

Royal Irish Academy - Advance Information Sheet

Irish Art 1920-2020: Perspectives on change

edited by Catherine Marshall, Yvonne Scott

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About the book

Irish Art 1920-2020: Perspectives on change (Royal Irish Academy) edited by Catherine Marshall and Yvonne Scott, is a generously-illustrated book in which eleven authors examine different aspects of Irish art through the hundred years or so since independence. During this time, art in Ireland has borne witness to unprecedented social and political transformation, and this book of essays considers how some of the established perspectives in Irish visual culture were challenged and represented during this time.

Art in Ireland has been shaped by a range of factors – the country's geographic position, post-colonial history, political upheaval, religious environment – and of course the complex interconnections both within and beyond the country, prompted by shifting patterns within society – identities, migration, technology, for example – as well as the artists' evolving engagement with the wider world.

This is not a linear story; each chapter explores a particular aspect of art, how it reflected the interests of artists, the environments in which they worked both in Ireland and abroad, and how subjects and methods changed over time. The extensive richness of the last century or so, as well as the diversity, creativity and originality of the artists means that no single text can ever be comprehensive, and this one makes no such claims. Rather, his book, however, is a kind of map; it does not pretend to fully represent the entire narrative but may provide some useful clues to negotiating parts of it, or at least the basis for further exploration and debate.

Endorsements

"*Irish Art 1920 – 2020* is not only a landmark publication of the work so far, it is also nourishment for the work to come."

Declan McGonagle

"Insular and global, local and diasporic, mythic grandeur and a touch of blarney, the international reception of Irish culture has been dominated for the last century by the literary legacies of James Joyce and William Butler Yeats. This wonderful book sets out to balance the record with a capacious survey of the art and visual culture of Ireland, ranging across painting, sculpture, arts and crafts, vanguards, rearguards, and New Media."

W.J.T. Mitchell

About the editors(s)

Catherine Marshall is an art historian, curator and critical writer.

Yvonne Scott is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, Associate Professor in the History of Art Department in Trinity College Dublin, and founding Director of Triarc (Trinity Irish Art Research Centre).



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