

PÁDRAIC REANEY

Oileán, 1988-2020, Malta – Ireland – Scotland | Paintings & Graphics November 12 – December 8, The Kenny Gallery, Galway

"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 Brenda Fitzsimons, 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, derived and developed from the artist's repository of sketchbooks and studies.

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.



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Pádraic Reaney was born in Carraroe, Co. Galway in 1952. Basically self-taught, he went to art college for a few years encouraged by the well-known sculptor Oisin Kelly and has been a full-time artist since leaving college. He painted for several years in Galway; later he built a studio in Moycullen, where he now lives and works.

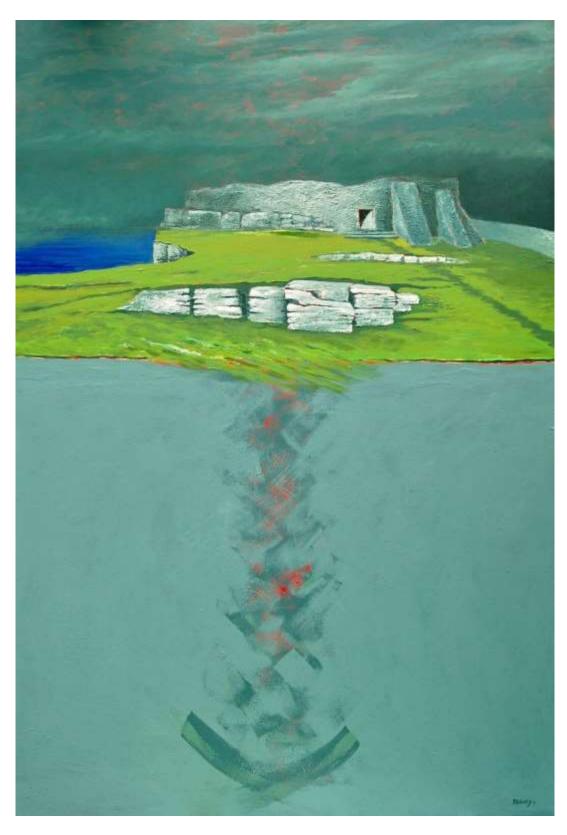
In addition to his painting, he has worked widely in graphics (etching, silk, screen etc.) and has done sculpture in bronze and stone and ceramic with a rich use of silver and gold leaf. His work is in great demand for book covers and illustrations, and he has recently created a series of striking wall hangings done in the studio of V'Soske Joyce.

A film was made of one of his very successful exhibitions based on the Táin, which was the RTÉ entry in the Pan Celtic International Film Festival in 1988 - it was one of the three top films in the festival. This film and an interview with the artist were shown on RTÉ, where several short features on his work and interviews with him have appeared throughout the last years.

A founder member of Western Artists, Island Connection, and Drimcong Press (with Brian Bourke and Jay Murphy), he was awarded the Padraic Mac Con Midhe Prize at the Oireachtas in 1979 to do a series of etchings recording the rapidly disappearing thatched houses in Ros an Mhíl, Connemara. He also represented Ireland in the XVIth Grand Prix International d'Arts Contemporain de Monte Carlo in 1982.

A founder member of Western Artists and Island Connection, he was invited to Scotland by the North Ayrshire Council in 1996 to do a series of exhibitions on the Isles and the West Coast of Scotland. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Galway Arts Centre in 1996 and served on the Board until 1999.

His work is in public and private collections in this country as well as in Europe, Canada, the United States, Brazil and Japan.



Pádraic Reaney, Dún Aonghasa. Acrylic on Board, 48x32in



Pádraic Reaney, Inishark Island. Acrylic on Board. 48x32in



Pádraic Reaney, Tree, Tenerife, Block Print, 15x12in

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The artist wishes to express his sincere thanks to The Heinrich Boll Cottage, Achill Island, Merril Hammer for Inishbofin Photos and to Mayo Arts Office.

"This exhibition is dedicated to the late Dr Paul Haworth, an ever dear friend." PR Contact: Dean Kelly / Tom Kenny

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Gallery hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00