



Connected / Disconnected / Re-connected
The art of **Patrick Graham and John Philip Murray**
West Cork Arts Centre
15 May – 19 June
Opening Friday 14 May, 7.00pm

West Cork Arts Centre's newest exhibition brings together the work of two painters responding to what they encounter in their personal and the wider world. Patrick Graham and John Philip Murray have known each other over several decades yet they have never exhibited together until now. This exhibition features large scale paintings and drawings from both artists ranging from works created in the 1980s to more recent works

Patrick Graham has long been considered 'Ireland's finest draughtsman' and a genuine 'artist's artist', but these terms do not capture the truly powerful nature of his work. Graham's paintings and drawings are a magnificent and unique balancing act of strength and fragility.

John Philip Murray takes a more oblique approach, showing his concern for humanity by drawing parallels between the plight of the natural world and mankind.

Both artists respect the notion of drawing as an end in itself and also as a vehicle for developing thoughts. While both are concerned with the outward appearance of things, neither is satisfied with the notion of merely recording nor reporting, unmediated, what they see.

Patrick Graham paints and scrapes back, sometimes cutting through the canvas to the timber of the support stretcher, in the same way he digs to try to understand the human being. His works on paper are characterised by drawing, hatching, laying-out, painting, tearing, gluing, sometimes showing the most sensitive draughtsmanship, sometimes the most brutal steadfastness.

According to Catherine Marshall, John Philip Murray's view of the natural world is informed by man's interventions, so that a landscape or a lone tree become sites of war, human toil, death; represented by skeletal remains or ghostly, archetypal faces.

Born in Mullingar, County Westmeath in 1943, Patrick Graham attended the National College of Art and Design. He has exhibited in Ireland and internationally since 1966, and his work is in major public and private collections at home and abroad. He is represented by Jack Rutberg Fine Arts in Los Angeles, and has exhibited work at that gallery since 1987; a major retrospective appeared there in 2002. He lives in Dublin and is a member of Aosdána.

John Philip Murray was born in Dublin in 1952 and also studied painting at the National College of Art and Design. He has exhibited widely throughout Ireland. His work is in many private collections nationally and internationally.

The title of the exhibition, *Connected / Disconnected / Re-connected* - the art of Patrick Graham and John Philip Murray, comes from a text written by Catherine Marshall, first Head of Collections at IMMA and currently Co-

Editor, Volume V, Irish Art and Architecture Project, Royal Irish Academy. She will be opening the exhibition this Friday 14 May at 7.00pm and there will also be an Artist's Talk in the Gallery. All are welcome to attend and the exhibition continues to Saturday 19 June, 10.00am – 5.00pm, Mon – Sat. Further information from 028 – 22090 and www.westcorkartscentre.com

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