



On the Tide of History
John Behan RHA

30 November - 20 December

THE KENNY GALLERY · GALWAY · 2012



6



42

This collection of new works depict the painful journey of two cultures - the Jews and the Irish. John Behan makes connections between the two peoples, each with their own stories, struggles, hardship and suffering. The Irish experienced the Famine, the Jews suffered the Holocaust; and those who survived embarked on the voyage into regained nationhood...



29



On the Tide of History

John Behan RHA

30 November - 20 December 2012



On the Tide of History

a collection of new bronzes, drawings and paintings
by **John Behan RHA** officially opened
at The Kenny Gallery on Friday 30th November

Guest speaker was **Prof. Adrian Frazier** of NUI, Galway



"My art is related to ancient culture as well as to modern technique. I feel that every artist, be they poet or writer or sculptor or painter, must have roots, roots that will tap into the ground. It's not to say that you don't live in the modern world - I use all the technology that I possibly can to express myself, I am very aware of what's going on in terms of technical innovation - but in terms of Irish art, we have had a gap between the Middle Ages and the 20th Century when no visual art was produced. So I had to go back: the future was in the past, if you like. The Renaissance wasn't experienced in Ireland. So I felt I had to rediscover things and deal with them and bring them forward. I've also had a good look at the Classical civilisations - Greek and Roman, particularly the Greek - and that has had a huge impact on my recent work. You have to deal with that, I think anybody with an Irish background does. Art must have a basis - if it takes it from other cultures, that's fine, if it takes from its own culture that is also fine. What I have done is I have tried to combine all these different elements to find a solution for my own problems."



Cover image No. 1
'Fiddler', Bronze, Unique

View the collection on
www.TheKennyGallery.ie

Exhibition continues until
20 December



12



26

65

No.	Title	Medium, Edition	€
WORKS IN BRONZE			
Jewish Life			
1	<i>Fiddler</i>	Bronze, Unique	3500
2	<i>The Wandering Jew</i>	Bronze, Unique	3750
3	<i>Rabbi</i>	Bronze	5000
4	<i>Cane Seller</i>	Bronze, Unique	2500
5	<i>Moses & The Tablets of the Law</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
6	<i>Peregrinations of Mr. Bloom</i>	Bronze, Unique	2000
7	<i>Shofar</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
8	<i>Lighting of the Hanukkah Lamp</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
9	<i>Wailing Wall</i>	Bronze, Unique	2500
10	<i>Dancing Rabbis</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
11	<i>Leopold & Rudolph</i>	Bronze, Unique	2500
12	<i>Survivors</i>	Bronze, Unique	4750
13	<i>Rabbinical Scholar</i>	Bronze, Unique	2000
Famine			
14	<i>Black '47</i>	Bronze, Unique	3500
15	<i>Famine Pier</i>	Bronze, Unique	5000
16	<i>Blight</i>	Bronze, Unique	2500
17	<i>Despair</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
18	<i>Woman Digging</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
19	<i>Failure</i>	Bronze, Unique	2000
20	<i>Potato Picker</i>	Bronze, Unique	2000
21	<i>Belfast Famine Ship</i>	Bronze, Edition of 25	3000
22	<i>Famine Grave Panel</i>	Bronze, Unique	3500
Irish Life			
23	<i>Two Man Currach</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
24	<i>Island Funeral</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
25	<i>Flight of the Earls</i>	Bronze, Unique	5000
26	<i>Páistí</i>	Bronze, Unique	3000
27	<i>Táin Bull</i>	Bronze, Unique	3500
28	<i>Táin Bull Fight</i>	Bronze, Unique	8500
29	<i>Cuchulainn</i>	Bronze, Unique	3500
30	<i>Greek Oar Boat</i>	Bronze, Edition of 9	2000
DRAWINGS & PAINTINGS			
31	<i>Dancing Rabbis</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
32	<i>Lighting the Hanukkah Lamp</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
33	<i>The Cane Seller</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
34	<i>Wandering Jew</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
35	<i>Moses & The Tablets of the Law</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
36	<i>Wandering Jew II</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
37	<i>Shofar</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
38	<i>Rabbi</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
39	<i>Rabbi II</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
40	<i>Potato Failure</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
41	<i>Despair</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
42	<i>Potato Picker</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
43	<i>Potato Pickers</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
44	<i>Blight</i>	Ink & Acrylic	425
45	<i>Woman Digging</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
46	<i>Island Woman</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
47	<i>Flight of the Earls</i>	Ink & Acrylic	175
48	<i>Famine Pier</i>	Ink & Acrylic	350
49	<i>Famine Grave</i>	Ink & Acrylic	350
50	<i>Flight of the Earls</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
51	<i>Famine Barque</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
52	<i>Soup Kitchen</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
53	<i>Flight of the Earls - Puerta Vallerta</i>	Ink & Acrylic	475
54	<i>The Corn Meal Queue</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
55	<i>Island Funeral</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
56	<i>Eviction</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
57	<i>Men Carrying Currach</i>	Ink & Acrylic	375
58	<i>Famine Pier</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
59	<i>The Wailing Wall</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
60	<i>The Poor House Gate</i>	Ink & Acrylic	495
61	<i>Saddhus</i>	Ink & Acrylic	1350
62	<i>The Three Indian Graces</i>	Ink & Acrylic	1350
63	<i>India</i>	Ink & Watercolour	2500
64	<i>Night in the Gardens of Spain</i>	Ink & Acrylic	1350
65	<i>Na Páistí</i>	Wax & Acrylic	2500
66	<i>Greek Woman on a Train, Knitting</i>	Acrylic	1350
67	<i>Memories of Buttermilk Lane</i>	Acrylic	950
68	<i>Three Horsemen</i>	Acrylic on Board	3000
69	<i>Three Horsemen and Footsoldier</i>	Acrylic on Paper	1350
70	<i>Wine Drinkard</i>	Acrylic	1350

JOHN BEHAN

John Behan RHA is firmly established as a sculptor of international stature. In a general sense he can be credited with playing a major part in the development of sculpture in Ireland over the last fifty years.

Born in Dublin in 1938, he now lives and works in Galway where he continues to vary his style of expression. After an apprenticeship in metal work and welding, the foundations for Behan's success were laid in the sixties, when he trained in National College of Art & Design, Dublin, Ealing Art College, London and at the Royal Academy School in Oslo. He exhibited widely and was included in major group shows such as the Irish Exhibition of Living Art, the Royal Hibernian Academy and the Oireachtas and has had frequent solo shows in Ireland and abroad, all combining sculpture and drawing.

Behan was a founder member of the New Artists' group in 1962 and Dublin's innovative Project Art Centre in Dublin in 1967. He was a co-founder of the Dublin Art's Foundry in 1970. He has been awarded many honours over the years and became a Member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1990, having been an Associate of the Academy since 1973. He is also a member of Aosdána. Behan was appointed to the Arts Council of Ireland from 1973 to 1978 and was conferred an honorary Doctor of Literature by NUI Galway in 2000, the same day his large commissioned sculpture 'Twin Spires' was unveiled at the university campus. The poet and Nobel Laureate, Seamus Heaney has said of the artist: "There is something psychologically salubrious about John Behan. It is as if you are encountering what the Upanishads call the ancient self, something previous to an underlying individual character, some kind of psychic bedrock." In 1999 a film documentary of John Behan's work entitled 'Famine Ship' was broadcast in Ireland and the UK and was distributed in North America by The Cinema Guild Inc. and the rest of the world by Network Television. John has exhibited in all major Irish Exhibitions since the sixties. He has had many major commissions and his work is included in numerous and prestigious private collections throughout the world. Behan is celebrated for his early bull sculptures, described by playwright Brian Friel as "enormously solid artefacts, foursquare on the earth, confident, assured, executed to a point of absolute completion". The Office of Public Works commissioned *Arrival*, a bronze sculpture of a famine ship, seven metres long and eight metres high, with 150 bronze figures on deck and disembarking, for presentation to the United Nations by the Government of Ireland in 2000. It is proudly sited outside the UN Buildings in New York. The piece mirrored his *Famine Ship*, the national famine memorial at the base of Croagh Patrick in Murrisk, Co. Mayo, which was unveiled by President Mary Robinson in 1996. Other major commissions include the *Flights of the Earls Monument*, Rathmullen, Co Donegal (2007), *Millennium Child* for Barbados which was cast in a limited edition of 100; *Wings of the World* in Shenzhen, China (1992); *Megalithic Memories*, AIB Bank headquarters, Dublin (1982); *Cúchulainn Relief Panels*, Gresham Hotel (now in Kevin Street DIT, Dublin), 1970.

The sculptor has seen his work included in the private collections of Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary. Notable public collections include Dublin City Gallery; the Hugh Lane, the Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, the National Gallery of Ireland and the Arts Councils of Ireland, North and South.

The Kenny Gallery

Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland

www.TheKennyGallery.ie e: art@kennys.ie t: +353 91 709350