

Artist Liam O'Neill launches new book

Leading artist Liam O'Neill has marked a new chapter in his career with the launch of a book that for the first time brings together a major collection of his works on the printed page.

Published by Brandon, *Corca Dhuibhne* is in itself a work of art, featuring exquisite reproductions of over 100 selected paintings depicting the people, places and personalities of his native West Kerry.

The book marries Liam O'Neill's works with the prose and poetry of *Corca Dhuibhne* by presenting each of his paintings side-by-side with an example from the literary heritage of the region, all in Irish. According to Liam, the inspiration for the book came from the late Steve MacDonogh, founder of Brandon and a longstanding friend.

"Although Steve was not himself a gaeilgeoir, it was his idea to present my paintings in this way," he says. "Although the writers of the Blasket Islands are well known, many writers have also written about West Kerry in Irish over the decades, including Brendan Behan, Sean O'Riordain, Máire Mhac An tSaoi and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. In total, extracts from over 80 different works are included in the book."

Film director and documentary maker Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin worked with the artist in sourcing, collating and selecting the text. She also wrote the foreword.

With his paintings scattered across so many collections both in Ireland and abroad, locating, photographing and cataloguing the paintings was a major challenge, but one that was successfully undertaken by Brandon, in cooperation with the artist.

Published as a limited edition in hardback and slipcased, great care has been taken by the publishers to achieve the finest possible reproduction of Liam O'Neill's paintings. Predicted to become a collector's item, each copy of the book is signed by the artist and editor. *Corca Dhuibhne* is available from bookshops at €99 or directly from Brandon.

- The Dublin launch of *Corca Dhuibhne* by Liam O'Neill takes place at 8.15pm this Friday 4th March 2011, at the Project Cube, the Project Arts Centre, 39 East Essex Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. The book was the last project completed by Steve MacDonogh, who will be the subject of a tribute commemorating his contribution to Irish publishing organised by Publishing Ireland in Association with the Dublin Book Festival and Poetry Ireland. The tribute will precede the launch of *Corca Dhuibhne*.

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LIAM O'NEILL

A native of Corca Dhuibhne near Dingle, Co. Kerry, Liam O'Neill is a self-taught artist who gave up his career as a special education teacher to become a fulltime artist, opening his first show in 1990. Since then, he has established himself as one of Ireland's most respected artists, employing bold colours and a trademark palette knife style to offer his own unique interpretations of the people and places of West Kerry.

Liam O'Neill is also respected for his work as a portrait painter and his subjects have included playwright John B. Keane, movie star Richard Harris and actor Donal McCann. He also completed the last portrait of Charles Haughey shortly before the former Taoiseach's death in 2006.

Over the past 20 years, Liam O'Neill has exhibited at many prestigious venues including the Royal Hibernian Academy, the Oireachtas Exhibition, the National Portrait Exhibition and Claremorris Open. His paintings have been acquired by leading corporate and individual collectors at home and abroad, including the Kerry Group, the Central Bank and Hollywood Actor Robert De Niro.

For more information about Liam O'Neill, visit: www.liamoneillart.com

Press release ends

Issued on behalf of Liam O'Neill by CN Media Ltd

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