

Remarkable women lead sale of important art at Sheppard's

Works by Grace Henry and Countess Markievicz on offer



Philip Carton
Fine Arts

Currently on view at its Durrow auction rooms is Sheppard's 263-lot Important Irish & International Art Sale, which takes place on September 16, and has plenty to pique the interest of novice and seasoned collectors.

My sale highlights are by trailblazing female artists, beginning with lot 15: Sailing Boats, Chioggia, Venice by Grace Henry (€5,000 to €8,000).

Echoes of her work from 20 years earlier can be seen in the treatment of water and the subject matter itself, an authentic scene of fishing boats with billowing sails in Chioggia a fishing port on the Venetian lagoon over the romantic grandeur of the floating city.

Lot 21: South Seas by Pauline Bewick, is a mixed media piece that includes watercolour, pen, collage and text (€600 to €900).

In the early 1980s, Bewick spent time on the Cook Island of Aitutaki. The work, which includes narrative

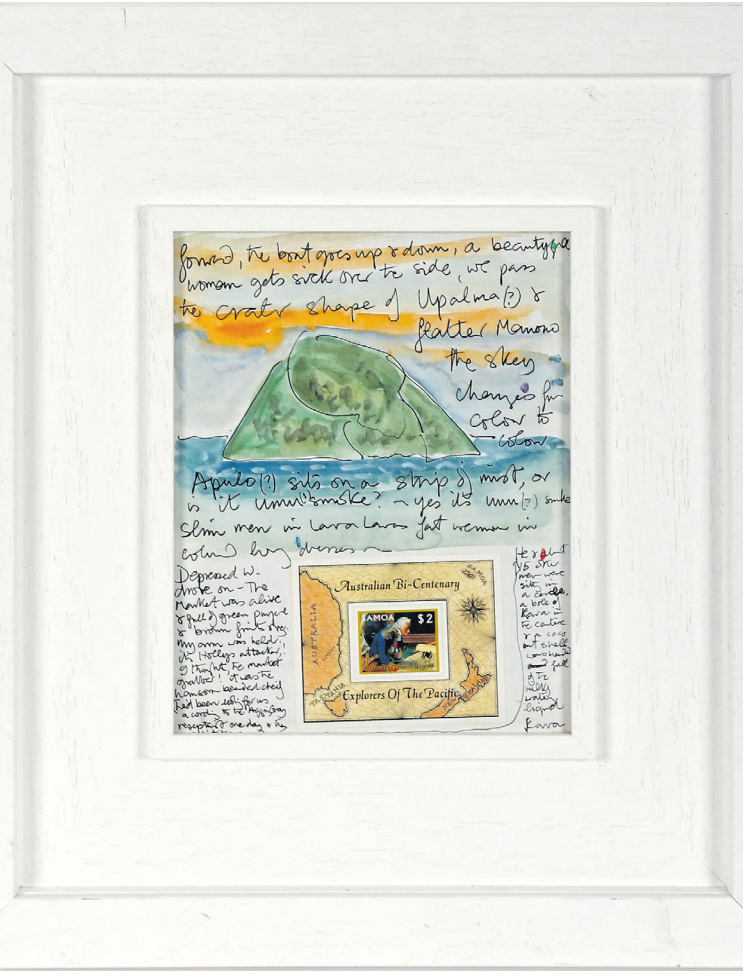


Countess Markievicz self-portrait, €600 to €900

text reflecting on travel and observations, paired with an affixed commemorative Samoan stamp titled Australian Bi-Centenary: Explorers of the Pacific, is an endearing memento.

Lot 36 is a self-portrait of the artist, revolutionary and politician, Constance Gore-Booth, Countess Markievicz (€600 to €900).

The delicate sketch of this remarkable figure, who was a commanding officer during The 1916 Rising and the first female elected to Westminster in 1918, has stellar provenance, having sold in the Gore-Booth Family Collection Sale in May 2002.



South Seas by Pauline Bewick, estimate €600 to €900

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We finish with a most intriguing artist, Stella Steyn. Lot 51: Potted Azaleas is one of two works in the auction

by this Dublin-born artist, (€600 to €900).

Steyn represented Ireland in Painting at the 1928 Olympics, was a friend of Beckett and Joyce, the latter having also invited her to illustrate

an instalment of Finnegans Wake in 1929.

In 1931, she enrolled in the Bauhaus School of Design at Dessau, Germany, working with Kandinsky and Klee. It is widely believed she

was the only Irish person to have studied and worked at Bauhaus. The present work is more Fauvist in style but is a nice example of this fascinating character.
See: sheppards.ie



Sailing Boats, Chioggia, Venice, by Grace Henry, estimate €5,000 to €8,000



Potted Azaleas by Stella Steyn, €600 to €900



Some people say that it must be 'very relaxing' being an artist. I don't find this at all

Meet the artist: Eoin Mac Lochlainn

Dublin-born Eoin Mac Lochlainn is a graduate of the National College of Art and Design (NCAD) and is today best known for his socially engaged artistic practice, which explores themes of homelessness, conflict, diaspora and the environment.

Major projects include Cogadh na gCarad (2023), a powerful Civil War remembrance series of 1,400 portraits, and Tinteáin Tréighe, focused on abandoned Irish homes.

He has exhibited widely in Ireland and abroad, received awards from the RHA and Arts Council, and is represented in major public collections. He also writes the art blog Scéalta Ealaíne.

His current exhibition An ghaoth aniar/This too will pass, a series of paintings, examines the effects of wind and rain on old fence posts. It runs until October 3 at the Olivier Cornet Gallery, Dublin; see: oliviercornetgallery.com.

How my artistic journey began

There was a lot of creativity in my family and we all drew and painted as we grew up. I suppose that winning some awards in the Texaco Children's Art Competition led me to consider art as a way of life.

Where the title for my current show came from

The work for this show has been developing over the last few years. I became interested in how the wind and rain affected old fence posts by the sea. I was fascinated by the bizarre shapes caused by the erosion and also seeing the inner structure of the wood being laid bare.

The title An ghaoth aniar/This too will pass is a reminder of the ancient Persian adage: 'This too will pass' and the Irish refers to the wind from the West.

The most valuable investment - of time, money, or energy - I've made in my career

An art studio in our back garden.

A place that means a lot to me

Ros muc in Connemara.

What I want the audience to feel when viewing my work

I hope that they will be reminded of the beauty and the awesome power of nature - and then I hope that they will think about where the world is going in these troubled times.



An Ghaoth Aniar/This too will pass XIII, Eoin Mac Lochlainn

The biggest misconception people have about being an artist today

Some people say that it must be "very relaxing" being an artist. I don't find this at all. The time spent in the studio can be very intense, with many wrong turns, heartache and failures. It is only the successful pieces that are finally hung on the gallery walls for the public to see.

A recent cultural moment - film, book, exhibition, event - that has stayed with me "Tomorrow's Freedom", a film about the Palestinian political leader Marwan Barghout, who has been in prison in Israel since 2002. Barghout was an elected member of parliament and played a crucial role in supporting the Oslo Peace Accords in the 90s. Also, I was delighted when the poet Geraldine Mitchell wrote a poem inspired by my fence post paintings.

How do you see technology reshaping the art world?

I find Photoshop particularly useful when I'm painting with watercolour on raw birch panel because, once the paint soaks into the wood, it is difficult to change or undo it. Photoshop allows me to experiment with colour combinations and compositions etc. before finally applying paint.

Perhaps the handmade and unique object will be appreciated more, in our digitally saturated world.

If I could disrupt one thing about the art world

I think that artists work best when we support each other. I'm not keen on competitions or the constant pressure to have our work noticed. The Basic Income for the Arts scheme was a Godsend for a small number of artists. I think that it would be great if this scheme was expanded in the future.

The Art of Taste: Ib Jorgensen's collection on offer

Always an autumn season auction highlight, Adam's Important Irish Art evening sale takes place on September 24.

The 139-lot auction includes an impressive offering with 32 artworks coming from the personal collection of renowned gallerist and taste-maker Ib Jorgensen. According to the auctioneers, "having recently turned the grand age of 90, he has decided to take things a little easier and is divesting himself of some of the excess pieces in his collection".

Artists from the Jorgensen collection range from Basil Rakoczi, Patrick Collins, Norah McGuinness to sculpture by Carolyn Mulholland and Rowan Gillespie.

My attention was drawn to four jewel-like works. They



Grey Pan on Ochre by William Scott, €30,000 to €50,000

include lot 6: Barn Owl by Edward McGuire, (€15,000 to €20,000), the oil on board from 1983, is a meticulous depiction of an owl, its feathers almost emerging from the board.

Lot 17: Hot Weather/A Hot Day by Jack Butler Yeats (€40,000 to €60,000), is a

petite and perfectly composed composition, painted during a visit to Kerry in 1913 when the artist spent time in the area learning Irish.

Moving towards abstraction with lot 39: Grey Pan on Ochre (€30,000 to €50,000), one of two works on paper by William Scott in



Rode, Sean Scully, 30,000 to €50,000

the auction. Boasting an impressive exhibition history, the work captures all keys elements of Scott's austere still lives.

We end with lot 40: Robe by Sean Scully, (€30,000 to €50,000). This mesmerising minimalist watercolour forms part of series, which



Hot Weather, by Jack Butler Yeats, €40,000 to €60,000

the catalogue entry notes drew inspiration from The Book of Durrow in which Scully was taken with a page featuring a representation of St Matthew the Evangelist.

It reads: "The saint is attired in a lavish robe with a flatly rendered geometric chequer-board pattern, incorporating

diagonal panels. It spurred Scully to reflect on some of the properties - the ceremony and magic - of clothing, the way it can define status and character, and the nature of fabric: its tactility, the way it drapes, the way it carries colour and pattern".
See: adams.ie

Irish art auction brings summer to autumn walls

For anyone wanting to capture summer warmth and light on their walls this autumn, Morgan O'Driscoll's Irish Art Online auction, which closes on September 15, has among its 199 lots some delightful works to keep the sun shining.

Lot 3, Poplars in the Evening Light by the celebrated impressionist Arthur K Maderson (€2,500 to €3,500), is a scene that captures three Friesian cows resting in the cool blue shade of towering poplar trees amid the contrasting soft warm haze of the landscape behind.



Sunlight in the Old Town, Nice, Mark O'Neill, €4,000 to €6,000

Lot 12, Sunlight in the Old Town, Nice by Mark O'Neill, is a textured and light-filled work depicting a café in the early morning with a rich

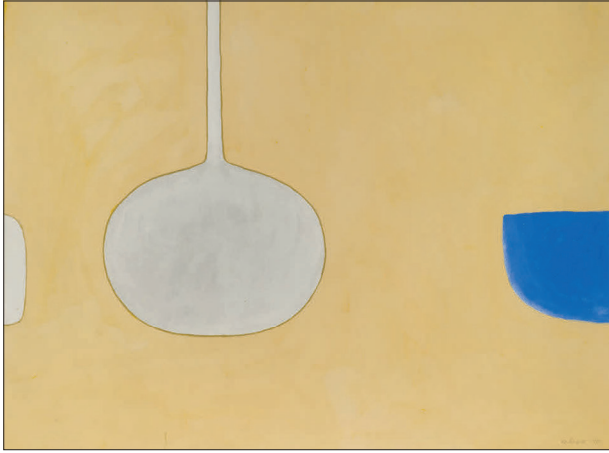
red awning further protected from the early morning sun by a mature tree, which anchors the right-hand side of the canvas, (€4,000 to €6,000).

Lot 122 Skerries by John Morris is a more animated work by the artist best known for his striking blue beach paintings. This work captures a busy day at the beach with the tide out (€500 to €700).

Finally, lot 137, Elizabeth Cope's The Conservatory, (€1,000 to €1,500), is a pacy still life which centres around a bowl of fruit with a vibrant summery palette of greens, reds and blues.
See: morganodriscoll.com

Important Irish Art Auction

Wednesday 24th September at 6PM



William Scott RA (1913-1989)
Grey Pan on Ochre (1975)
Gouache, 56 x 76cm
Archive No.871

€ 30,000 - 50,000

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IMPORTANT IRISH & INTERNATIONAL ART

AUCTION: 16 SEPTEMBER @ 6P.M.
PREVIEW: 12 - 15 SEPTEMBER
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CATALOGUE LIVE ONLINE
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What's on

- Opening September 14:** Art at the Falls, Gormleys presents works at the Sheen Falls Hotel, Kenmare by leading artists, including Andy Warhol, Damien Hirst and Kerry native Liam O'Neill at the hotel until October 12; see: gormley.ie
- September 17:** Online Asian Art by Adam's, Dublin; see: adams.ie
- Until September 20:** At the End of the Day a collection of atmospheric new paintings by Carol Hodder at Solomon Gallery, Dublin; see: solomonfineart.ie
- Until October 4:** Circa Ré at Kerlin Gallery, Dublin a solo exhibition of new work by Hazel O'Sullivan; see: kerlingallery.com
- Until October 26:** Cities of the World by Kathy Prendergast + Chris Leach at the Butler Gallery, Kilkenny. The works offer a fascinating juxtaposition and prompt wider discussions around geography, architecture and politics - what cities say about us and what they don't; see: buttergallery.ie

MORGAN O'DRISCOLL

IRISH ART ONLINE AUCTION



BIDDING ENDS MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER
Between 6.30pm & 9pm
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