

BUTLER ■ GALLERY

TONY O'MALLEY – THE VISUAL DIARIES **Fifty Years of Tony O'Malley's Sketchbooks**

Curated by Brian Lynch

October 15 – December 4, 2005

The Butler Gallery has had a long and proud association with Tony O'Malley, a native of Callan, Kilkenny, which we are delighted to continue with this exhibition and publication *Tony O'Malley - The Visual Diaries, Fifty Years of Tony O'Malley's Sketchbooks*. O'Malley's work is beloved, and he holds an important position in the history of 20th century Irish art. To mark this position, the Irish Museum of Modern Art will open later this month with a major retrospective of his work.

Almost every day for fifty years Tony O'Malley drew and painted in his sketchbooks. These visual diaries, as he called them, are a record not only of what he saw in front of him but of what he remembered from the distant past, often with startling clarity. Portraits of himself and his wife Jane; of friends, of poets and painters, of people in streets and shops; landscapes of Kilkenny, Clare Island, Cornwall, the Bahamas, Switzerland, the Isles of Scilly; pictures of flowers, of animals, especially cats and birds, as well as experiments in pure abstraction and colour – all of these, and more, are to be found in these stunning visual diaries.¹

This exhibition has been selected by the poet, playwright, screenwriter and novelist Brian Lynch. Mr. Lynch also wrote the warm and informative introduction for the catalogue. He edited the monograph 'Tony O'Malley', first published in 1996 by the Scolar Press in association with the Butler Gallery, an amended third edition of which was published by New Island Books in 2004.

ADMISSION FREE

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¹ Lynch, Brian. Introduction in the publication 'Tony O'Malley – The Visual Diaries', 2005