



Elizabeth Magill

Headland

17 October 2018 – 20 January 2019

"...although my work refers to landscape it is more like an exterior view, an attempt to create a setting or space to place things, a kind of deposit of thoughts and observations..."

Elizabeth Magill

The New Art Gallery Walsall is delighted to present 'Headland', an exhibition of paintings by Elizabeth Magill. The exhibition includes new works seen here for the first time, alongside recent works that have toured from Limerick City Gallery and Museum of Art, the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, and The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Magill is a leading artist most notably in painting and particularly with landscape. She was born in Ontario, Canada, but grew up in County Antrim, Northern Ireland and although living and working in London since leaving the Slade in the 1980s, it is her childhood home that continues to inform and inspire her work.

Oil paint has been Magill's primary medium and in recent years she has incorporated screen-printing onto canvas and film. The hand of the artist is clearly visible in the works with the layering of images and the push and pull of paint across the surface, yet Magill is also happy to relinquish control. The artist has always taken an experimental approach, inviting unpredictability; she pours layers of paint onto her canvases and sometimes if a work seems to be in danger of becoming too eye-pleasing, Magill explains that she will *"...take it, turn it on it's face, drag it across the studio floor..."*

Magill's paintings effortlessly seduce the viewer, with their array of colours and references to the natural world, enticing us in and encouraging closer inspection. Branches of trees act as compositional constructs that cut across the face of the canvas, placing the viewer as if within the trees, concealed. From this vantage point the viewer may peer out to an ambiguous and atmospheric world where the place and time of day cannot quite be determined. Magill's works allude to the precarious relationship we have with our natural environment.

An often lurid palette of colours seems suggestive of the first or last light of a day, perhaps even evocative of a dream-like state; where figures appear with a lightness of touch, almost ghostly and diminutive in the face of the landscapes they inhabit. The viewer picks their own pathway through the landscapes, with the layers intertwined and blurring into one another; there is no pre-determined route and no given narrative; the viewer is invited to use their own imagination.

Exhibition Guide

Please take a free exhibition guide which contains an essay by Barbara Dawson, Director, The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin

In Conversation

Thursday 17 January, 6.30 – 8pm. £3

Elizabeth Magill will talk about her work with Director Stephen Snoddy

Please book a place at the Reception Desk or call 01922 654400

Limited Edition Print

A limited edition print by Elizabeth Magill is available to buy in the Gallery Shop:

Celebrating 70 years of the NHS, 2017

lithograph on somerset satin 300gsm (Ed. 70)

42.4 x 52.5cm

Commissioned by: Imperial Health Charity, London and CCA galleries, Curwen Studio, Worton Hall Studios, London

£450.00 unframed, plus VAT



Walsall Council

