



artists' agents fine art consultants gallery

solomon

Tara Murphy requests the pleasure of your company at the opening day launch of

CAROL HODDER Facing North

on Thursday 3 September 2020 from 12pm to 7pm

Solomon Fine Art, Balfe Street, Dublin 2

The exhibition continues until Saturday 26 September 2020

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5.30pm / Saturday: 11am – 4pm
tel: +353 (0)1 672 4429 / email: info@solomonfineart.ie / www.solomonfineart.ie

front cover: Facing North, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm inside cover: Thaw, oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm back cover: Ice Field ii, 2020, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 cm

CAROL HODDER: Facing North

Carol Hodder's paintings rarely announce their intent in advance, arriving to her instead without fanfare and in their own good time. This means that a painting will usually start without a definite plan and will change and evolve until there is some form of resolution that she can live with. The process remains transitory, but the artist has learned to be patient and to welcome a finished painting like a long-lost friend.

Fleeting influences accumulate incrementally, gently guiding the composition as it emerges and recedes and emerges again from resonant paint textures. Indeed, the artwork almost becomes corporeal by the physical weight of the paint which has accumulated on the canvas - time itself becomes the touchstone that accrues proliferating brushstrokes. Correspondingly, an under-painted canvas would somehow seem like cheating, conspiring against emotions and the senses infused within the impasto.

The beauty within these paintings comes from the fact that the artist has spent quality time with them – in some cases months, years or even on one rare occasion, two decades. She coaxes them to emerge from limbo, willing them to yield to a flourish of colour or the patinated texture that finally unites an image. Importantly, the time taken to ponder and reflect has for this exhibition, allowed Hodder to make some important decisions. Long-standing preoccupations finally emerge from her memory and subconscious and manifest as figurative motifs and architectural structures imbued with an increasingly metaphorical presence.

Of note in this new collection is the human form which veers tentatively into the light-not with the exultation "here I am" - but instead with discretion. In the painting *Mudlark* the figure is a mudlark sifting through shoreline sands for objects of interest or value. Elsewhere, the figure is a motif that represents childhood memories, such as those of the artist's Father (in one painting still in progress and not included in this exhibition, he is portrayed as a younger man, pushing

through the fields setting about a task with energy and verve). Indeed, her Father's recent passing is less than an unbearable sadness and more the marking and culmination of a life well lived. There are no regrets or need for closure, as the spirituality of the artist is nourished by a '...life beyond the here and now...'. Other dimensions contiguous with our own can console, especially if one believes that we stay around - in one way or another – after our death.

The other symbolic image in this exhibition other than the landscape mainstay, is the architectural or atmospheric representation of a portal - a conduit for memories of people and places. Hodder's enduring avoidance of literal representation of a specific landscape, supports this idea of movement between time and place, where a transmigration of the soul is allied to the experience of the physical landscape. It is as if this spirituality filters out noise and entrusts an enduring silence trapped in a vacuum confined by the elemental forces of the Earth itself.

A residency in Iceland and the cultural and geographical adventure it prompted, still feeds into the artwork for Facing North. A visit to the Museum of Prophecies, Skagaströnd, was influential insofar as the cultural mores and superstitions surrounding the belief in the Huldufólk are omnipresent and still feature in contemporary Scandinavian life. It is this palpable feeling that something is hidden or absent amidst the atmospherics of the northern aesthetic; light, darkness, fire and ice are inculcated into the psyche. The drama of the natural elemental forces seem to feed into the energy of paint and can only be harnessed if the artist labours. It is almost arrogant to even try to realise this with oil paint, but yet, Hodder manages to do so in paintings like Night Portal where thick paint, glistens with reflected light, and somehow seems to glow inwardly in a fashion akin to watercolour. It is a transubstantiation of pigment into light that the artist would agree, could not have been anticipated and would be nearly impossible to achieve as perfectly again.

The division between land and sky is changing and has become even more dynamic as increasingly the use of structure

is underpinning the compositions. The tiny painting *Ice Field i* is dominated by a dark ominous wedge-like shape that obliterates pictorial space, but look close, very close and the discrete colours that peer from underneath the top layers of paint smoulder with a menacing beauty. The lines are crisp but then almost simultaneously dissolve into sfumato. These contrasts empower the surface and reward the minutest scrutiny that even a microscope would afford. Many of the medium and larger paintings maintain this feeling of contrast where veils of colour carve up pictorial space, while tone and texture drag the eye around the composition through exquisite aerial perspective.

The isolation of the North is for Hodder a state of mind rather than a geographical location. The desire to look to the wilderness is strong, a desire for isolation as a unifier of the human condition though is even more problematic in today's hyper-connected world. Oddly, Gwen John's painting A Corner of the Artist's Room in Paris (1907–09) comes to mind, as that painting, like Hodder's' work, is about absence and the desire to be somewhere else even if that means staying put. Because even in isolation there is the hope that we be reunited again be it after a journey, after an illness, after confinement, after death, after this infernal pandemic.

Mark Ewart August 2020

Mark Ewart is a lecturer in Art and Design Education at CIT Crawford College of Art and Design. He is also an art teacher at Ashton School, a writer and artist based in Cork City.

Night Harbour oil on canvas 100 x 100 cm





Night Portal oil on canvas 76 x 90 cm

Coming Rain oil on canvas 40 x 50 cm





Left: Skyline oil on canvas 121 x 142 cm

Right: Brun oil on canvas 76 x 90 cm





Skyline ii oil on canvas 40 x 50 cm

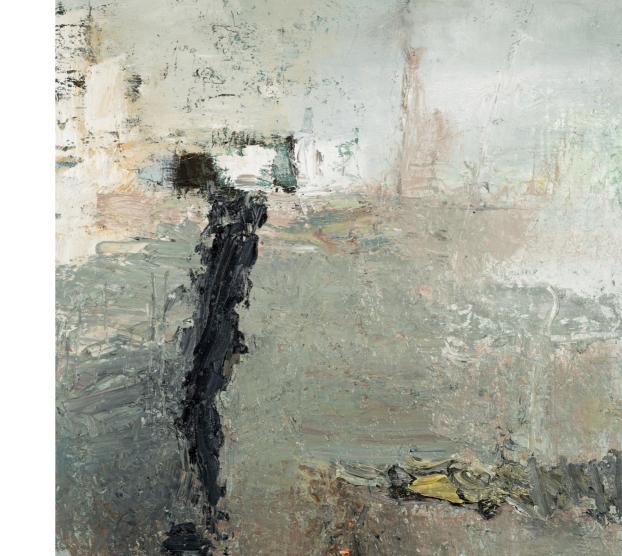


Skyline iii oil on canvas 40 x 50 cm



Skyline iv oil on canvas 40 x 50 cm

Mudlark oil on canvas 60 x 60 cm





Sea-Plain i, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm



Sea-Plain ii, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm







Sea-Plain iv, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm



Ice Field i oil on canvas 25 x 30 cm

Portal oil on canvas 60 x 60 cm





Left: Ice Field iii oil on canvas 25 x 30 cm

Right: Ice Field iv oil on canvas 25 x 30 cm



CAROL HODDER

Carol Hodder is self-taught Irish painter, who has exhibited widely around Ireland, in Beijing China and also at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London. In 2015 she won the Republic of Ireland Award for the UK's National Open Art Exhibition. In 2017 she was invited to undertake a two month residency at the Josef & Anni Albers Foundation, Connecticut which was grant aided by the Arts Council of Ireland. She is a Fellow of the Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

Facing North, Solomon Fine Art, Dublin
Inflow, Solomon Fine Art, Dublin
Shorelines, Catherine Hammond Gallery, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Leanings, Catherine Hammond Gallery, Glengarriff (in conjunction with West Cork Literary Festival)
Landmarks, Catherine Hammond Gallery, Glengarriff
Wetlands, The Pigyard Gallery, Wexford
Landmarks, Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh Co. Cork
COE 2000, Claremorris, Mayo

Fasing North Colomon Fine Art Dublin

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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2020 - 2017	Solomon Fine Art, Summer Group Exhibition	
20202004	Catherine Hammond Gallery (regular group exhibitions)	
2020	Art on a Postcard, for International Women's Day, The Allbright, Mayfair, London	
	Scoop Foundation, Auction, May 24th	
2019	McKenna Gallery, Co. Tyrone	
	Shortlisted, Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London	
	Legacy Boyle Arts Festival 30th Anniversary Exhibition, Co. Roscommon	
2018, 17	Boyle Arts Festival, Roscommon	
2018, 15	Skibbereen Arts Festival, Co. Cork	
2019 -14	VUE Contemporary, RHA, Dublin (with Solomon Fine Art, Dublin & Catherine Hammond Gallery, Cork)	
2017, 16, 15	Art on a Postcard, Unit, London, Maddox Gallery, London & Soho Revue Gallery, London	
2017, 16, 15	National Open Art (NOA), London, Sussex & Chichester	
2016	DRAW - Backwater Artists, Cork	
2016, 12, 02, 01	CASe, Lavit Gallery Cork	

2015	Harrogate International Visual Arts Expo (HIVE)
2015, 14	The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, London
2014	On the Edge of the World, Ballina Arts Centre, Co. Mayo
2013, 02	The Lime Tree Gallery, Kenmare
2013, 09, 03, 01,	
99-97, 94	Lavit Gallery, Cork (regular group exhibitions)
2010	On the Edge of Abstraction, Urban Retreat Gallery
2009	Images from North Mayo, Courthouse Gallery, Ballycastle
2007	Through Irish Eyes, Bejiing Institute of Graphic Communication, Bejiing, China
2006, 03	Tidelines, Gallery One, Kilkenny (two person)
2005, 04,	Hillsboro Fine Art, Dublin
2005	C2, Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork
2004, 03	Decade I +II, The Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork
2003, 01	Eigse, Carlow Arts Festival
2003	Ballinglen The Artists in Rural Ireland, Mayo
	General Hospital, Castlebar, Co. Mayo
2002, 01	Oireachtas, Dun Laoghaire County Hall, Dublin
2002	Art of Love, Gallery 44, Cork
	Bass Contemporary Art Awards, Northern Ireland
	Art in St. Finbarre's, Cork
2002	Aisling Geal, Riverbank Arts Centre, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
2001	Cill Rialig project, Waterville, Co Kerry
2001-98, 95, 93	Iontas, National Small Works Exhibition, Sligo, Dublin, Limerick, Belfast and Cork
2001, 1999-96	Caldwell Gallery, Belfast
2001, 95	Royal Ulster Academy, Belfast, Northern Ireland
2000	Silent Echoes, Kilmallock, Co Cork (3 person show
1998	Newtown Connections, Garter Lane, Arts Centre, Wexford
	Cork University Hospital, 20th Anniversary Exhibition
1997	New Generations, Triskel Gallery, Cork
	Art Trail '97, Proby's, Cork
1997	The Dyehouse Gallery, Waterford
1997, 96	The Antique Print Gallery, Pittsburgh, USA
1996	Exhibition of Living Art, Liberty Hall, Dublin

1995, 93, 92, 91 Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin

1995 Scoip '95, Siamsa Tire, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Spillers Lane Gallery, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Uisce, Jameson Gallery, Midleton, Co. Cork 1994

Laid Bare, Wellspring Gallery, Tralee, Co. Kerry

AWARDS/RESIDENCIES

2019 Skagastrond, Iceland

2017 The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Connecticut

Arts Council of Ireland Travel and Training Award

2015 The Republic of Ireland Award, National Open Art, London (NOA 2015)

2014 The Golden Fleece Award (shortlisted artist)

2008-1999 The Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo; Fellowship and Residencies

Arts Council Travel Grant, Beijing, China / Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication, China 2007

2006 The Pouch Cove Foundation, Newfoundland

Board member, Sirius Arts Centre 2005-2000 2002 Cill Rialaig, Ballinskelligs, Co Kerry

COLLECTIONS

The Josef & Anni Albers Foundation

The Ballinglen Archive, The Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ballycastle, Co. Mayo

Office of Public Works

Bank of Ireland

Druid's Glen Hotel & Golf Resort

Carlton Hotel Group

The Chichester Arts Trust

Cork University Hospital, Millennium Collection

Limerick County Council

Newtown School, Waterford

Patrick J Murphy

Scott Tallon Walker Architects

Bunnyconnellan House, Myrtleville

The Pouch Cove Foundation, Newfoundland

CAROL HODDER: Facing North

- 3 26 September 2020
- 1. Facing North, oil on canvas, 120 x 150 cm
- 2. Skyline, oil on canvas, 121 x 142 cm
- 3. Thaw, oil on canvas, 100 x 120 cm
- 4. Night Harbour, oil on canvas, 100 x 100 cm
- 5. Night Portal, oil on canvas, 76 x 90 cm
- 6. Brun, oil on canvas, 76 x 90 cm
- 7. Mudlark, oil on canvas, 60 x 60 cm
- 8. Portal, oil on canvas, 60 x 60 cm
- 9. Coming Rain, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 10. Skyline ii, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 11. Skyline iii, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 12. Skyline iv, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 13. Ice Field i, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 cm
- 14. Ice Field ii, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 cm
- 15. Ice Field iii, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 16. Ice Field iv. oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
- 17. Sea-Plain i, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm
- 18. Sea-Plain ii, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm
- 19. Sea-Plain iii, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm
- 20. Sea-Plain iv, oil on canvas, 25 x 40 cm
- 21. Þórdís, oil on canvas, 30 x 30 cm (ex cat)

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CAROL HODDER
Facing North

Facing North 3 - 26 September 2020