

Richard Gorman

Japan

25 January – 22 February

Opening reception:
25 January, 12–2pm

Japan presents over two decades of Richard Gorman's celebrated works on paper, focusing on the motif of the circle.

For over thirty years, Gorman has been visiting Echizen, a mountainous region of Japan, to handcraft washi paper alongside the skilled artisans of the family-run Iwano Heizaburo paper mill. The mill uses a traditional technique in which *kōzo* (mulberry) pulp is boiled, beaten, then set in *sukibune* trays, before being pressed and dried. In some of Gorman's works, gouache is applied to the surface of the finished paper; for others, Gorman developed a process in which dye is soaked directly into the pulp then shaped in moulds, allowing for a deeper saturation of colour. In both instances, Gorman's bold, elemental forms enter a playful tension with the tactile, organic texture of the paper.

The circle, often a symbol of perfection and symmetry in nature, is joyfully interrupted by this process: porous forms overlap, drip, and bleed into one another, suggesting a kind of mutability. *Japan* includes two *All Wall* installations, modular assemblages of works on paper first shown at Gorman's pivotal 2014 solo exhibition *KIN* at The MAC, Belfast (*right*). Presented here in an adapted restaging, these works present off-kilter repetitions of circular forms in asymmetric arrangements, devised with Gorman's intuitive approach to create rhythm, movement and flow.

A gifted colourist, Richard Gorman is best-known for his paintings and works on paper exploring the dynamic interplay between geometric forms. His works on paper offer a delicate counterpoint to his more robust oils on canvas, but both strands of Gorman's practice draw their power from the compositional tension between boldly simplified blocks of colour.



Gorman's work has been exhibited at The Drawing Centre, New York; Berkeley Art Museum, California; Barbican Centre, London; Koriyama City Museum of Art, Mitaka City Gallery of Art and Ashikaga City Museum of Art in Japan; The MAC, Belfast; the Irish Museum of Modern Art and Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; Limerick City Gallery of Art; and Castletown House, Co Kildare, Ireland. Recent solo exhibitions include *Living through Paint(ing)*, The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin (2023), travelling to Villa Croce & Museum Chiossone, Genoa (2024); and *Emotional Geometry*, Chigasaki Museum, Japan (2019). Gorman's work is in the collections of the Irish Museum of Modern Art; Hugh Lane Gallery; National Gallery of Ireland; Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, all Ireland; Koriyama City Museum of Art; Centre of Contemporary Graphic Art, Fukushima, both Japan; Josef and Anni Albers Foundation; New York Public Library, both USA.

Media Contact

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