EILBHE DONOVAN

MINIMALIST NATURE ART

www.eilbhedonovan.com www.instagram.com/sevenheadsstudio

As an ardent naturalist and advocate of wildlife conservation, with her garden studio overlooking a saltwater marsh in the South West of Ireland, Eilbhe Donovan has ample opportunity to observe and record the fauna of her locality.

Particular focus is on marine birds and their place in this beautiful, yet hard environment.

Her minimalist work captures wading birds gathering in the marsh, seabirds circling over the surf and birds in flight, as well as other coastal scenes. Walking the nearby remote Atlantic beaches and kayaking its rugged coastline, Donovan is constantly inspired by the marine environment she encounters.

All work is taken from own observations, sketches, walks, seakayaking and coasteering rambles, as well as research into birds’ habitats and peculiarities to gain as deep an insight into the characters of the species before starting on each piece.

Working in ink and monoprint on specialist cotton paper sustainably sourced from a historic paper mill in South West England. Each piece is a different size and is torn by hand. Her work conveys peace and simple beauty. No two works are the same size - the image and the subject determine the format and size of the work. The finished image is reduced in size by tearing, a precise process done by hand that can ruin a work if not done correctly.

*“The places I go to are pretty inaccessible which is why I like going there. I never meet anyone else while I am there, only birds, seals and occasionally dolphins. The changing tides mean each time one visits, it reveals another element.   
On my peninsula, there are more than 25 caves, some of which can only be accessed at low tide, some at mid tide, others at high tide - all looking different also in various water conditions. I have visited there when the water is like a mirror and also when the swell is up 3metres, crashing over the scrag.   
Squalls fascinate me - these small short-lived sea storms with a heart of black clouds hovering ominously out to sea.   
I think of all those mariners who encountered them, thinking of getting back safely to shore. The ocean is this dangerous temptress, full of bounty and beauty, yet treacherous”.*

Eilbhe Donovan, Summer 2021

Education

2009-2010 Post Graduate Diploma in Education for Art, Craft & Design

Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork

2003-2004 BA(Hons) Art & Design

West Wales School of the Arts, Carmarthan, Wales, UK

2001-2003 HND Multimedia

BIFE, Bray, Co. Wicklow

1993-1994 NCVA Art, Craft & Design

Grennan Mill Craft School, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny

Exhibitions & Commissions

2021 Art Nordic, Lokomotivværkstedet, Copenhagen, Denmark

“Biding Time”, Galerie Lindenhof, Pfalzgasse 3, 8001 Zürich

Art International Zürich, PULS 5, Zürich

“Caoibhleadh”, Grey Heron Gallery, Cloughmacsimon, Bandon, Co. Cork

Commission for ‘Moksha”, Expedition UK, www.expedition360.com

2020 Art3F Haute-Savoie, Roche Expo, La Roche-sur-Foron, France

Art International Zürich, PULS 5, Zürich

2019 Glasgow Contemporary Art Fair, Kelvingrove Art Gallery, Glasgow

“Flights of Fancy”, Cronins, Crosshaven, Co. Cork

“Fragile Expanses”, Ivy House, Drumcondra, Dublin

MAG Swiss, Montreux, Switzerland

ArtSource, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin

2018 Winter Exhibition, Group show, Origin Gallery, Fitzwilliam St., Dublin

Private Commission, west Cork, Ireland

ArtSource, RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin

2017 RDS ArtSource, Ballsbridge, D4

2017 Group Show, West Cork Creates, Skibereen, Co. Cork

2016 Group Show, West Cork Creates, Skibereen, Co. Cork

Illustration commission for a series of childrens books

2013 Private commission, Zurich, Switzerland

2011 Solo show, Courthouse Arts Centre, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow

Solo show, Greystones Library, Greystones, Co. Wicklow

2007 Design for bowsprit of pedalboat Moksha for return of round-the-world expedition

www.expedition360.com

Private commission, mural for listed Georgian building, Enniskerry, Co.Wicklow

2006 Townhall Arts Centre, Charlestown, Co. Mayo

Private commission, faux window in historical Church of Ireland church, Dublin

2005 Wicklow County buildings, Wicklow

2004 Letterkenny Arts Centre, Letterkenny

Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Public Art mural, Donore Avenue Community centre, D8

2003 Mermaid Arts Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow

2002 Solo Show, Signal Arts Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow

2001 Illustrations for book, Pedaling to Hawaii

1995 Commissioned series of drawings for Eco-Lodge Casa Mojanda, Otavalo, Ecuador