



Alliance Française de Cork Exhibiting Artist Interview AF Cork Exhibition Programme 2015/2016



Dermot Browne's art-work reflects his position that art in our times remains an open inquiry or a search for the right form. This is as much reflected in his own life as in the changing forms in his works; with periods spent either living or working in Holland, Italy, Portugal, Thailand, India.

When at home Browne resides in Cork, and has a strong parallel presence in the area of Wellness, practising Meditation, Aikido, Traditional Thai Massage and Yoga. This interest in Asian Arts has always been an underlying theme or influence on his art, in particular the Buddhist philosophy of Interdependent existence.

About the artist

When did you decide to become an artist?

I decided finally to become an artist towards the end of my studies in Limerick. One day I was standing near the Sarsfield Bridge in the city centre and I thought: "I was meant to do this activity".

What inspires you?

Balance inspires me. This can be anything from everyday life, or a more internal felt observation. All these experiences need to become balanced when they are transferred and brought into another reality through painting.

In context:

What role does education play in the development of an artist?

The role of education is inescapably important to the developing artist. Yet that role when it works best is much closer to being a student-Mentor relationship which sadly is almost non-existent in today's streamlined 2nd and 3rd level educational systems.

Is there such a thing as a good artist and a bad artist? If there is how do you define this difference?

In reality there is no need for the definition of “good and bad” artists, and it definitely is a no-go area in today's art-world. There's no need for that definition because there is room for all kinds of art.

If you say “artists need to have skills” you are considered elitist, but if you leave the definition wide enough open that “everyone is an artist” it doesn't do any favours to the group as a whole either.

A good artist is always developing, and is always inquiring.

Do you think that the majority of art has become globalized in term of style and content?

Art has clearly become a globalised and “agreed upon” style. That “style” tells us that art is an eclectic beast that changes form every 4 minutes and that any artist can adopt any medium. Whereas the reality over longer periods of time shows that art changes slowly and that fidelity to one medium actually pays off.

What role does an artist have in society?

Artists play a central role in society, and at the same time they play no role at all. Sorry my “Eastern” interests are beginning to show!

About the exhibition:

What is this exhibition about?

This exhibition “FULL CIRCLE” is a happy returning to the Alliance Française for me. After last year's very enjoyable experience of honouring the late Charlie Hennessy with the relaunch of the Cork Opera House Art Collection in his name, I feel that this show that Nora Callanan has kindly arranged for me is really the cherry on the cake. The show celebrates almost 20 years of my painting practice, spanning the period since my first solo exhibition at the A.F. in Cork which incidentally was opened by Charlie Hennessy.



FULL CIRCLE is running in AF Cork Galerie from 18th of May – 17th June 2016.

Check our website and facebook for further details:

www.alliancefrancaisecork.com
facebook.com/afcork