

PRESS RELEASE

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Hannah Mooney

Messums Wiltshire

26 November – 31 December 2022

Preview: 25 November, 6:30pm



Clew Bay at Dusk, 2022, Oil on board, h.56 x w.83 cm

We are delighted to announce the inaugural show of work by Hannah Mooney at Messums Wiltshire following her participation in the *Emerging Talent* programme of 2020/21. Mooney (b.1995) is an Irish painter based in County Mayo. An instinctive painter concerned with the *matière* and traditional composition, she works in two distinct subject areas – landscape and still life.

For this exhibition, we are premiering a new body of work Mooney has produced over the past year which includes over 30 paintings of landscapes frequented throughout her life, and close to her heart, in her Irish homeland. Mooney responds to the continual animation of her subject

matter, the changing landscape through the light, weather and seasons and is continually inspired by her daily walks in the environs of her home. A series of small works capture her feeling of being by the Connemara coast. The paintings presented exemplify Mooney's ability to pare down her compositions and capture the essence of her subject through her exploration of mood, colour sensibility and technique. Her work retains a very identifiable atmosphere rooted in her enduring return to the vitality and elemental nature of Ireland.

Integral to Mooney's work is her reliance on drawing. Returning again and again to her *en plein air* sketches, reviewing the techniques, palette and serendipitous marks she describes as *'the instinctive process of grappling with a subject; the initial struggle and end reward.'* She treats each painting with the same immediate and visceral response as she does her initial sketches, *'hoping that the sense of discovery remains evident and that the paintings retain their freedom and life.'*

Working to capture the energy of her subject matter truthfully in paint, Mooney's aim is to express the impact Irish landscape has had on her psyche over time.

'The areas that I have painted are of particular importance perhaps because they have drawn me back to Ireland time and again. They encompass character, mood and mystery that I feel will always intrigue me. I feel as though I can learn from these places and revisit them like old friends, acquiring new knowledge and insight with every meeting. They give so much to me and never ask for anything in return.'

Hannah Mooney



Lough Swilly I, 2022, Oil on board, h. 15 x w. 17 cm



Seascape II, 2021, Oil on board, h. 15 x w. 17 cm

Messums has successfully supported British landscape painters since its founding in 1963 and Mooney's studies in oil suggest a conversation between the traditional legacies of landscape painting and her personal and emerging contemporary perspective.

Biography

Born in Ramelton, Donegal in Ireland in 1995, Mooney studied at University of Ulster and Glasgow School of Art. In 2014 she received the Deanes Award for High Achievement from University of Ulster. Since graduating in 2017 from Glasgow School of Art, she has received the Royal Scottish Academy Landscape Drawing Prize, John-Kinross scholarship, James Nicol McBroom Memorial Prize, Armour Prize, Glasgow Print Studio Publication Prize, Hottinger Award for Excellence and House for an Art Lover Award. In 2018 Mooney was Selected for The Royal Scottish Watercolours Society Exhibition and The New Contemporaries Exhibition at RSA Galleries, Edinburgh. In the same year she was also selected for FBA Futures Exhibition and RBA Rising Stars Exhibition at the Mall Galleries, London. She has been awarded the Fleming-Wyfold Bursary and Hottinger Prize for Excellence. Her work has been acquired for the following collections: Art in Healthcare UK, Hottinger Group, Fleming- Wyfold Collection, James Nicol McBroom Archive and the Royal Scottish Academy. Since graduating Mooney has taken part in several group shows and had two successful solo shows in Edinburgh.



Yellow Flowers in Glass Vase, 2021, Oil on board, h.23 x w. 19 cm

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MESSUMS WILTSHIRE is a leading multi-purpose gallery and arts centre set inside a restored thirteenth-century tithe barn and surrounding buildings with exhibition space, sculpture garden and restaurant.

MESSUMS LONDON is a 2,000 sq ft exhibition space on Cork Street behind the Royal Academy. It hosts a rolling programme of exhibitions for our contemporary artists and is home to our photography department.