

Rikki van den Berg Solo Exhibition at Solas Art Gallery

The solo show by Rikki van den Berg at Solas Art Gallery is a collection of abstract landscapes and figurative work. Rikki van den Berg was born in Holland, spent her formative years in Ireland. Moving back to Holland, and bringing an unusual cultural background, left her vulnerable and estranged from her native country. In 1997, Rikki returned to Ireland, settled in County Cavan and established herself as a figurative and abstract painter, embarking on a personal journey in search of identity and place, resulting in abstract landscapes and figurative work.

The current collection is based on her emotional responses to the rural and natural environment in which she lives and works. Rikki's inspiration comes from the dark clouds, the flooded fields, the abandoned, the decay, the hardship and rawness of nature and rural civilisation. From these she recognises a vulnerable beauty, a fleeting moment of timelessness, a connectedness. It is the challenge to re-feel that what touched her in a particular moment or story and to portray that into a new piece of art which, working intuitively, she evokes personal memories and feelings.

In her figurative work she examines personal, familial and social historical reference, all perhaps in essence mounting to the same search for an abstracted sense of belonging. Each canvas is a finely balanced work. They hold emotion, pathos and longing.

The artists's work has received national and international acclaim, with works in public and private collections in America, Canada, Ireland, London, Belgium, France and China. Her work is represented by five renowned galleries in Ireland.

Rikki received the Cavan County Council Bursary Award for the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in 2016. During this residency in Annaghmakerrig she worked on a series entitled 'Of The Land' which forms part of this show. The project 'Of The Land' will continue in collaboration with the renowned poet and art critic Cherry Smyth and is to be completed in May 2017.

The exhibition was officially opened by Gail Quinn of Solas Gallery on Friday 10 February and continues until 4 March. For further details contact Solas Art Gallery www.solasart.ie.