

# NewportFive: "Pathways"

Leinster Gallery, Dublin October 16<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 2014



**NewportFive** isn't that a group? And **Pathways** their latest collection? Well, yes and no... NewportFive is a group, a band even, of fellow travellers. 'Solo' artists from across the country who have banded together, marrying their different forms of expression to create a new collection; a compilation of sorts that is *Pathways* – which, like the best of any album, has selections that jump out, while others slow-burn and linger.

Like many groups, **NewportFive** was formed through a mixture of chance, and the prompting of an inspired supporter who saw the potential in putting these talents together. Author, art historian, and curator, Éimear O'Connor, worked with **NewportFive** members Margaret Irwin West and Myriam Kavanagh over the years. She met Benita Stoney, Mary Donnelly, and Patricia Doherty at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, in Annaghmakerrig, Co. Monaghan. Through such encounters and meetings, Éimear observed connections in terms of the group's practice, and in their underlying questions and themes. With a plan in mind she suggested a meeting, and the group got together around a table in Benita's house in Newport, Co. Mayo, in October 2013. They became **NewportFive** and the decision to mount the *Pathways* exhibition was made. In the Leinster Gallery, they found the welcoming and ideal venue for their Dublin 'gig'.

**Pathways** brings the five artists together to exhibit their highly individual work, and yet collective concerns in an exhibition of extraordinary depth and variety. While they navigate and explore their ideas in diverse ways, common to all is their formal training, their studio-based practice, and the handmade language of paint, ink and other materials that connects them, their themes, and their concerns to the world at large. Ultimately too, as artists, and a band of fellow travellers, they are each constantly engaged with the inner tussle to wrest art out of life.

**Pathways** will open on 16th October 2014 at the Leinster Gallery, 27 South Frederick Street, Dublin 2. The artists exhibiting are Benita Stoney, Patricia Doherty, Myriam Kavanagh, Mary Donnelly and Margaret Irwin West. The exhibition will feature work on canvas and paper, and subjects include landscape, portraiture, and abstraction. The exhibition will be opened by James Hanley RHA, and will continue until 31 October 2014. 'Pathways' is curated by Dr Éimear O'Connor HRHA, Research Associate, TRIARC-Irish Art Research Centre, Dept. of the History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College Dublin.

High res images of the artists' work and artist photos can be found [HERE](#)  
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email: [peter@peteroconnellmedia.com](mailto:peter@peteroconnellmedia.com) [www.LeinsterGallery.com](http://www.LeinsterGallery.com)

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## BRIEF ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

**Patricia Doherty** was born in Belfast 1963. After finishing school in 1982 she moved to London to begin Foundation Studies in Art and Design. In 1986 she received a BA Honours Degree in Fine Art from Camberwell College of Arts and a Postgraduate MA in Painting from the Royal Academy Schools in 1989. Since returning to Ireland in 1996 she has worked as part time lecturer in Art and Design and continues her own studio based practice which is currently at the Model and Niland Gallery in Sligo. Her work is represented by the Fenderesky Gallery in Belfast and is held in many private and public collections including: Office of Public Works in Dublin, Northern Ireland Civil Service and BBC London.

**Mary Donnelly** was born in Ireland in 1964 and studied Fine Art at the D.I.T Dublin, 1982-86. She lives in Connemara on the Renvyle peninsula immersing herself full time in her practice. Aidan Dunne has described her paintings as being “exceptionally beautiful” and as having “her own distinctive voice”. Mary has exhibited in many solo and group exhibitions in Ireland and abroad including the Hallward Gallery Dublin, the Paul Kane Gallery Dublin, and Glucksman Ireland House, New York. Her Awards include the National Self Portrait Collection, Tyrone Guthrie – Virginia Centre for the Creative Arts Exchange Fellowship, RHA Landscape of Distinction, and in 2012, a grant from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation in New York.

**Margaret Irwin** is a printmaker and painter, with roots in Roscommon, who has been living and working in Connemara since 1991. She trained in Dublin and Paris. Her work is held in both public and private collections. In 2008 she received a “Lifetime Achievement Award” from County Galway Arts Office. Margaret’s qualifications include an MA in European languages and Literature; a Diploma in the History of European Painting, both from Trinity College, Dublin. She also holds an Honours Art Teacher’s Certificate, Dept of Education. Margaret’s training as a painter was mainly through the Atelier system under the tutelage of Andre Lhote, in Paris.

**Myriam Kavanagh** was born in Dublin and trained initially in NCAD, Dublin under Anne Lynch and Eithne Carr. Deciding to work in a more academic style and using old master techniques she studied with Sam Hauler, and then with Rocco Tullio for over three years, with a focus on the Florentine method of painting. Myriam has exhibited in Ireland, UK and the USA. Her work is in private collections in Ireland, UK, France, Italy, Canada and the USA. As well as a number of shows at the Clifden Arts Festival, Myriam has shown with the Osborne Studio Gallery, London, and with the Barbara Stanley Gallery, London.

**Benita Stoney** has always painted, beginning at 13 with the craft of landscape in oils under Desmond Turner RUA. She kept returning to these landscapes, close to heart and home in Mayo, while she pursued a career in publishing and writing. In 2006 she took a degree in Fine Art from GMIT, during which she came to portraiture. Benita’s portraits have been selected for the prestigious BP Portrait Award exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery in London, from a worldwide entry; and for the Davy Portrait Award, open to Irish artists. She won the major Changing Faces Award at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters in London. Since 2004 she has exhibited consistently at the RHA, and was recipient of the Jorgensen Fine Art Award. She paints portraits to commission and by her own selection.

Curator: **Dr Éimear O’Connor** is Research Associate with TRIARC-Irish Art Research Centre, Department of the History of Art and Architecture, Trinity College Dublin. She is editor of *Irish Women Artists 1800-2009: Familiar but Unknown* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2010) and author of *Seán Keating: Art, Politics and Building the Irish Nation* (Kildare: Irish Academic Press, 2013). O’Connor was elected an Honorary member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 2010.

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