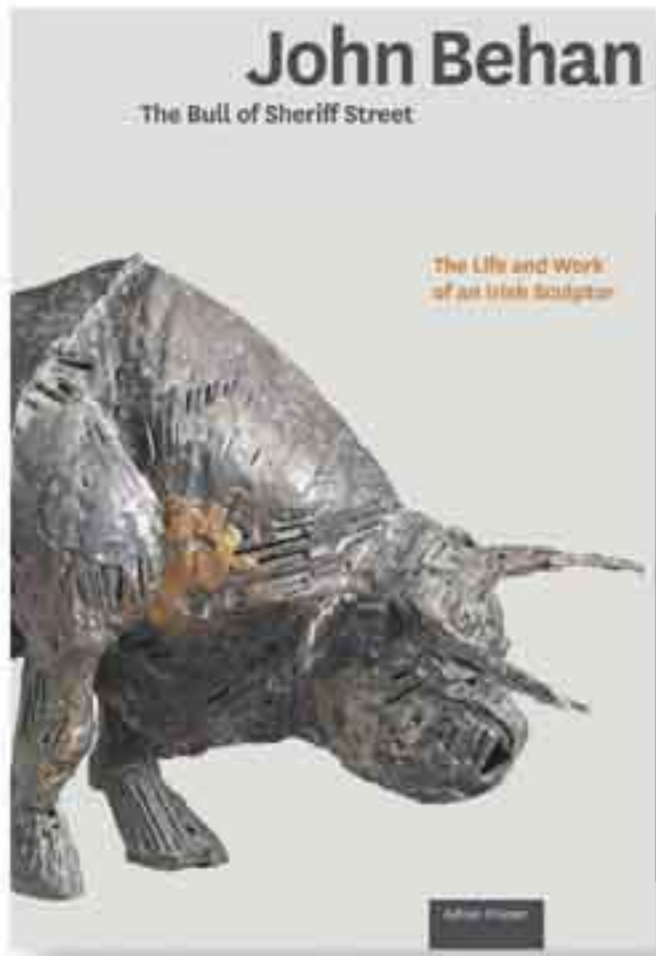


You are invited to the official opening of an exhibition of new sculpture by John Behan RHA and on the same evening, to the official launch of a new book celebrating the artist



John Behan
The Bull of Sheriff Street
The Life and Work of an Irish Sculptor
by Adrian Frazier

at The Kenny Gallery, Galway on Friday 23 October, 2015 at 6.00pm

Guest Speaker: Gearóid Ó'Tuathaigh

Some of those who already know about John Behan would think of him as without question a Dubliner. For others, after forty years there, he is a fundamental part of Galway. The favourite son of two cities, his work belongs to the country as a whole, and artistically speaking, to the world.

John Behan was born in 1938 on Sheriff Street in Dublin where his family ran a corner shop. From early childhood, he showed a love of drawing and painting. At fifteen, he started a seven-year apprenticeship as a metalworker, and soon began to use his skills in making sculptures. His first was a bull, and for bulls he has become famous.

In fellowship with artists of his generation, he was a force in the Independent Artists, a founder of the Project Arts Centre, and a board member of the Design Studio. His great aim was inspired by James McKenna's slogan 'Art for the People.'

Bronze sculptures had formerly belong to museums or wealthy patrons; he wanted his work to be both affordable to the citizens of his own country and to help them face their own experience. His public advocacy for the social value of art played a part in the reconstruction of the Arts Council in 1973. His leading role in the establishment of the Dublin Art Foundry made it possible for him and for other Irish sculptors to produce work in quantity and in quality at reasonable prices. You could rightly say that John Behan is a maker not just of art, but of the conditions for making art in Ireland.

Before John Behan began to make sculptures, how many Irish households had bronze sculptures in them? Now more than five thousand of his works have been sold in this country. A whole realm of domestic artistic experience has been opened by John to the people of his once-impooverished country...

ADRIAN FRAZIER



Indus Bull, Bronze, Unique, 10x16x6in



The Cork Famine Ship, Bronze, Unique, 14x17x7in



Icarus Falling, Bronze, Unique, 21x26x7in



Kerala Fishers, Mixed Media, 20x16in



Famine Family, Bronze, Unique, 9x16x9in



Urban Owl III, Bronze, Unique, 20x9x7in

The Kenny Gallery
Liosbán Retail Park, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland
www.TheKennyGallery.ie +353 91 709 350

The entire collection will appear online www.TheKennyGallery.ie prior to the opening of the exhibition, as we catalogue hot bronze directly from the foundry over the next number of days.