

Robert Ballagh & Rachel Ballagh

BALLAGH & BALLAGH ...ON PAPER

Limited prints & original works on paper by Rachel Ballagh and by Robert Ballagh - 7 June to 4 July 2013.

Robert Ballagh was born in Dublin in 1943, he studied architecture and worked as an engineering draughtsman, a musician and a postman before taking up painting in 1967. He represented Ireland at the Paris Biennale in 1969, and at graphic exhibitions in Florence, Ljubljana and Tokyo. His paintings are held in collections including the National Gallery of Ireland, the Ulster Museum, the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery, and the Albrecht Dürer House, Nuremberg. Major survey exhibitions of his work have taken place in Lund, Warsaw, Sofia and Dublin.

As a graphic designer he has produced over 70 stamps for An Post, the final series of Irish banknotes before the introduction of the euro, and numerous murals, posters, limited prints and book covers.

His notable work in the theatre includes set design for I'll Go On, Gate Theatre (1985); the Riverdance company; Samuel Beckett's Endgame, Gate Theatre (1991); Steven Berkoff's production of Oscar Wilde's Salomé, Gate Theatre, Dublin (1998) and the staging for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Croke Park, Dublin (2003).

“Because my working practise as a painter tends to be detailed, methodical and above all, slow, my pictures not only take a long time to complete but also end up being quite expensive. Sadly this means that few people can afford to buy them. As a result of this I have always felt a democratic impulse to produce works on paper, whether original drawings or limited edition prints in order to make my art available to a wider range of people”

Rachel Ballagh, daughter of Robert, was born in Dublin in 1968 and graduated from the National College of Art & Design in 1992. In the past Rachel has used light and camera to depict interior worlds of many secret and playful themes while at the same time being intensely serious. She has received a number of awards from the Arts Council of Ireland and has a number of works in private collections as well as the Gordon Lambert Art Collection.

“I moved from Temple Bar Galleries and Studios a number of years ago, to live in County Cork. I found my work shifted from mainly lens based, to drawing.

The drawings explore line, shape, structure and colour of the flora and fauna, that are found in the many hedgerows and surrounding landscape. The drawings capture a sense of ordered chaos, where nature wraps around itself and engulfs all, on its very determined pathway.”