

CROSS

FELIM EGAN was born in Ireland in 1952 and studied in Belfast and Portsmouth before attending the Slade School of Art in London. He then spent a year at the British School at Rome in 1980 before returning to Dublin. Since then he has lived and worked at Sandymount Strand and the Docklands, on the edge of Dublin Bay.

He is known as a painter of restrained eloquence, who sparingly deploys a vocabulary of hieroglyphic motifs over monochromatic expanses of colour. His paintings are built up slowly with layers of thin colour applied to the surface and stone powder ground into the acrylic. The work is universal in spirit and at the same time emotionally intimate. His paintings are epiphanic, in that they convey to us the essential nature or meaning of something of which we were previously unaware. He is an abstract artist, a painter of quite formal abstract images, and yet his work is tied to the place he lives and works, to the long horizons, big skies and empty sands of the Strand and sea. In this way his abstract paintings are almost landscapes, with a magical quality that his neighbour, the poet Seamus Heaney, has aptly described “a balance of shifting brilliances”.

Egan has exhibited widely across Europe with 64 solo exhibitions since 1979 including major shows at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, 1996 and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, 1999. In 1981 he represented Ireland at the Xie Biennale de Paris and in 1985 at the San Paulo Bienal. In 1993 he won the prestigious UNESCO prize in Paris, and in 1995 the Premiere Prize at Cagnes-sur-Mer. His work hangs in numerous public collections including the Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; the Ulster Museum, Belfast; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, and the collection of the European Parliament. Major Commissions include; Dublin Castle; National Gallery of Ireland: O'Reilly Hall, UCD; Meeting House Square, Temple Bar; Pavilion Theatre, Dunlaoghaire; City Quay Building, Dublin; New Providence Wharf, London; the National Gallery of Ireland; Deutsche Bank, UK and Dublin and a large scale public ‘sculptural work’ at Cork Street, Dublin.

In 2005 he completed an installation of paintings at Deutsche Bank Headquarters, Dublin.

Felim Egan is a member of Aosdána.

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Solo Exhibitions

- 2015 / 2016 Cross Gallery, Dublin Galerie
Brigitte Schenk, Köln
Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London
- 2014
Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast
Seoul Art Fair, 'solo' with Purdy/Hicks Gallery
- 2013 Hamilton Gallery, Sligo
- 2012 Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London
Warren Gallery, West Cork
- 2010 Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London
Seasons Gallery, Den Haag
- 2008 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
- 2007 Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London
- 2006 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
- 2005 Vangard Gallery, 'Cork 2005'
- 2004 Galerie de Rijk, Den Haag Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London
- 2003 Galerie Brigitte Schenk, Koln
Robert Brown Gallery, Washington DC.
Nabokov Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia
Collège des Irlandais, Paris
Cavanacor Gallery, Co. Donegal, Ireland
- 2002 Installation of paintings, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
New Works, Galerie de Rijk, Den Haag, Netherlands
Purdy / Hicks Gallery, London
Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 2001 Purdy /Hicks Gallery, London (print exhibition)
Galway Art Centre, Galway
Rosenberg & Kaufman, New York (with Estelle Thompson)
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Belfast

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- 2000 Vanguard Gallery, Cork
Purdy/Hicks Gallery, London.
Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
The West Space, New York, N.Y.
Robert Brown Gallery, Washington, D.C.
- 1999 Purdy / Hicks Gallery, London
Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam
Galerie Brigitte Schenk, Köln
Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh
- 1998 Purdy / Hicks Gallery, London
- 1997 Felim Egan & Wolfgang Tolk, Galerie Brigitte Schenk, Köln.
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Belfast.
Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
- 1996 Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester
Austin/Desmond Fine Art, London
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Cologne Art Fair, Köln
- 1996 Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 1995 Galerie Brigitte Schenk, Köln, Germany
Felim Egan / AR. Penck; installation and exhibition, Bremen
- 1994 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
- 1992 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
'Squarings', with Seamus Heaney, Adams House, Harvard
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Belfast
- 1991 'Squarings', with Seamus Heaney, Graphic Studio Gallery
- 1990 The Scottish Gallery, Cork St., London
Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
Madeleine Carter Fine Art, Boston, USA
- 1989 Galerie Hintemann, Bonn, Germany
- 1988 The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh
Oliver Dowling Gallery, Dublin

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- 1987 Madeleine Carter Fine Art, Boston, USA
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Belfast
- 1986 Oliver Dowling Gallery, Dublin ‘
Towards a Collaboration’, with Seamus Heaney, Ardhoven Theatre, Enniskillen
Angela Flowers (Ireland) Inc., Downeen, Co. Cork
- 1984 Third Eye Centre, Glasgow (and tour)
Orchard Gallery, Derry
The Butler Gallery, Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny
The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College, Dublin
Fenderesky Art Gallery, Belfast
- 1983 Oliver Dowling Gallery, Dublin
- 1981 Oliver Dowling Gallery, Dublin Arts Council Gallery, Belfast
- 1979 Oliver Dowling Gallery, Dublin