

Press Release



Fermanagh District Council

March 2008

'Ulster Painters' Exhibition Opens

A treat not to be missed, this is a stunning exhibition of art by Ulster Painters (1900-1945), hosted by Fermanagh County Museum at Enniskillen Castle. The exhibition runs from 14 March until 31 May 2008. The twenty-three paintings on display are by nine artists, all of whom are linked by the fact that they trained in Belfast. Key figures in the art scene of the early twentieth century are represented, from Paul Henry to William Conor. The works have been generously lent by the Ulster Museum, which is currently closed for major refurbishment.

A showcase of colour, the exhibition includes paintings inspired by the Irish landscape, contrasted with working class life in Belfast, as well as bustling market scenes in France. In the words of Dr. Eileen Black, Curator of Fine Art at the Ulster Museum:

'It is very fitting that the 'Ulster Painters' exhibition has come to Fermanagh County Museum as none of the artists are represented in the Museum's collections. The show contains works by important figures such as William Conor, Paul Henry and Colin Middleton. There is a wide range of subject matter, from landscapes to portraits of a few artists themselves, namely, William Conor and John Luke. Overall, the exhibition represents the best of Ulster art of the period.'

Complementing the 'Ulster Painters' exhibition is a display of work by an artist closely associated with Fermanagh, Kathleen Bridle (1897-1989). Kathleen Bridle was born in England but made Fermanagh her home, settling here in the 1920s to teach art. As well as being a talented painter, she was an inspirational teacher. Her most famous pupils were the artists William Scott and T.P. Flanagan. As well as paintings from the Museum's own collection, two of the works on display by Kathleen Bridle have been kindly lent from private collections.

Sarah McHugh, Manager – Museum Services said:

'The 'Ulster Painters' exhibition is a rare opportunity to view a substantial number of important paintings from the Ulster Museum's collection on show here at Enniskillen Castle. It is perfectly complemented by an exhibition focussing on Kathleen Bridle, an artist whose work and teaching influenced other key Ulster painters from Fermanagh, William Scott and T.P. Flanagan.'

The 'Ulster Painters' exhibition is being officially opened on Thursday 13 March at 8pm by Dr. Eileen Black, Curator of Fine Art at the Ulster Museum.

For more information telephone 028 6632 5000 from NI or 048 6632 5000 from ROI.

Ends

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