

McKee, Jim

Jim McKee has been a professional artist since 2001 and has exhibited extensively throughout Ireland, the UK, USA and France.

He is self-taught and is fearless with paint.

"Jim has developed a personal and recognizable style, imbued with life and energy and colour. He uses a palette knife, virtually playing the oils like a musical instrument and the results are humorous and honest, impressionistic renderings and reflections of Ireland today, its passing traditions, its people and its landscape.

His portraits are strong in expression, vibrant in colour and invariably of subjects who have made a major impact on his life." – Tom Kenny, THE KENNY GALLERY, GALWAY, 2008

His work has been collected by Michael D Higgins, Bank of Ireland Galway & Dublin, Eddie O'Sullivan (Irish Rugby Manager), Mary Coughlan (Jazz singer), Patrick Bergin (actor), Sharon Shannon and many more celebrities.

Jim's paintings have been used on several music album covers for artists including Mairtin

O'Connor/Cathal Hayden/Seamie O'Dowd (‘Crossroads’), Dave Sheridan

(‘Sheridan's Guesthouse’ & ‘Driving Leitrim Timber’) Mickey Coleman (Last Glance)

and most recently his portrait of Thomas Clarke was used on the cover of ‘Our Own Rebel Hero’ by PJ McDonald. His paintings have also been used as posters to promote festivals such as Cruinnu na mBhad, Cuckoo Fleadh (both Kinvara) and French musical festivals.

Jim has just completed a very successful exhibition (May 2016) in Lens and Grenay France, entitled Remembering Soldiers which depicted scenes from the First World War and the 1916 Easter Rising. He has also been commissioned to return to France in July and August to paint six murals in the village of Grenay, which is twinned with Ballyshannon, Co Donegal, a challenge which he is very much looking forward to.

The Burren has become his spiritual home, a major factor in his life. He finds inspiration all around him... in a cluster of wildflowers, a bend of the lane, a corner of a bog, a tractor in the landscape, boats at rest and the colours of the Burren.