



Tara Street From Liberty Hall, Dublin, 2010

ARTISTS' TALKS SERIES

Coffee conversation with Stephen McKenna

11am Wednesday 29 July. €5.

Gallery talk followed by tea or coffee with the artist.

James Hanley RHA on Stephen McKenna

1.15pm Friday 11 September. Free.

A Dublin Gallery Weekend event.

In conversation:

Stephen McKenna and Richard Demarco

6.45pm Thursday 24 September. Free.

Culture Night 2015

Friday 18 September.

Gallery open to 10pm.



Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane

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Opening Hours

Tuesday to Thursday 10.00am–6.00pm

Friday & Saturday 10.00am–5.00pm

Sunday 11.00am–5.00pm

Closed Mondays

ADMISSION FREE

Cover image: *Custom House, Lisbon, 2008*



Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane



STEPHEN MCKENNA Perspectives of Europe

23 July – 4 October 2015





Marmara Evening, 2014

Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane is delighted to present former Turner Prize nominee Stephen McKenna's latest exhibition, *Perspectives of Europe*. This unique exhibition features works created throughout McKenna's career, focusing specifically on cityscapes, parks and trees. It reveals the artist's enduring pursuit of 'Classical' restraint in the painted image. The artist's deep interest in the structures which underlie the natural and built environment is displayed thematically in groups of paintings depicting classical columns, city ports and specific close-ups of verdant foliage.

McKenna's travels in Europe, including living in Germany and Italy, enabled the close observation of the architectural structures of the great European cities. This selection of paintings, from the 1980s to the present, charts the artist's experience of working in urban environments and reveals his response to the cultural histories that form their identities.



Greenwich Park, 1984

McKenna is also interested in science and the rational structure of the natural world. Appreciation of formal landscape, according to the artist, "grows out of the enjoyment of man's ability to mould the natural condition, to ape the creative power of God". McKenna's painted trees are a particular species. Director Barbara Dawson says: "He delights in opening his and our eyes to the poetry contained in their painterly representation ordinary and extraordinary in their compositional structures".

His very particular vision is rich in allegory and bathed in tangible light giving us new experiences of often familiar terrain. It is the experience of the painting itself that McKenna leaves for us to encounter. As David Fraser Jenkins says in his catalogue essay "Art shows, but it cannot tell, and it puts the responsibility onto us."

Exhibition organised in collaboration with mima, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art.



Small Homage to Vitruvius, 2013

Stephen McKenna was born in London and studied at the Slade School of Art. He has lived and worked throughout Europe since the 1960s, spending time in Belgium, Germany and Italy. He now lives in County Carlow. He was shortlisted for the Turner Prize in 1986. He was elected President of the Royal Hibernian Academy from 2005 until 2009 and is a member of Aosdána.

CATALOGUE

A fully illustrated catalogue with an essay by David Fraser Jenkins is available in the gallery bookshop.

