

Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery

Events Schedule 2020



KENNY'S
BOOKSHOP
& ART GALLERIES LTD.



**Galway
2020
Gaillimh**

**European
Capital
of Culture**

CULTURAL PARTNER







KENNYS BOOKSHOP
& ART GALLERY
CELEBRATING EIGHTY YEARS
IN BUSINESS | 1940-2020

About Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery

Kennys Bookshop was established in Galway, Ireland in 1940. An independent and family-run enterprise, the business has grown over the years and now includes a retail bookshop, an Irish art gallery, an online trade, a book bindery and a Libraries & Special Collections division.

We have been privileged to work with many of the great figures in Irish and international writing over the years. Notable collaborators have included Seamus Heaney, Edna O'Brien, Paul Durcan, John McGahern, Mike McCormack, Walter Macken, Roald Dahl, Jung Chang, Nadine Gordimer and Allen Ginsberg, to name but a few.

Kennys are ardent promoters of Irish writing, supplying hundreds of Irish books overseas annually to institutions including the US Library of Congress, Boston College, Harvard University and the National Library of China. **Kennys.ie**, our online bookshop, is the longest-running online bookshop in the world.

Aside from our foundation in books, we have also exhibited visual art from the very beginning, and **The Kenny Gallery** was formally established as the first commercial art gallery in the West of Ireland over 50 years ago. 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, Kenneth Webb, Louis le Brocquy, Andy Warhol, Salvador Dalí, Robert Ballagh, Sidney Nolan and many others have gone through the doors of Kennys.

Kennys in 2020 - Celebrating 80 years in business with a full schedule of events

Kennys will have a full programme of exhibitions throughout 2020, including largescale group shows, sculpture, painting, printmaking and children's art. In this special year for Galway and for Kennys, the programme will kick off with sculptor John Behan's Migrants and finish with a flourish of 40 Visual Artists / 40 Writers, an exhibition celebrating Kennys' 80-year history.

In addition, we will further host a series of book launches, signings, readings, children's events, competitions and demonstrations, in association with **Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture**.

Kennys.ie | TheKennyGallery.ie

About Galway 2020

Galway will be the **European Capital of Culture in 2020**. As one of the largest cultural events in the world, **Galway 2020** promises to deliver a year of thrilling, life-enhancing experiences through culture and the arts. The exciting pan-European programme for the year will see events in unexpected venues and locations throughout the region on the islands, in remote villages, in fields, mountains and on beaches. From food, music, dance, literature and visual arts to poetry, theatre, sport and largescale spectacle, everyone will get the opportunity to enjoy a fun-filled, once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Galway2020.ie



Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery Events Schedule 2020

(All illustrations courtesy of Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery, unless © otherwise stated,
cover image: JOHN BEHAN Migrants in Ribbed Boat. Bronze. Unique. 36x44x22cm)

DIARY DATES | EVENTS 2020

- IMBOLC -

- . Feb 1 John Behan RHA Migrants Exhibition
- . Mar 6 Laura Vecchi Ford
Retrospective Exhibition
- . Apr 6 Tom Kenny's Old Galway
Photographic Exhibition

- BEALTAINE -

- . May 7 To the Island by Patricia Forde,
in association with Little Island,
illustrated by Nicola Bernadelli,
(Booklaunch May 7, Exhibition from May 6)
- . May 22 Paula Pohli Juxtapositions:
Egg & Lino Exhibition
- . Jun 17 Luke McMullan
A Constant State of Motion Exhibition
- . Jul 11 Other Visions, Group Exhibition

- LUGHNASA -

- . Aug 8 Shane Crotty & Dean Kelly Showoffs Painting, Graphics, Photography Exhibition
- . Sept 4 Paul Guilfoyle Landscape Exhibition
- . Oct 2 Drawing Europe Together
Exhibition by Children's Book Illustrators
- . Oct 23 Hubert Butler Essay Prize

- SAMHAIN -

- . Oct 30 Pádraic Reaney Exhibition
- . Nov 28 Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery Celebrating 80 Years Group Exhibition,
40 Visual Artists / 40 Writers
- . Jan 15, 2021 Counterpoint Exhibition
by Vicki Crowley & Dominique Crowley



Roald Dahl pictured at Kennys Bookshop

IMBOLC





JOHN BEHAN, Migrants in Ribbed Boat. Bronze. Unique. 36x44x22cm

February 1 – 29 | **John Behan RHA** *Migrants*
Official opening by Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

The Famine ship is hugely significant in sculptor John Behan's work; indeed it forms the basis of an Irish National Famine Memorial at Murrisk Co. Mayo (1997). However, in some ways his new 'migrant' work has more contemporary significance. It is more roundly and directly realised - it is not retrospective - it has presence and urgency.

On his many journeys to Greece and Cyprus the artist has encountered refugees as they flee Africa and the Middle-East. This couldn't but have come into the expression of this sensitive and receptive artist - and on his very next trip Behan intends to embark with the Irish Navy as they go about their Mediterranean rescue mission - reflected in his new body of work in the shape of his 'Migrants' show.



"My art is related to ancient culture as well as to modern technique... in Irish art, we have had a gap between the Middle Ages and the 20th Century when no visual art was produced. So I had to go back: the future was in the past, if you like..."

JOHN BEHAN RHA

An artist intimately attuned to early Irish culture, John Behan has actively sought inspiration for his work in the imagery of a previous era. Centuries of outside domination, ironically at a time when the Renaissance flourished in Europe, saw little further indigenous visual cultural development in Ireland through the early modern period.

Behan has taken up his visual cue from the early treasures of Irish Art - the Brouther Boat, the Corleck Head, the illustration of the Book of Kells. Harnessing these forms and tropes of ancient art to create his own work, Behan has developed his own visual language, an almost quasi-primitivism, but imbued with an authenticity of precedent, building a symbolic bridge to the past. In the early period of his work the artist used this developed style to pick up where Irish art had left off, boats and bulls are to the fore, but later the artist was free to backfill a visual gap to parallel a verbal literary tradition in his reimagining of Irish mythological themes. We see heroes of legend, outside of the Táin ink drawings of Louis le Brocquy, not before presented in a form which could have been lifted from the 4th century.

Perhaps the most significant breakthrough in the artist's work, however, may be in his talismanic memorialisation of the image of the infamous coffin ships of the Irish Famine period of the 1840s - an imagery first realised in the 1990s, which coincided with the 150th anniversary of that calamity. Here Behan presents painful commentary, utilising his now fluent personal expression to make iconic what he now rebranded his 'Famineship'. Skeletal souls for sails, and with maritime form, this was to become - along with his great Táin bulls - signature Behan.

If the Famineship of the 1990s spoke to the historic, albeit painful folk memory of the Irish Famine, then perhaps the most important recent development in the work of John Behan must be in his exploration of the current chilling echo of the Irish migrant crisis of the 19th century - that of the plight of African and Middle Eastern refugees coming to Europe through the past number of years.

The artist's wider thematic interest developed parallel to the introduction of increasing early European imagery to augment his Irish visual basis. Artist visits throughout Europe and further afield explain the emergence of Etruscan, Greek and African informed work.

Teetering precariously, a visual echo of the Brouther Boat but without the comfort of oars, Behan's Libyan Refugee Boat brings right up to date the artist's thematic consideration, in keeping with both the sentiment and structure of his Famineship work, but perhaps drawing even more direct inspiration, through that very identifiable Behan style, from a source of inspiration in early Irish art.

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On his many journeys to Greece and Cyprus, in particular, the artist has encountered refugees as they flee Africa and the Middle-East. This couldn't but have come into the expression of this sensitive and receptive artist - and on his very next trip Behan intends to embark with the Irish Navy as they go about their Mediterranean rescue mission.

The opening of MIGRANTS, new works in bronze by JOHN BEHAN RHA took place at The Kenny Gallery on Monday 3rd February, 2020, officially opened by His Excellency MICHAEL D HIGGINS, President of Ireland. The exhibition continues daily, 9:00 - 5:00, Monday to Saturday until 29th February. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

Some quotes from President Higgins from his opening address of Migrants, Galway, 3rd February 2020.

Of art: *"What happens when you are in front of a piece of art? Let it do what it can to you, because something special happens in relation to the person who is actually gazing at the work."*

"That is why artists are very, very important – to remind us of the moral point, not of our reasoning, but even more importantly of the music of the heart."

Of Galway: *"The arrival in Galway of people like Brian Bourke and John Behan and so many of the others was a great boost I would say. It became a kind of a leaven in the artistic bread that is Galway."*

"Galway's reputation in relation to the arts didn't fall from the skies. It was brought about by many people living in the most precarious circumstances with a powerful belief of the arts in its different forms."

Of John Behan: *"A contribution that has been longstanding and always substantial. He has always kept a strong connection with what was happening in the public world of the need to confront history honestly."*

"An artist of the first rank of who we can be proud."

Of migration: *"The migration and the movement of people in time and space is something that makes a moral call on all of us to being open in our categories of thinking and sensibility and sensation and experience."*

"The things that are most exciting in literature and music and all of the arts have come out of a space of transience – it is people who have left where they were in a point of stability and are moving and entering into a point of the unknown."





Laura Vecchi Ford pictured with her portrait of Umberto Eco

March 6 – April 2 | **Laura Vecchi Ford**
Untitled, Unless Otherwise Stated – A Retrospective

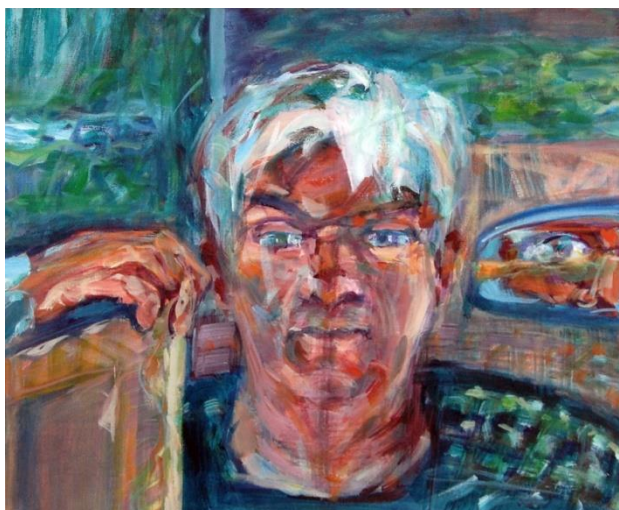
For more than thirty years Laura Vecchi Ford taught Italian at University, but for much longer than that she has been a Visual Artist.

Born in Italy in 1939, Vecchi Ford studied art at the Brera Academy in Milan and had her first solo exhibition in 1967. It was also in the late sixties she came to the attention of the Venice based patron of the arts Peggy Guggenheim, and this is when she also moved to Galway to teach in the Italian Department of University College Galway.

Though pursuing a career in teaching Italian language and literature visual art has remained central in her life. She continued to make etchings, engravings, drawings and particularly paintings, presenting many exhibitions in Ireland, Britain, and Italy through the years.

Laura's latest collection is mostly work from the last most productive of decades, but it is also a retrospective of sorts, featuring paintings from each of the last six decades!

Her earlier figurative hard-edge work, certainly of the era they were painted, gives way to a more fluid, painterly, identifiable personal style. Evident throughout are abiding symbolic motifs, like birds taking flight, fish leaping, cars, or the moon. The exhibition features all of these as well as her 'signature' use of text in landscape, still-life, flights of fancy as well as some very fine portrait work; including the artist's portraits of Umberto Eco, who she knew in Italy, friend and campaigner Margaretta D'Arcy, fellow artist Sean McSweeney, and musician Micky Finn.



The exhibition will be officially opened by Historian GEARÓID Ó TUATHAIGH on Friday 6th March at 6:00 pm at the Kenny Gallery and continues 9:00-17:00, Monday to Saturday until 2nd April.

The opening, to which all are warmly welcome, will also see the launch of a collection of poetry by Laura (of the same title *Untitled, Unless Otherwise Stated – A Retrospective*), offered in Italian, English and intriguingly 'machine-translated' – it promises to be a memorable occasion!



Laura Vecchi Ford, *Sailing Beyond and Within*, Mixed Media on Canvas, 24x40in
(Image above: Laura Vecchi Ford, *Portrait of Seán McSweeney*, Acrylic on Board, 20x24in)



April 6 – 26 | **Tom Kenny's Old Galway** (Photography)

Tom Kenny has been publishing old photographs of Galway every week in the Galway Advertiser since the 1970's. He has built up an important archive of images which could be said to represent a visual social history of the city over a period of about 150 years. This exhibition is a kind of trawl through our heritage, a selection of photographs of different vintages and illustrating the changing streetscapes, the fairs and markets, some of the games and pastimes, the different styles of dress and some of the characters of yesteryear.



'Mrs & Mrs Brodreick from Ballintemple on Williamsgate St., Galway, c. 1885' (collection of Tom Kenny)

BEALTAINE



Patricia Forde pictured at Kennys Bookshop



Illustration: Undergrowth © 2019, Nicola Bernadelli

May 7 | **Patricia Forde** *To The Island*

in association with Little Island, illustrated by Nicola Bernadelli

(Booklaunch May 7, Exhibition from May 6 - 20)

Galway band *My Fellow Sponges* will premier their new song TO THE ISLAND on the night - specially commissioned for the occasion by Galway 2020!

When Galway 2020 thought about making a book set in the Capital of Culture for young readers, Galway's own wondrous author for children – Patricia Forde – was the obvious person to write it. Patricia's story is about a little girl who visits the strange and mythical island of Hy Brasil, off the west coast of Ireland, but then follows her heart home to Galway. Little Island (no relation to Hy Brasil, but very good friends with it!) came on board to edit and manage this delightful project. Together, Galway 2020 and Little Island set out to identify an illustrator with a magic touch who would add a European dimension to the project — and found the marvellous Nicola Bernadelli. *To the Island* is an enchanting story, beautifully illustrated, that families from Galway, Ireland and beyond will treasure. It will be available in May 2020. Throughout May 2020, a series of events will in Galway celebrating *To the Island* in libraries and public spaces where we're discover the magic of islands, real and imagined.



Paula Pohli, The Watcher Bird, original linocut print, Ed.20, 13x13in. Pohli in her Mayo Studio.

May 22 – June 13 | **Paula Pohli** *Juxtapositions: Egg & Lino* Exhibition

Artist Paula Pohli, born in Dublin and has lived in Co Mayo since 2011. She makes hand burnished Lino cuts in limited editions since 1990. Paula is primarily a printmaker but paints in egg tempera since 2012. She was educated in Dublin and Canada. She is a member of the artists association of Ireland, VAI, The United Arts Group, Ireland and The Manhattan Graphic Center in New York. She is a member of the Green Party. She is an independent, full-time artist since 2010.

Paula held 8 successful solo shows in Dublin, Holland, Germany and includes 3 Print Presentations in the USA, 2012.

[short text above ...long text to add the following]

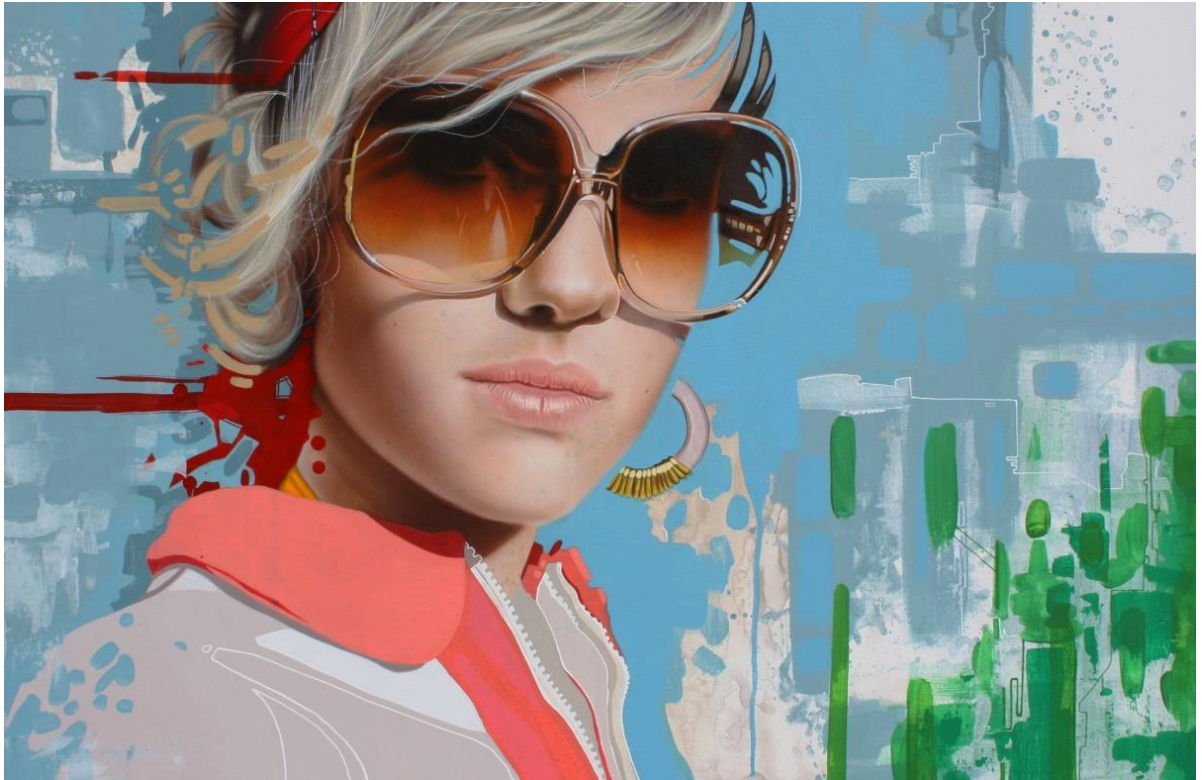
Internationally: she exhibited prints in group shows in the National Centre for Performing Arts in Beijing, China in 2011 and 2012 Her prints appeared in 27 International Print Biennial: USA, Bulgaria, UK, Germany etc.

Groupshows too in Ireland in the Graphic Gallery, Kenny's of Galway, Lavitt, Lemon Street, Original Print Gallery, The Printmakers Gallery, So Fine Art, Doorway and Leinster Galleries abd in the RHA, Dublin and Royal Ulster Academy, Belfast.

Public Collections:

Allied Irish Banks modern art collection , Office of Public works – state of the Art collection (3 separate acquisitions), Tallagh Institute of Technology, University College Dublin, University of North Carolina , Library, USA.

Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9, Ireland, both public and children's ENT units St Joseph's Hospital , Raheny, (Beaumont Hospital) Nurses Residential Unit Dublin 5, Mater Hospital – Private, New York Irish Centre, Long Island City, Queens, NY 11101, Holles Street Hospital Collection, Tralee Institute of Technology, Pony Box UK, Lyrath Hotel, Schools in Dublin and Bray St Fergal's.



Luke McMullan, *Summer Daze*, Acrylic on Canvas

June 17 – July 9 | **Luke McMullan** *A Constant State of Motion*

Galway based artist Luke McMullan's introduction to art came about from writing graffiti in the 90s; it was then that he adopted the pseudonym 'Stix'.

Through his self-taught artistic journey he has discovered that his ideas and mental images, difficult to describe with words, are most easily expressed and communicated through his use of visual art.

He hopes that those who view his art don't feel constrained by the titles of his paintings but rather 'explore their meaning in your own imagination'. Although he doesn't paint on walls anymore, graffiti is the foundation of the art he makes today. He always looks forward to completing each new piece of artwork, experiencing its evolvement in the creative process, assured that someone will continue enjoying it.



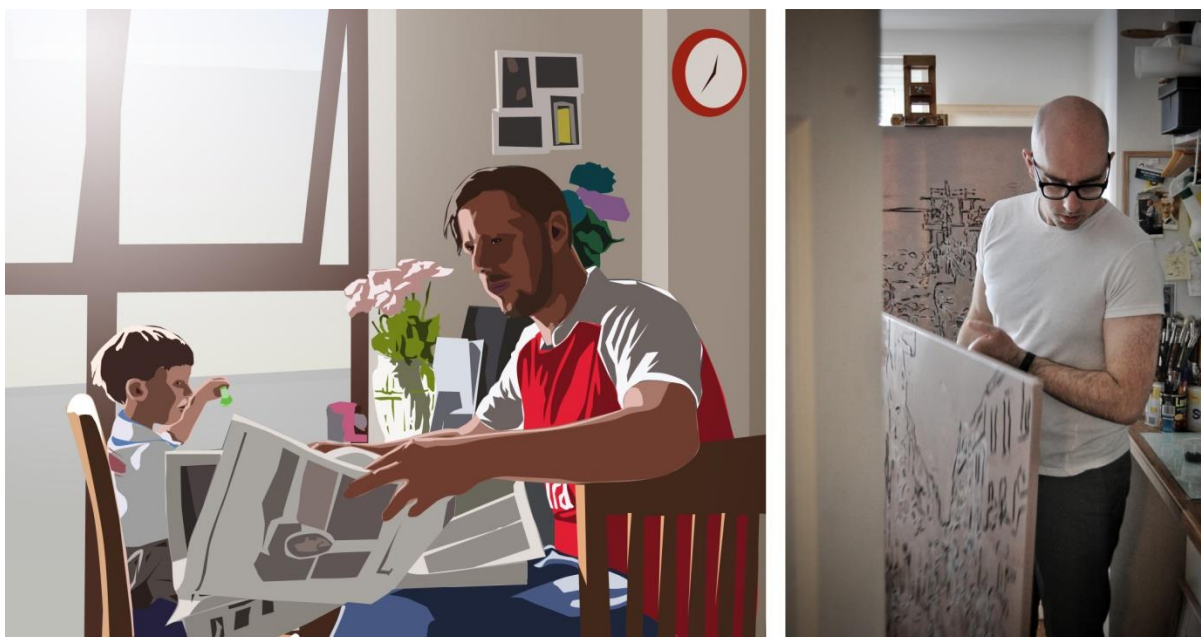
Jingze Du (China/Ireland), Claddagh Basin, Oils on Canvas, 35.5x37.5in

July 11 – August 5 | ***Other Visions***
Group Exhibition

The Kenny Gallery will curate and host a large scale group exhibition entitled '*Other Visions*', focusing on alternative representations of Ireland during the momentous year of 2020 for the City of Galway. As the European City of Culture we hope to shine a light on the emerging pool of talent with origins beyond Ireland, and indeed sometimes beyond Europe, but who have enriched our society by making this country their home. The exhibition will offer fresh takes, representations by our New Irish and by disadvantaged or marginalised sectors of Irish society.

LUGHNASA





Shane Crotty, Hidden Dangers, digital print | Dean Kelly in his Galway studio.

August 8 – September 2 | **Shane Crotty & Dean Kelly** Showoffs
Paintings/Photography

Long-time collaborators Galway Artists Crotty and Kelly are back with a sometimes tender, sometimes irreverent take on contemporary Irish life.

Shane Crotty is an artist from Co Galway, trained primarily in printmaking. His work contains aspects of personal life with a young family in the modern world, and his attachment to both urban and rural landscape. Methods range from traditional printmaking techniques to contemporary illustration, drawing and painting.

Dean Kelly's representational layered symbolic works chronicle changes in Irish society through recent years. Often concerned with the poignant ebbing of ephemeral culture, his paintings show a contemporary approach to traditional materials and lean increasingly towards the expressive. Colour, texture, drawing and various forms of mark-making are collaged, layered and juxtaposed using various media. His photography unabashedly records his locality and forms an ongoing resource for his paintings.



PAUL GUILFOYLE *Dark Day in Maam Valley*, Oil on Canvas, 18x24in

September 4 – 30 | **Paul Guilfoyle** Landscape

Paul Guilfoyle has devoted much of the time since deciding to become a full-time artist to the praise and glory of the locations of childhood family holidays spent in Connemara and West Mayo. The rest of the time he has spent exploring other parts of the country like Donegal, the Midlands, the Dingle Peninsula, the Sceilig Rock off the coast of South Kerry. He seeks out areas that have the quality of spiritualizing their past and their present.

His evocative canvasses are closely observed and recorded with a searching eye. They are refreshingly unsentimental, never sombre and expressed with clarity and vigour. His firm and clean handling of the paint captures magic moments and a real feeling for the dramatic effects of light on nature. His studies of trees in sunlight have an almost impressionist liveliness in their broken lights. In spite of the great geographical variation in his work, he has managed to preserve his individuality and his highly identifiable style. He is a master of the bold and confident brushstroke.

Paul has exhibited widely throughout Ireland and is represented in many important collections. This is his ninth exhibition at The Kenny Gallery.



'Vote Yes', illustration © Chris Haughton

October 2 – 24 | **Drawing Europe Together**

A major exhibition by Children's Book Illustrators
(including weekend guest illustrator tours / workshops)

Are we still 'United in Diversity'? Forty-five artists from across Europe share their powerful illustrations of the European Union's shared past and our unsure future. From Brexit bees to wall-jumping bulls, Drawing Europe Together is a unique collection portraying the European community . . . with or without Britain. This is a passionate and heartfelt exploration of Europe and what it means to many of the people who live and work within its borders. The book brings together forty-five renowned illustrators who, through their drawings and accompanying words, share their vision of Europe in this beautiful and timely collection, with a foreword by the British Book Awards Illustrator of the Year 2018, Axel Scheffler.

Inspired by the Drawing (for) Europe exhibition which took place at the Institut Français in London in 2018, Drawing Europe Together showcases the original artwork from the exhibition as well as never-before-seen illustrations from additional leading artists. With contributions from many of the world's best book illustrators including Quentin Blake, Claude Dubois, Jim Field, Emily Gravett, Judith Kerr, Oliver Jeffers, Sarah McIntyre, Lydia Monks, Thomas Müller and Chris Riddell.



'Hubert Butler 1960', Hubert with his daughter Julia Crampton and baby Cordelia.

October 23 | **Hubert Butler Essay Prize**

Friday, 23 October 2020, the 120th anniversary of Hubert Butler's birth.

Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture and House of European Art London are pleased to present the Hubert Butler prize for essay writing. Commemorating the work of great 20th century writer and humanitarian Hubert Butler, the prize focuses on the common ground between European nation states that emerged after the First World War. Butler was renowned for his ground-breaking essays on topics as diverse and relevant today as they were in the 1950's and 60's. His mantra 'think globally, act locally' highlighted the importance of the individual conscience in addressing the position of religious and ethnic minorities including refugees.

'This essay prize is founded to recognize Butler's achievement in intellectual history, and to encourage the kind of economical but substantial essay-writing which he perfected, on the sort of subjects which he persistently brought to attention. In the present state of the world, there could be no better way to commemorate a thinker whose uncompromising insights into follies and barbarities are more illuminating than ever' (Roy Foster).

SAMHAIN



Pádraic Reaney, Oiléan na Tuí, Inis Mór, Acrylic on Board, 36 x 24 in



Pádraic Reaney, Chochán, Inis Mór, Oil on Board, 36x24in

October 30 – November 25 | **Pádraic Reaney** *Oiléan, 1988-2020* | *Malta - Ireland – Scotland. Paintings and Graphics*

“I’ve been pulled to islands since I did work in Malta in the late 1980s,” Reaney says, referring to a group of local artists including Jay Murphy, Brian Bourke, John Behan and Vicky Crowley, who visited Malta as part of the group Island Connection.

This body of work takes us on a visual European island hop and comes from this work initiated in the 1980s. We enjoy the artist’s continuing fascination with Island life and this collection follows his critically acclaimed Inis Áirc Project, which was exhibited in Galway 2018.



Edna O'Brien pictured at Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery c.1980

November 28 – December 23 | **Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery** *Celebrating 80 Years* (Group Exhibition, 40 Visual Artists / 40 Writers)

Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery celebrates 80 years in business on November 27th 2020. To mark the occasion Kennys host an engaging and diverse exhibition, which will celebrate the fascinating history of this family-owned Galway business over the last 80 years.

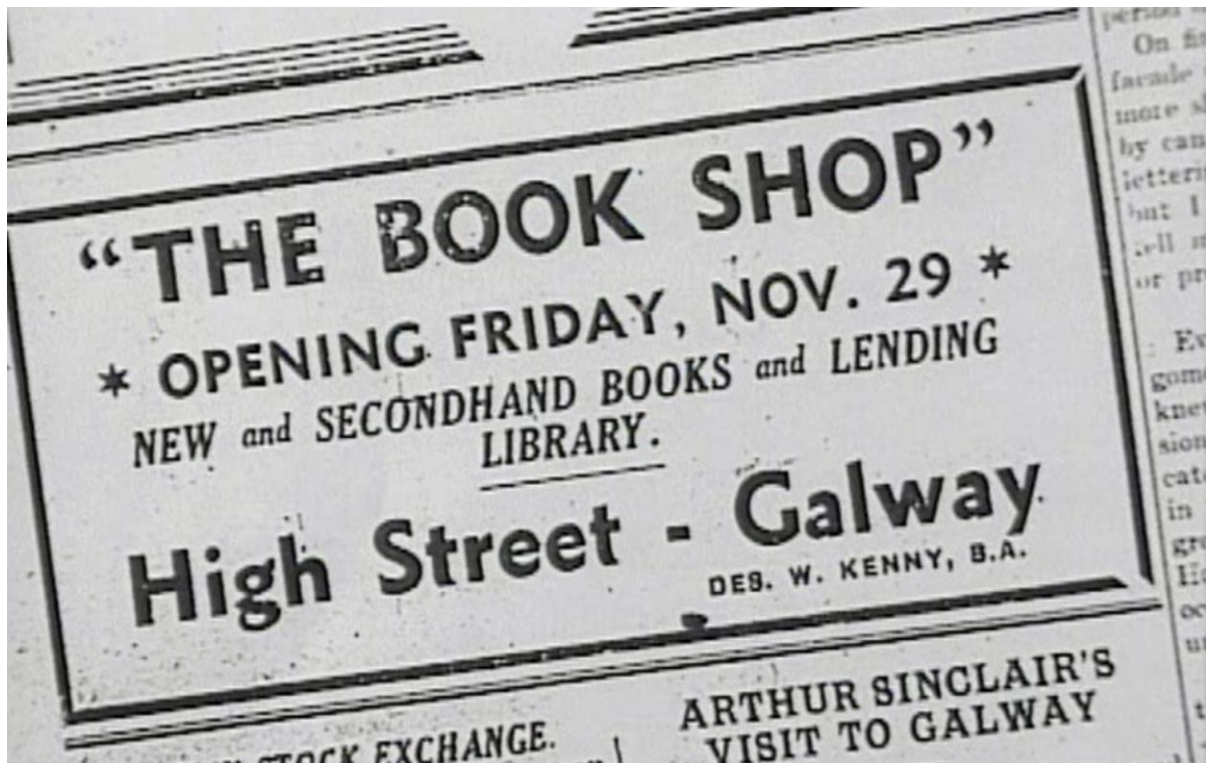
Kennys has been synonymous with Irish culture for decades, and we have been privileged to work with many of the great figures in literature and visual art in Ireland.

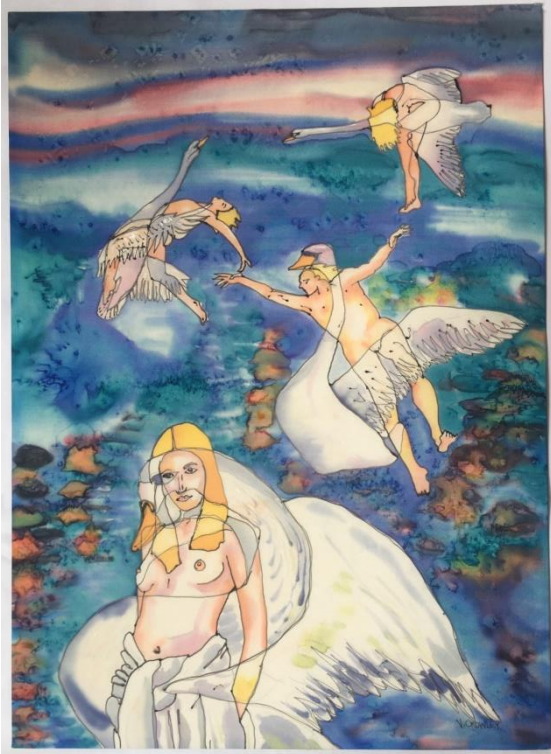
The exhibition displays a range of artworks, photographs, books and manuscripts etc. relating to writers such as Seamus Heaney, John McGahern, Edna O'Brien and Colm Toibín, all of whom have passed through Kennys' doors. It also features many of the artists who have exhibited in Kennys including Seán Keating, Gertrude Degenhardt, George Campbell, John Behan, Robert Ballagh and Kenneth Webb.

International visitors to Kennys over the years will also have a strong presence in this collection, which includes documentation of the visits of Jung Chang, Allen Ginsberg, Roald Dahl, Nadine Gordimer, and many others.



Jung Chang pictured at Kennys Bookshop and Art Gallery





Vicki Crowley, *Legend*, painting on silk, 57x41cm; Dominique Crowley, *R.E.M.*, oil on wood panel, 60x50cm

Jan 15 – Feb 5 (2021) | **Vicki Crowley & Dominique Crowley** *Counterpoint*

Counterpoint emphasizes by difference, one thing forming a notable contrast to something else. In this case, it is between the work of well-known artist Vicki Crowley and that of her daughter, Dominique Crowley. On this, their first time showing work together, their different styles are heightened by opposition with each other, challenging the viewer to see the common threads, a lifetime of knowledge of each other and a shared love of visual poetry and its narrative potential.

Born in Malta, Vicki's extensive travels have informed her broad practice which extends across media. From oils to paintings on silk to an impressive legacy of stained glass church windows, her work often draws from ancient stories, retold in contemporary ways. She shares her love of painting with Dominique who recently trained in fine art after a career in Public Health Medicine. Our place in the world, a prevailing interest to both, requires fresh examination in a rapidly changing planet. This landmark project aims to do just that.

Notes





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