



Roy Hewson, NGI

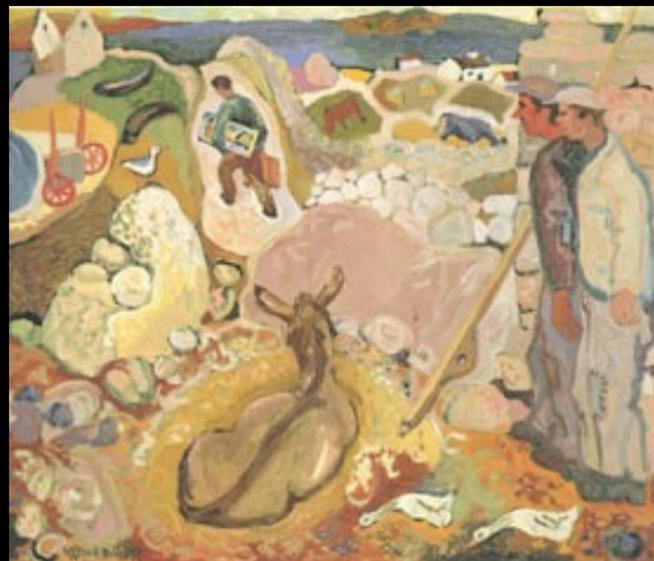
Dr. Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch was born in Dublin and educated at University College Dublin and Trinity College, Dublin. Curator of Irish Art at the National Gallery of Ireland since 1998, she previously taught art history at UCD and was a tutor for the Open University. Her interest in art began with a fascination for the illustrations in books she read as a child and it was further enhanced by many visits to the National Gallery in Dublin with her father, the late Brendan Breathnach, author of *Ceol Rince na hÉireann* and many other seminal books on the history of Irish music. A personal interest in Irish art and Irish history led to a study of fine art from the point of view of the political, social, and cultural context in which that art has been produced and its relationship to the “story” of Ireland.

FRONT COVER, TOP: Charles Lamb, *Loch an Mhuilinn*, oil on board, 1930s. National Gallery of Ireland

FRONT COVER, BOTTOM: Harry Kernoff Sunny Day, Dublin, oil on canvas, 1943. Allied Irish Bank Collection, Dublin

BACK COVER: Gerard Dillon, *Island People*, oil on board, c. 1951. Crawford Art Gallery

IRISH STUDIES/ART HISTORY



“In this timely and important book of essays Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch does what she is very well-placed to do—chart the coming of age of art history in Ireland, to mark the resurgence of interest in Irish art and how the construction of identities has been influenced by and reflected in artistic expression and the tensions in the contemporary dialogue between art and commemoration.”

MICHAEL F. RYAN, *Director, Chester Beatty Library*

Creighton University Press

2007

www2.creighton.edu/cupress



Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch
Ireland's Art/Ireland's History
REPRESENTING IRELAND, 1845 TO PRESENT



CREIGHTON
UNIVERSITY
PRESS

IRELAND'S ART IRELAND'S HISTORY

REPRESENTING IRELAND, 1845 TO PRESENT

Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch



This volume of essays brings together the ongoing research of Síghle Bhreathnach-Lynch in the unique relationship between the fine arts and the narration of Ireland's history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Until recently little attention was paid to the role of art in constructing the “story” of the nation by scholars and students from all disciplines including that of art history. This wide-ranging study of Irish pictures and sculpture opens up the subject by providing a fresh interdisciplinary approach. Each work is analyzed beyond its strictly art historical relevance. A deeper investigation into the context in which a work was produced reveals much about the aspirations and ideological ambitions of artists, those commissioning works, and the viewing public at the time of production and indeed beyond. The study of such diverse topics as the representation of the Irish peasant, the behind-the-scenes tensions in setting up a national gallery for Ireland, the erecting of political monuments, Church art, West of Ireland landscape painting, and the difference in nationalistic fervor among artists as diverse as Albert G. Power and Jack B. Yeats unveil much fascinating testimony about Ireland's collective national “needs” and its constructs of identity.

The history of Ireland music is a fascinating one, encompassing pre-Baroque music, Celtic dance songs, present day rock, and much more. In May, visitors can attend one of the more traditional events in Ireland—the Fleadh Nuo. The Fleadh Nuo is the annual festival of traditional Irish music, song, and dance. It takes place in Ennis, County Clare. Attending a music festival is a fabulous way to learn about the culture and history of Ireland. One of the more popular music festivals in Ireland is the Galway Early Music Festival, which also gives tourists a good look at the history of Ireland music. St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity’s most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture—namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name—his life remains somewhat of a mystery. Many of the stories traditionally ...read more. Like other autonomous nations of the former British Empire, Ireland was to remain part of the British Commonwealth, symbolically subject to the ...read more. Stories. Wildfire Reveals Hidden WWII Message to Bombers Overhead. A wildfire that scorched the coast of Ireland has revealed a World War II-era sign carved into the ground. Irish police officers spotted it while flying over Bray Head to assess the fire’s damage. The partially-eroded sign originally said “IRE,” which means “Ireland” in the ...read more. Stories. History of art “Ireland has a long and rich artistic heritage, some artworks are over 5,000 years old, making them older than the Pyramids in Egypt. Roman influence on Irish art “Roman influence found its way into Irish art thanks to the Roman British. Vikings “destroyers and creators of Irish art “In the 9th century the Vikings burned much cherished art, but 100 years later they had settled and were helping to create it. Ogham symbols “Ogham is an ancient form of Irish writing. It is at least 1,700 years old. The Book of Kells “is Ireland’s most treasured artifact. The religious manuscr