

CROSS

John Boyd was born in Carlisle, England in 1957 and studied painting in the Slade School of Art. He has resided in Ireland for the past 20 years and has exhibited internationally since the late 70s, most often in London, America and Ireland. He is now represented in numerous collections both public and private, in Ireland and abroad; including AIB, Christies London, Morgan Grenfell, De Beers, Glen Dimplex, The Merrion Hotel and Mason Hayes & Curran Solicitors. Boyd has developed a style uniquely his own, one that seems to hint at complex and unresolved narratives replete with a quiet but profound anguish. Although he has received relatively little critical attention, his distinctively mannered paintings have acquired a loyal following. The people in his work – almost invariably male and wearing a markedly glum expression – either face the viewer directly or are in full profile. Even when masked, as is sometimes the case, they are clearly men bearing a weight of woe on their slumped shoulders. While the spirit of James Joyce has been evoked by some commentators, surely the character of Boyd's paintings is closer to Beckett, not least in their existential bleakness and sense of isolation. Boyd's figures, whether alone or keeping company with one another, are always placed against a plain backdrop, as though they have been removed from the environment occupied by the rest of us in order to emphasise their solitary status. Just as with Beckett there is wit here but of a kind underscored by sadness.

Education:

1995-6: Newcastle College of Arts and Technology

1976-8: Slade School of Art

1978-80: University of Newcastle

Solo Exhibitions:

2010: Cross Gallery, Dublin

2007: Cross Gallery, Dublin

2006: Lydon Fine Art, Chicago

2005: Cross Gallery, Dublin

2004: Lydon Fine Art, Chicago

2003: Cross Gallery, Dublin

gallery

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2002: Lydon Fine Art, Chicago

2001: Cross Gallery, Dublin

2000: Archeus Fine Art, London

1999: Lydon Fine Art, Chicago

1998: Christopher Hull Gallery, London

1996: Christopher Hull Gallery, London

1996: Clayton Gallery, Newcastle

1992: Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh

1991: Christopher Hull Gallery, London

1989: Christopher Hull Gallery, London

1987: Galerie Suzel Berna, Antibes

1987: Braggiotti Galleries, Rotterdam

Selected Group Shows and Projects:

2000: Cross Gallery, Dublin

1999: Lydon Fine Art, Chicago

1996: Iontas, Sligo, Dublin & Belfast

1993: Clayton Gallery, Newcastle

1991: Hatton Gallery, Newcastle

1988: Christopher Hull, London

1987: Grey Gallery, Newcastle

1986: Chameleon Gallery, Newcastle

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