

Helena Gorey Ireland b. 1961

‘Gerhard Richter once remarked that he aimed to make paintings that have the rightness of nature without imitating nature. It's a good description of what Gorey achieves.’ Aidan Dunne, Irish Times, 2018



Crocsmia, 2023, Oil on Linen

Helena Gorey Biography

Helena Gorey lives in the small rural townland of Burnchurch in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Her home is a cottage situated in pastoral landscape close to where she grew up with a view to a field with an almost perfect horizon line. One of her earliest memories is picking blackcurrants in this field planted by her father. The experience of growing up and living in this place and its surrounding nature has influenced much of her work, producing exhibitions such as 'The Orchard', 'Ground', 'The Blackcurrant Field', 'Two Trees' and 'Proscenium'.

Hers is not a desire to represent but to distill the essence of this place. Her approach is intuitive and much of her work is developed slowly over time. She attempts to make works with a sense of depth that appear effortless. When not achieved on first touch a process of layering from light to dark and dark to light is begun, in order to arrive home.

Selected Collections

The Irish Museum of Modern Art
The Arts Council
The Glebe Gallery
The Office of Public Work
Contemporary Irish Art Society
National Self Portrait Collection
The Butler Gallery
Highlanes Gallery
Limerick City Gallery of Art

Exhibitions | Solo

2022	<i>Understory</i> , Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda & CHG Westport
2018	<i>Proscenium</i> , Ashford Gallery, RHA, Dublin, The Glebe Gallery & S.T.A.C
2017	<i>Proscenium</i> , Studio Exhibition, Alternative Kilkenny Arts
2016	Studio Exhibition, Alternative Kilkenny Arts
2013	The Orchard, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny
2006	<i>Two Trees</i> , The Dock, Leitrim <i>In Memoriam</i> , Canoflan Ucheldre Centre, Wales
2005	<i>In Memoriam</i> , Kilkenny Arts Festival
2004	<i>Putting a Face to a Name</i> , Lithuanian Day of Welcomes, Kilkenny & Vilnius <i>What You Need for Painting</i> , Sligo Art Gallery & Mermaid Arts Centre
2003	<i>What You Need for Painting</i> , Limerick City Gallery
2002	<i>Ground</i> , Studio installation, Kilkenny Arts Festival

2001	<i>The Blackcurrant Field</i> , Kevin Kavanagh Gallery & Triskel Arts Centre,
2000	<i>Butler House</i> , Kilkenny Arts Festival
1999	<i>Landscape and Memory</i> , Kevin Kavanagh Gallery
1996	<i>Stranded</i> , Jo Rain Gallery
1994	<i>Three into Two</i> , RHA Gallery
1991	<i>Blues</i> , Temple Bar Gallery & Basement Gallery, Dundalk,
1986	<i>Theatre Unlimited</i> , Kilkenny Arts Week
1984	Butler House, Kilkenny Arts Week

Selected Exhibitions | Group & Two-Person 2005 - 2023

2023	<i>Matters of the Heart</i> [two-person exhibition with Deirdre McLoughlin], Taste Contemporary, Geneva, CH
2023	Butler Gallery 80th Anniversary collection exhibitions Ballinlen Museum of Art Biennial exhibition
2022	Sunyata at Farmleigh Gallery curated by Mark St. John Ellis, nagOffsite
2021	<i>The Overhanging Garden</i> (curated project in home garden)
2020	Highlanes Gallery Open Submission <i>The Sky is Blue</i> , Visual Carlow Contemporary Irish Art Centre Los Angeles, 'Between You and Me' Online programme Nag Gallery Online, Helena Gorey & Masashi Suzuki
2019	Rathfarnham Castle curated by Mark St. John Ellis, NagOffsite
2018 - 2022	<i>Pathways 6 '...the lives we live..'</i> Grangegorman Primary Care Centre
2018 & 2017	<i>Peripheries Open</i> , Gorey School of Art
2017	<i>Coast – Lines</i> , Irish Museum of Modern Art
2015 - 2023	RHA, Annual Exhibition
2014	Celebrating 70 Years of the Butler Gallery Collection
2008	Temple Bar Gallery
2007	RHA Gallagher Gallery
2005	<i>40 Shades of Green</i> , Glucksman Gallery, Cork & Memphis & Vilnius
2004	<i>Views from an Island; Contemporary Art from Ireland</i> , Beijing and Shanghai <i>From the Centre to the Edge</i> , Video exhibition from Ireland and Lithuania Ecological Landscape symposium & exhibition, Kaunas, Lithuania
2003	<i>New Acquisitions</i> , Irish Museum of Modern Art <i>New Acquisitions</i> , National Self Portrait Collection, University of Limerick <i>Irish Art Today</i> , Civic Theatre Gallery Tallaght
2002	<i>Iontas</i> , Sligo Art Gallery (also, 2001,1991, 1995, 1999)

- 1999 *EV+A 99 Reduced*, Limerick City Gallery of Art (also 1992, 1987)
- 1997 *Lingua Oculorum*, Beltable Arts Centre, Limerick
Six Artists, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny
- 1996 *Art of the State*, touring Ireland
Claremorris Open Exhibition (also 1989, 1994)
- 1995 Monaghan Open Exhibition (also 1993)
- 1994 *XXVI Festival International de la Peinture*, Cagnes-sur-Mer, France
- 1989 *GPA Awards for Emerging Artists*, Douglas Hyde Gallery

Selected Awards

- 2020 1st prize Artworks painting Award Carlow Arts Festival/Visual Carlow
Highlanes Gallery, highly commended award
- 2019 Art Links Professional Development Award
- 2006 CCAT Award for touring, Wales
- 2005 Project Award Kilkenny County Council
- 1995 Painting Award, Iontas and Monaghan Open Exhibitions
- 1994 George Campbell Memorial Travel Award
- 2021 Cill Rialaig Artists Retreat
- 2004 Nida & Kaunas, Lithuania
- 1994 Residency, Fondacion Valparioso, Mojacar, Spain

Selected Bibliography

- 2022 'Understory: A detailed exploration of Rural Landscape', Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times*, 9 May
'Helena Gorey Understory', Jenny Taylor, *Visual Artists News Sheet*, July – August
Seeing Things, Essay by John Graham
- 2019 'Object lesson in Skillful juxtaposition of things' Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times* 30 July
Nag Offsite publication
- 2018 'What you get is more than what you see' Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times*, 6 March
'Proscenium', RHA Spring Newsletter & Artist's publication,
'Artistic License', *The Gloss Magazine* on line, 28 February,
'Art is thriving in a time of cultural disruption' Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times*, 8 December
- 2015 *Art & Architecture of Ireland Volume V: Twentieth Century* by Catherine Marshall & Peter Murray published by Royal Irish Academy
- 2013 'The Orchard in which Art Grew' Aidan Dunne, *The Irish Times* 1 April
- 2006 'Spaces for the Imagination', Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times* 30 August.

- 2005 'Just Don't Say I Know What I Like' Gemma Tipton, *Irish Times* 18 February
In Memoriam, Essay - Lisa Moran
Kilkenny Arts Festival, Visual Arts catalogue, curator Mike Fitzpatrick
- 2004 'Ravashing Images and Space to Dream' Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times* 18 August
Ecological Landscape curator Gintautas Vaicys
Circa 108, 'What you need for Painting', Sarah Brown
'In Essence' Marianne Hartigan, *Sunday Tribune* 2 May
- 2003 What you need for Painting, essay Donna McGreevy
- 2002 'The Perfect Sight for Clear Vision', Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times* 13 August
- 2001 Focus 2, Gandon Editions, essays Catherine Marshall & Ruairi O'Cuiv
'Absolut Art or Absolute Adverts?' Aidan Dunne, *Irish Times* 15 August
Review, Alana Hopkins, *The Irish Examiner* 5 November
Review, Mark Ewart, *Irish Times*, 7 November
Rattlebag Radio Review Diarmuid de Paor
- 1999 Review, Marian Lovett, *The Sunday Times*, 24 January
- 1996 Review, Medb Ruane, *The Sunday Times*, 23 June
Review, Catherine Heaney, *Circa*, June
- 1991 *Blues*, essay, Brian Fallon

September 2023**Taste Contemporary**

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