALLERY



## **Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery**

Exhibitions Schedule | Summer, 2024



**Kennys' has its foundation in books, established as a bookshop in Galway in 1940 - however we have also exhibited visual art from the very beginning.**

The Kenny Gallery was formally established as the first commercial art gallery in the West of Ireland over 50 years ago, and we host solo and group exhibitions each year, and we actively promote emerging talent.

Over the years we have showcased the work of emerging Irish artists, many of whom have become household names - the works of Jack Yeats, Paul Henry, Sean Keating, George Campbell, Louis le Brocqy, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, Sidney Nolan and many others have hung on the walls of Kennys.

*Cover image: Brian Ballard, Dark Trees, Cyprus Avenue (2023), Oil, 80x100cm from July 15*

# **Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery**

Exhibitions Schedule | Summer, 2024

May 17 – June 11 | Pádraic Reaney, New Paintings & Sculpture, 2024

June 14 – July 9 | Summer Show - *Various Artists*

July 15 – August 14 | Cyprus Avenue & Other Works - *Brian Ballard*

(Galway International Arts Festival | The Kenny Gallery, Galway)



# PÁDRAIC REANEY

NEW PAINTINGS & SCULPTURE 2024

May 17 – June 11, The Kenny Gallery, Galway

**Artist Pádraic Reaney returns with an exciting and diverse exhibition at Galway's Kenny Gallery from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This eagerly awaited collection promises to captivate, with a wide-ranging offering of striking paintings and sculptures in bronze from this well-loved artist.**

Reaney's artistry is a testament to his deep-seated thematic interests, ranging from ancestral landscapes to the remnants of island life. Delving into the echoes of the past, his work explores the haunting beauty of ruins, the solemnity of skulls, and the layers of history revealed through archaeological strata. Inspired by the rugged terrain of the West and the mythological figures that inhabit it, his paintings and sculpture evoke a sense of timelessness and introspection.

Through his art, Reaney invites us to contemplate the rich tapestry of human experience, weaving together elements of folklore, history, and personal reflection. Each piece serves as a window into his unique perspective, offering viewers a glimpse into the complexities of the human condition.

Born in Carraroe, Co. Galway in 1952, Pádraic Reaney's artistic trajectory has been marked by a deep connection to his surroundings. Guided by the mentorship of renowned sculptor Oisín Kelly, he embarked on a creative journey that led him to explore various media, from painting and sculpture to graphics and beyond.

Reaney's body of work reflects his multidisciplinary approach, with each piece bearing the imprint of his distinctive style. Rich in texture and colour, his paintings capture the essence of the West, evoking a sense of timelessness and wonder. His sculptures, crafted from bronze, stone, and ceramic, reveal a mastery of form and composition, with each piece telling its own unique story.

Throughout his career, Reaney's work has garnered widespread acclaim, from his critically acclaimed Inis Áirc Project to his collaborations with esteemed artists and institutions. His artistry has been showcased on both national and international stages, with exhibitions and commissions spanning across Europe, North America, and beyond.

Join us as we celebrate the remarkable talent of Pádraic Reaney and explore the captivating world of his new paintings and sculptures, on display at The Kenny Gallery from May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**The exhibition will be officially opened by Aodh Ó Coileáin, Filmmaker, Broadcaster and Lecturer at University of Galway, at 6:00pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May at Kennys Liosbán base in Galway City, and all are warmly welcome. The works are available for sale, and the exhibition continues until the 11<sup>th</sup> June.**



*Pádraic Reaney, Inis Airc III, Acrylic on Board, 12x16in*



< Pádraic Reaney,  
*Family of Three II*  
Bronze, Unique,  
12.5x3x3in

(cover image)  
Pádraic Reaney,  
*Wild Goat in the Landscape*  
Acrylic on Board,  
30x24in



*Brendan Smyth, Bog Oak, 27x6x5in*

June 14 – July 9 | **Summer Show**

*Various Artists*

*In the first of two major annual group exhibitions this year, our **Summer Show** will feature a host of artists representing Italy, Germany, Australia, Japan and the US, as well as Ireland.*

*Wide-ranging styles and media will excite all tastes - paintings, sculpture, graphics and more will feature.*

*Established artists invited include Lola Donoghue, Shane Berkery, John Morris, Mario Sughi, Brendan Smyth, Susan Hazard, Bernadette Madden, Trudie Mooney and many more, and the exhibition will showcase some artists exhibiting with us for the first time.*

*All of the works included are available for sale, and a broad scale of prices to suit all budgets will offer wonderful investment opportunities and chances for those dipping their toe for the first time.*

**Open from Friday June 7, gallery hours 9:00-17:00, Monday to Saturday.**



*Brian Ballard, Dark Trees, Cyprus Avenue (2023), Oil, 80x100cm*

# Brian Ballard

CYPRUS AVENUE & OTHER WORKS

Galway International Arts Festival | The Kenny Gallery, Galway | July 15 – August 14, 2024

**Opening as part of Galway International Arts Festival 2024, an exhibition by Brian Ballard at the Kenny Gallery marks the welcome return of this renowned Belfast painter to the west of Ireland. *Cyprus Avenue and Other Works* is a remarkable collection of paintings, new and retrospective, with particular focus on the artist's own neighbourhood of Cyprus Avenue.**

Born in 1943, Brian Ballard studied in his home town at Belfast College of Art and went on to further studies at Liverpool College of Art.

Best known for his contemporary treatment of the traditional genres of the still life, the nude and the landscape, and his distinctive use of bold yet evocative colour, he now works mainly in Belfast and on Inishfree Island off the coast of Donegal.



The artist prefers those moments when the sun infused the landscape with colour and chiaroscuro. He is a rich colourist, interested in the contrasting colours and textures in simple subjects.

Painting directly onto the canvas with vigorous brushstrokes, he uses bold slashes of rich colour across a solid and heavily laden with fluid paint in which the bristles always leave their mark of speed and pressure, they are subject to a structural order, as well as a pictorial depth.

He strives for balance in his work and his struggle is always centred on a concern to create a subtle harmony of colour and form, a search for the 'structure of a painting' and a desire to entice and lead the eye where he wants it to go.

He handles paintbrush and palette knife with a sense of purpose, suppressing details in order to capture an object in bold, decisive strokes. He is concerned with the essence he sees in things. His subjects are always recognisable, but his treatment of them is invariably painterly. He admires artists like Bonnard, Matisse, Picasso, who painted in hard strokes with courage and audacity - this is his way too.

Ballard may paint the same subject several times, a change of light, of weather, another viewpoint, a difference of scale or proportion of canvas being sufficient to prompt another exploration of the theme. The landscapes he paints are often harsh and untamed such as those off the west coast of Ireland.

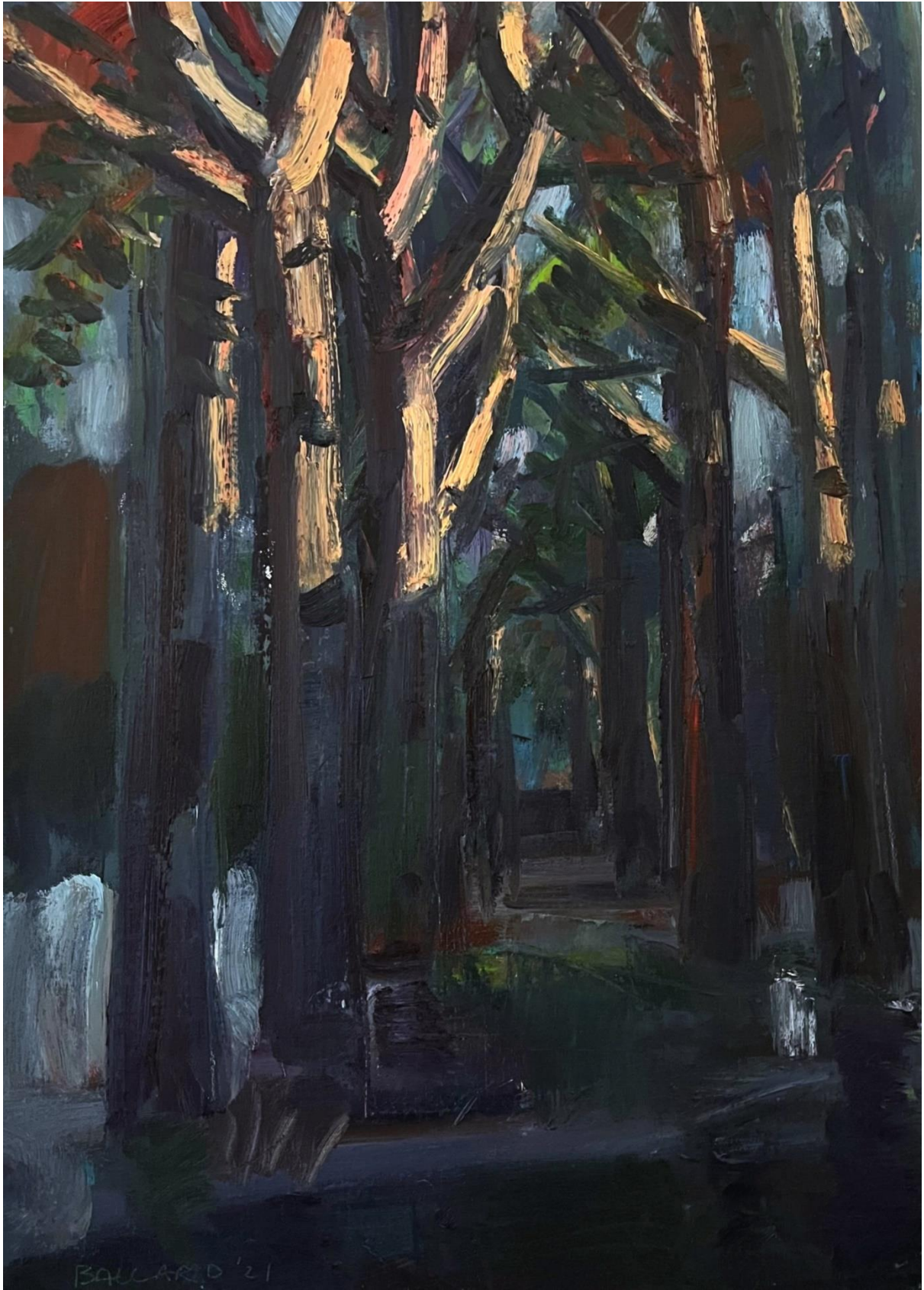
He paints the same scene repeatedly in order to gain the confidence to express its many moods in paint. We see that in this collection, where the artist turns his focus on the iconic Cyprus Avenue, on his own doorstep in Belfast.

Examples of Brian Ballard's work can be found in the collections of the Arts Council of Ireland, Art Council of Northern Ireland, Crawford Municipal Gallery and the Ulster Museum.

**Gallery hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00. Admission is free and all are welcome (official opening details TBC)**



*Brian Ballard, Rock And Sea, Yellow (2013), Oil, 100x120cm*



*Brian Ballard, Evening, Cyprus Avenue (2021), Oil, 70x50cm*



*Brian Ballard, Poppies With Clock (2024), Oil, 81x122 cm*

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