



CUSTOM HOUSE STUDIOS + GALLERY

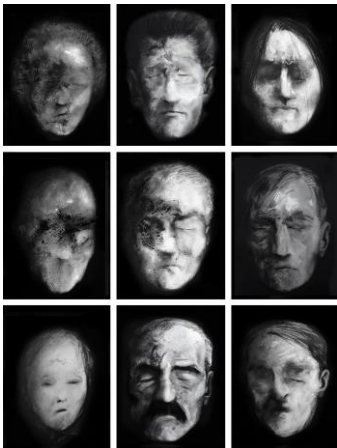
Culture Night Friday, 22nd September 2023



Píob Chuan Modh

18:30

Banna Píob Chuan Modh was established in October 2010 with a view to setting up a Pipe Band in the Clew Bay Area. Banna Píob Chuan Modh translates as The Clew Bay Pipe Band.



Meet the Artist: Eoin Mac Lochlainn

19:00

Cogadh na gCarad/ the War between Friends

“Cogadh na gCarad/ the War between Friends” is a project that explores the trauma of the Irish Civil War. Eoin has spent the last two years creating 1400 charcoal drawings to try to understand this tragic episode in our history.

Background: When reading about the Civil War I was struck by historian Diarmaid Ferriter’s assessment of it as “a small-scale affair” with only about 1400 people killed. Small perhaps (when compared to 36,000 deaths in the Finnish Civil War around the same time) but for me, 1,400 dead meant that 1,400 families were bereaved and many, many more were traumatised. I decided that I would make 1,400 drawings to commemorate the dead and, in some way, to acknowledge the trauma. The drawings are not portraits – and not based on

actual people who were killed during the conflict. Each piece is an attempt to represent a soul, someone with dreams and ambitions, someone whose life was cut short. The series does not pass judgement or take sides. Who knows today what stance we would have taken - or how we would have acted in the same situation - but I think that it is important to remember the Irish Civil War and to mark it - to remind ourselves that peace should never be taken for granted. The work continues to put other global conflicts in perspective for me. War is a failure of empathy, a failure of Humanity. Whatever the cause, when it comes down to it, it’s always some mother’s son, it is somebody’s sister or brother, somebody’s neighbour who is killed.

Eoin Mac Lochlainn graduated from NCAD in Dublin in 2000. In 2008, he won the Golden Fleece Award, was shortlisted for the Davy Portrait Award and won the ESB Keating McLaughlin Medal at the RHA Annual Exhibition in 2010. He won an Arts Council Agility Award in 2022. He has had more than ten solo exhibitions in Ireland and has participated in selected and invited exhibitions (RHA, RUA, Iontas, Éigse) and various group shows in Ireland, USA, England, France, Belgium, Georgia and China. His work is in the collections of: Air Lease Corporation, OPW (the State Art Collection), AIB, Bank of Ireland, AXA Insurance, University of Limerick, Donegal County Council, Wesley College and the Boyle Civic Collection. He writes a weekly artblog entitled: **Scéalta Ealaíne** at <https://emacl.wordpress.com>



Matters of Matter - Hazel Mc Crann

Upstairs Gallery

Inspiration for this current body of work stems from the materials and processes used to make the work. The work derives from the act of painting itself and all the uncertainties and revelations that painting can reveal. Avoidance of preconceived ideas or narratives is a tactic within this current method of working, a tactic through which the work can be discovered. Any illusionistic elements within the paintings can be viewed as bi-products of interactions between materials used while making the work. The paintings were made during and after the pandemic. The paintings and the process of their making echo the repetitive, precarious messiness of everyday living which seemed to amplify when the world grew quiet; the mixing, the pouring, the scraping, the scrubbing, the scrolling, the swiping, the pulling, the pushing, the waiting. Working on several paintings at once means that the paintings become part of an interactive series of work, each piece influencing the other.

Mostly painted on board they vary from small intimate paintings to larger more immersive pieces. The boards are laid out flat on the ground or on tables. The paint is mixed with various materials and the resulting matter is laid on in layers. Using the tools of painting and sometimes bare hands, the matter is manipulated in ways that chime with the everyday. It is at this point, as the echoes of everyday life reveal themselves, that the art becomes the work, and the work becomes the art. Working this way creates a space for unpredictable events to occur, attending to and reacting upon these events creates a dialogue with the painting. As the layers build up over time, colours and forms appear and disappear, a surface changes and is formed. This surface is shaped by what lies beneath, what happens on the surface begins deep within. This process of making has no predetermined goal and so the work strives for a sense of the unresolved as it embraces the unruly nature of the materials used. There is a crossover point where, as the build-up of matter increases, the paintings begin to claim their own space and reveal themselves.

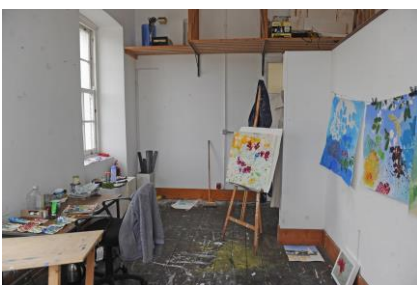
Hazel Mc Crann is a visual artist living and working in the West of Ireland. Her primary focus centres around the act of painting as a process of investigation and discovery. Her current body of work is informed by the inherent performativity and materiality of her painting process. Her work strives for a sense of the unresolved as it embraces the unruly nature of the methods and materials used. For her the process of making has no predetermined goal and is more important than the result. She graduated from the Atlantic Technological University in 2021 with an MA in Creative Practice through Fine Art. She was awarded the Governing Body Award for First in Order of Merit for Master of Arts in Creative Practice by the Atlantic Technological University, Ireland. In 2018 she was awarded the Graduate Solo Exhibition Award by Sligo Institute of Technology, Ireland which took place in The Hyde Bridge Gallery in Sligo in 2019, titled Peripheral Visions. Her work has been included in exhibitions at The Model, Sligo, The Hamilton Gallery, Sligo, The Linenhall Arts Centre, Mayo, The Leitrim Sculpture Centre and the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin. Her paintings were selected for the 2019 and the 2022 RHA Annual Exhibition held in Dublin.



Open Printmaking Studio

18:00 – 20:30

Come along and participate by making your own drypoint print. Full technical guidance provided by Caroline Masterson and Susie Quinn. Enjoy a fun evening of creativity and walk away with your own original piece of art.



Open Studios

18:00 – 20.30

An opportunity to visit working artist's studios.



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

