

Gerard Byrne – Internationally Acclaimed Artist



Gerard Byrne - Art Studio Ranelagh. Photo Ruth Maria.



Gerard Byrne - painting Green is the New Black, Singapore Botanic Gardens. Photo Agata Byrne.

DUBLIN-born artist **Gerard Byrne** is an internationally acclaimed painter whose successful artistic career spans over 30 years. His vibrant figurative works – modern impressionist plein-air landscapes – have been painted both in his native Ireland and on foreign travels. His evocative floral and botanical pieces hang in numerous commercial and private collections worldwide and in the Irish Government's Art Collections.

His studio, **The Gerard Byrne Studio**, Fine Art Gallery located in the heart of Ranelagh village, Dublin 6, is a destination for seasoned and new art collectors. Byrne grew up next to the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland and trained as an electrician, primarily working in lighthouses around Ireland. He then travelled the world and worked in America, Australia, and Libya. Having never obtained a formal art education,

Byrne instead made art wherever he visited – always very driven, he worked with unmatched speed and spontaneity.

In 1989, following the decision to become a full-time artist, Byrne had his first solo exhibition in the George Gallery in Dublin. Many successful exhibitions later, including a number in the Gorry Gallery in Dublin, Berlin and New York, the artist moved to Dalkey, where he became known as a local painter capturing the local scenes. His inspiration was fed by the beauty of the Irish Sea, its coastline, local architecture and life itself.

Byrne says: "My artwork depicts both the natural beauty and the heritage of the country. I follow the footsteps of the Old Masters expressing the splendour of the surroundings, joy, light but also the shadows, the complexity of life, its fascinating tapestry and the passage of

time."

In 2014 Byrne moved to London, which challenged him to paint new subjects, and he participated in various en-plein-air competitions such as Pintar Rapido, and SKY Arts Landscape Artist of the Year. Four years later he returned to his native Dublin, where his homecoming was marked by a solo exhibition co-hosted by the OPW in the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland, featuring an array of 60 botanical paintings.

Byrne continues to travel extensively – his Artist-in-Residence in the Singapore Botanic Gardens in Autumn 2019 opened his art to a new audience in Asia. Curated by The Gerard Byrne Studio, co-hosted by the Singapore Botanic Gardens and the Irish Embassy to Singapore, and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs, the 'Botanical Fusion' exhibition was part of the commemorative celebration of the Singapore Botanic Gardens' 160 years in existence.

Moreover, the show formed part of the government's 2025 Asia Pacific Strategy to increase Ireland's visibility in the Asia Pacific region. The highly anticipated 'Botanical Fusion' exhibition, seen by over 50,000 visitors in Singapore, has made its way to Dublin and will be on display in The Gerard Byrne Studio from February 28 to March 29, 2020.

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A Proud Family Business

WHEN John and Richard Beshoff set up their business 25 years ago, the name Beshoff was already familiar to Dubliners. John and Richard are grandsons of Ivan Beshoff, who opened his first fish-and-chip shop in Usher's Quay in 1922. With a stellar reputation for using the finest ingredients, sustainability is also extremely important to the company.

"At **Beshoff Bros**, we take pride in being able to help do our bit to ensure the sustainability of our natural resources," comments CEO John Beshoff. "All our cod, haddock and hake come from the Atlantic and are caught under European Fishing Policies. These policies ensure the replenishment of fish stocks and promote the sustainability of all fish species caught, as well as ensuring that all fish used are fully traceable. We know that it is important to our customers that we source responsibly and manage our business in a way that respects the environment, through the use of recyclable packaging and reconstituting our waste oil into bio-diesel."

In May 2015, Beshoff Bros became the first take-away and restaurant group in Ireland to be awarded the Marine Stewardship Councils certification, recognising that it only uses certified and sustainably wild caught fish in all of its restaurants. The company also only use fresh-cut potato chips grown by environmentally friendly farmers using up-to-date and modern agricultural practices.

"We are always looking at ways of reassuring our customers that every effort has been made to ensure that the meal you enjoy has been cooked to the highest standard, using only the best ingredients," John says.

Today, decades later and with five shops in Dublin – Dame Street, Clontarf, Mespil Road, Howth and Malahide – John and Richard as they proudly continue the family business. In 2022, Beshoff Bros will celebrate the 100th anniversary of that first Dublin shop set up by Ivan. Visit www.beshoffbros.com.