

**BRIAN  
MAGUIRE**  
*Over Our Heads  
the Hollow Seas  
Closed Up*

Kerlin Gallery  
1 July – 20 August 2016

**OPENING  
RECEPTION:**  
Thursday 30 June, 6-8pm



*Over Our Heads the Hollow Seas Closed Up*, 2016, acrylic on linen, 290 x 270 cm

Kerlin Gallery is very proud to present *Over Our Heads the Hollow Seas Closed Up*, a new exhibition of works by the celebrated Irish painter Brian Maguire (b. 1951). The exhibition opens on Thursday, 30 June, with a reception for the artist and continues until 20 August.

Since the very beginning of his career in the 1970s, Maguire has approached painting as an act of solidarity. He operates a truly engaged practice, compelled by the raw realities of humanity's violence against itself, and the potential for justice. Maguire's preoccupations draw him to the margins of the art world—alternative space, prisons, women's shelters, and psychiatric institutions—making shows in traditional gallery and museum spaces something of a rarity.

The title of this new body of work, *Over Our Heads the Hollow Seas Closed Up*, is taken from Primo Levi's *If This Be a Man*, in turn is quoting Dante's *Inferno*. In these paintings, Maguire directly confronts issues of migration, displacement and human dignity in the face of the current global unrest. This kind of work is difficult to accomplish, since narrators of stories of this kind, if they care, have a fear of exploiting grief as they walk the high wire between narrative and voyeurism. With Maguire, however, manipulation is entirely absent from the telling and painting, *per se*, is to the fore.

The paintings in this exhibition are some of Maguire's most nuanced and ambitious to date, which he has crafted with larger brushes and thinned-down acrylic on canvas. He works slowly, using photographic sources, searching for that point where illustration ceases and art begins. This growing contrast between the seductive painterly aesthetic and the subject matter only adds to the potential impact of these formidable canvases.

Maguire's most recent solo exhibitions include *The Void, Derry* (2015–2016) and *Fergus McCaffrey, New York* (2015). Group exhibitions and biennales include the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; WIELS, Brussels; VISUAL, Carlow; Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane; National Gallery of Contemporary Art, Korea; Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Japan; Dublin Contemporary (2011) and the 24th São Paulo Bienal (1998).

Maguire's work is held in numerous public and private collections including the Museum of Fine Art Houston, USA; Museu de Arte do Rio, Brazil; Irish Museum of Modern Art; Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane; Trinity College Dublin; Alvar Aalto Museum, Finland; Gemeentemuseum, Den Haag, Netherlands; Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK and Crawford Art Gallery, Cork.

## GALLERY HISTORY

Established in Dublin in 1988, Kerlin Gallery has built an international reputation by providing sustained and meaningful representation for leading contemporary Irish and international artists. For almost three decades, the gallery's programme has reflected significant trends in international contemporary art, and in recent years, the gallery has introduced a new generation of artists working across diverse media. Kerlin Gallery participates in six major art fairs annually, including Art Basel, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Basel Miami Beach and Frieze New York.

## CONTACT

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