

paintings
inspired by nature

TRIO

by Fiona
Concannon,
Martina
Furlong &
Marja
van Kampen

5 April —
4 May, 2024



KENNY
GALLERY

The Kenny Gallery
Liosbán Retail Park
Tuam Road
Galway H91N5P8

thekennygallery.ie
+353 (0)91 709 350



Artists (L-R) Marja van Kampen, Martina Furlong and Fiona Concannon at the Kenny Gallery

TRIO - paintings inspired by nature

by Fiona Concannon, Martina Furlong & Marja van Kampen

5 April – 4 May, 2024 | The Kenny Gallery, Galway

It's always wonderful to welcome back a familiar exhibitor to the gallery for a formal exhibition. It shines a spotlight, often leading to well-deserved attention and admiration. However, with 'Trio', we are treated to the collective works of three such artists – friends of the gallery and friends of each other. Fiona Concannon, Martina Furlong, and Marja van Kampen frequently exhibit together, but this marks their first joint exhibition in Galway.

A common theme running through this exhibition is nature, serving as the rich tapestry that inspires, motivates, and unites these artists. The collection comprises approximately 45 paintings, forming a cohesive body despite the distinct perspectives of each artist. Surprisingly, these pieces complement each other remarkably well despite their unique contrasts.

The official opening of 'TRIO – Paintings Inspired by Nature' by Fiona Concannon, Martina Furlong, & Marja van Kampen will be held at the Kenny Gallery in Galway (H91 N5P8) on Friday, April 5th, at 6:00 pm. The exhibition will be officially opened by Eithne Verling, Director of the Galway City Museum.

The exhibition will continue Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00, until 4th May.

Admission is free and all are welcome.

Cover images: Fiona Concannon, The Warmth of the Night, Watercolour, c.12x16in

Martina Furlong, Whispers In The Wind, Oil on Canvas, 20x24in

Marja van Kampen, Capturing Summer Butterflies (detail), Acrylic on Canvas, 20x20in



Fiona Concannon, Carraroe Sunset, Watercolour, c.12x16in

Colour has always been an integral part of Fiona Concannon's art practice, it is the process of painting that captivates and inspires her – the building up of layers of colour, creating a sense of depth, warmth and mystery.

In this current body of work, Fiona is exploring the depths of colours she has seen in the warm and wonderful sunsets seen in her nearby surroundings in Connemara. Using watercolour paints, she finds that this medium lends itself very well to creating the layers of colours that can be seen in the sky, the light constantly changing. Working from photographs, sketches and memories, Fiona explores the energy and flow of light and colour.

Fiona hails from Spiddal, Co. Galway. She received a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Painting from Crawford College of Art and Design in 1997, Masters in Fine Art – University of Ulster, 2003, and a Higher Diploma in Art and Design Education from the NCAD in 2007.



Martina Furlong, Alongside Us, Oil on Canvas, 20x20in

Martina Furlong's work is influenced by the things she sees and experiences daily, most notably landscape and the human-nature relationship. The paintings in this exhibition are an exploration of our spiritual ties to the landscape, and how it links us to our ancestors, history and culture.

These pieces tell the stories the land holds, for Martina, and celebrates the connection between us, the earth and life beyond. This is where our ancestors sat, where they harvested their food, celebrated, lamented and were laid to rest. Their ancient conversation, now whispers in the wind.

Speaking about her work, Martina says, *"I paint from the inside out, using the meditative power of painting to create a lyrical interplay of lines, shapes, textures and colours to express my ideas"*.



Marja van Kampen, Island Girl, Acrylic on Canvas, 16x16in

Marja van Kampen's paintings are inspired by childhood memories and travel. Her vibrant colour palette and use of patterns are influenced particularly by her travels in India. While using the female motif as a centre point, she turns her paintings into near mythical landscapes by enlarging elements, distorting proportions and discarding perspective to give her work a playful and dreamlike quality.

She is originally from The Netherlands and lives in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford. She has been awarded 'Most Creative Abstract Artist' in the Irish Enterprise Award 2024. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at the Signal Arts Centre, Bray and an exhibition of nine Irish female artists in the Art Museum, Ankara, Turkey. Her work is in the collections of the Arts Council of Ireland, Office of Public Works and Áras an Uachtaráin, the residence of the President of Ireland.

The exhibition will continue Monday to Saturday, 9:00-17:00, until 4th May. Admission is free and all are welcome.



KENNY
GALLERY

Kennys Bookshop & Art Gallery
Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road,
Galway, H91 N5P8, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)91 709 350
Email: art@kennys.ie
www.thekennygallery.ie

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