



Laura Vecchi Ford pictured with her portrait of Umberto Eco

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

Historian **Gearóid Ó Tuataigh** officially opened an exhibition of new and retrospective paintings by **Laura Vecchi Ford**, the second event of Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery's 80th Anniversary year / Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture schedule.

The opening took place on Friday 6th March at 6:00 pm at the Kenny Gallery, Liosbán, Galway City.

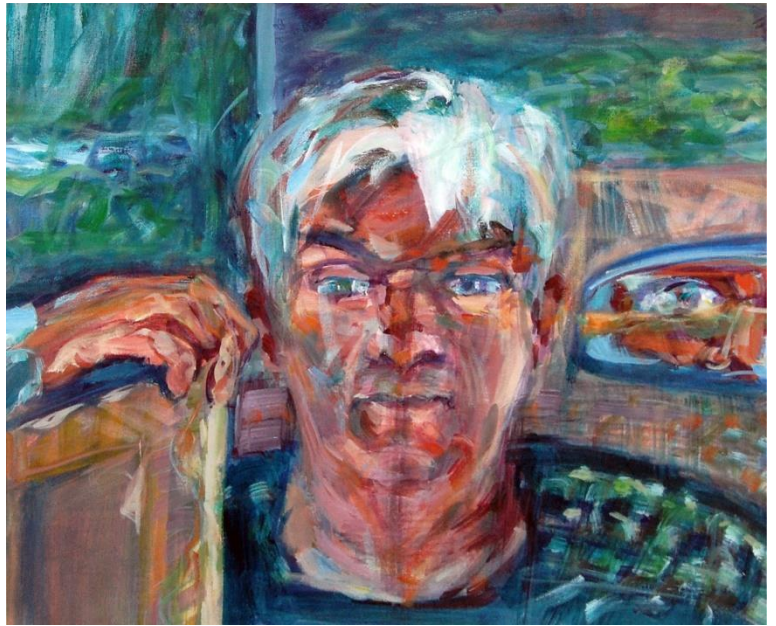
For more than thirty years Laura Vecchi Ford taught Italian at University, but for much longer than that she has been a Visual Artist.

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 was 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, 2020.

The opening, also saw 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' – a memorable occasion!



Laura Vecchi Ford, *Beyond and Within*, Mixed Media on Canvas, 24x40in

(Image above: Laura Vecchi Ford, *Portrait of Seán McSweeney*, Acrylic on Board, 20x24in)



