

Paul Doran

January 12 – March 2, 2008

Paul Doran is one of Ireland's finest painters. He makes complex paintings of great beauty and intensity that are celebrations of paint itself. His paint is exceedingly rich and luscious – in its texture and in its implications of high virtuosity.

Doran is a passionate painter of great ability and mastery of craft. His paintings are marvellously self-contained works – layers of oil paint on canvas stretched on wooden boards and worked on over time. Keys to the past reside in every new body of work where one finds references to the heavy impasto and physicality of earlier paintings. The paintings in this exhibition reveal the onset of new marks and shapes on the canvas – his visual vocabulary, punctuated with distinct twists and turns and new life experiences.

Doran is an informed painter, a voracious reader of books on painting. He is steeped in the painter's life, ever curious and inquisitive about his medium. When talking about his work, Doran refers to a wide range of artists that he respects – Howard Hodgkin, Georges Braque, Giorgio Morandi and Forrest Bess. Works by the painters Serge Charchoune (1888-1976) and Philip Guston (1913-1980) will find their place in this exhibition as artists of influence on Doran.

“For me, practical and conceptual concerns are inseparable. We live in a world that is more easily defined by technology, but I am interested in ideas about the handmade, how human existence can be communicated through the handmade in a more meaningful way. There is a real difference between process paintings and paintings that emphasise the presence of the human hand. For me, the latter is a more conceptual approach. I think that ideas about the handmade have an important role to play in a contemporary context.” Paul Doran

Paul Doran was born in Gorey, Co. Wexford in 1972 where he continues to live and work. He received a BA, a H.Dip. A.D.T and a Masters in Fine Art from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin and was awarded the prestigious AIB Art Prize in 2005. Doran has exhibited widely both nationally and internationally and has work included in many important public and private collections. Paul Doran is represented by the Green on Red Gallery, Dublin.

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