

Fading Oriental Poppy
2015
570 mm x 350 mm
Watercolour on Paper



The faded petals of this red oriental poppy struck me for their transparent fragile beauty. The red oriental poppy which inspired this painting was growing in the walled garden of Tourin House, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, Ireland. The Jameson sisters who own Tourin House and

Garden kindly invited me to find inspiration in their lovely garden and to participate in an exhibition of 'Art in the Garden'. The idea of beauty in the seemingly unbeautiful again emerges as my focus in this work.

An Irish Hedgerow -

Euphorbia hyberna, *Succisa pratensis*,
Hydera helix, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Potentilla angelica*.

2013

297 mm x 420mm

Watercolour on paper



In a sheltered hedgerow in County Kerry, the *Euphorbia hyberna*, Irish spurge, sprang out from the peaty verge forming a frame for its neighbors, some of whom happily flourished in its shadows while others wound themselves in and around the *Euphorbia*, together making this harmonious dance of colour and form.

Nerines - Wintering Out
2019
Watercolour on Paper
350 mm x 570 mm



Observed over a number of months, the two Nerines gradually faded into these twisted, ribbon like beauties. Movement and colour brought a sense of dynamism back into the then life less flowers as I was completing the work. The process of creating this painting was slow and meditative. Capturing these Nerines in this moment of their lifecycle, allows for a botanical art piece which is true to science and also reflective of my emotive response to movement, form and colour in these dying flowers.

Pomegranate - Overspill
2018
Watercolour on vellum
210 mm x 297 mm



Tulipa Black Parrot
2014
350 mm x 540 mm
Watercolour on Paper



Tulipa Black Parrot immediately stood out for me for its relaxed pose and its wonderfully fading petals. The idea of exploring the unbeautiful, in the fading fragile state of this dying flower and finding beauty there, permeates much of my work. As this tulip aged, it's stem twisted and settled into this elegant curve which invited me to capture the elegance and beauty of the aging process.

Currently it is part of Drawn from Nature in the National Gallery of Ireland where it has been chosen as a signature image for the exhibition. It has been shown with the Society of Botanical Artists in London, in Palmengarten, Frankfurt, and in Jardin Botánico Real, Madrid, where it was chosen as the cover image for the exhibition catalogue for Tulipa Tulipae, 2018.