

EIGHT WORKS FROM
THE BRIAN P. BURNS COLLECTION OF IRISH ART
Celebrating the Restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral



THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND, NEW YORK
March 7 - July 31, 2014

The exhibition, *A Monumental Legacy*, celebrates the 21st century restoration of St. Patrick's Cathedral through eight selected works from the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art.

The paintings, from some of Ireland's greatest masters, depict Ireland of the 19th century. Offering a unique insight into Irish life at the time the Cathedral was built, these paintings serve as an historical record of the culture and identity of Ireland and artists, including Jack B. Yeats, Seán Keating, James Brenan, Erskine Nicol, Maurice MacGonigal, George William (AE) Russell and F.J. Davis.

An exhibition of the entire Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art was first shown in 1996 at the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College. From there it travelled to the Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane in Ireland and later to the Yale Center for British Art in New Haven, CT. In May 2000, the Collection inaugurated a new gallery at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC to mark The Kennedy Center's Festival, "Island: Arts from Ireland."

The complete collection of Irish art from the Brian P. Burns Collection was last seen in 2007 at the Phoenix Art Gallery in Arizona along with Irish literary treasures from the John J. Burns Library at Boston College.

F.J. Davis
(unknown)
The State Ballroom
Saint Patrick's Hall
Dublin Castle, 1845-50
Oil on wood panel
37 1/2" x 51 1/2"





*Erskine Nicol,
R.S.A., A.R.A.
(1825-1904)
The Tenant,
Castle Rackrent, 1880
Oil on canvas
20 1/2" x 15"*

James Brenan, R.H.A.

(1837-1907)

The Schoolroom (or Empty Pockets), 1887

Oil on canvas

27 1/2" x 35"



“Brian Burns came to appreciate the wonderful talents of Ireland’s visual artists long before they were recognized by the international art community. He began collecting these works more than 30 years ago; his enthusiasm and love for each painting has continued unabated.” - Jean Kennedy Smith, former U.S. ambassador to Ireland



*Maurice MacGonigal
(1900-1979)*

*Cailin Og Iarthar
(Young Girl of the West), 1938*

Oil on canvas

44" x 38"

James Brenan, R.H.A.

(1837-1907)

The Village Scribe (or The Rent Collector), 1881

Oil on canvas

11 1/2" x 9 1/2"



George William (AE) Russell
(1867-1935)
*Celtic Twilight /
The Potato Gatherers*
(undated)
Oil on canvas



“Brian P. Burns has created a collection that narrates a visual history of the country of his ancestors, and at the same time, he has proven, as he said himself, ‘that the Irish could be just as brilliant in the visual arts as they have been in music and theater’.”

-Dr Éimear O'Connor HRHA



Seán Keating
President, R.H.A.
(1889-1977)
King O'Toole, 1930
Oil on board
26" x 30"

The Consulate General of Ireland
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Open 11am-4pm weekdays by appointment only
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www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/hughes

The exhibition, *A Monumental Legacy, Archbishop John J. Hughes
and The Building of St. Patrick's Cathedral*,
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The display of works from the Brian P. Burns Collection of Irish Art, curated
by Dr. Éimear O'Connor, HRHA, Research Associate, TRIARC-Irish Art
Research Centre, TCD, Dublin, is underwritten by Eileen and Brian P. Burns.

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Cover: *Jack Butler Yeats (1871-1957), Misty Morning, 1942, Oil on panel, 9" x 14"*