

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Jo Baer  
**Title:** *Cardinations no. 8* (1974)  
**Medium:** silkscreen

b.1929, Washington, United States

Born in Seattle in the year of the Wall Street Crash, Baer grew up in an America suffering the depression of the 1930s. Despite this however, she entered the University of Washington in 1946 and later attended the New School for Social Research, New York, where she majored in psychology. She began her career as an artist in 1953 having married and moved to Los Angeles.

Her early work is marked by an interest in American Abstract Expressionism, in particular artists such as Mark Rothko, using strong light-dark contrasts in her painting. She was, however, quick to reject this style and moved into hard-edged Minimalism upon her return to New York in 1960. She met fellow minimalists Donald Judd and Don Flavin at this point, and later went on to exhibit with them regularly, in shows such as *Eleven Artists* at the Kaymar Gallery, and the *Systemic Painting* show at the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum, New York.

Baer taught for several years at the School of Visual Arts, New York, and was an important theorist writing articles on the death of abstract painting and other artistic themes. In 1970 she joined the Orchid Society and wrote two articles on the subject of Orchids. It was during the seventies that she began using Botanic Latin to title her paintings. The *Cardinations* series to which this work belongs was also executed at this time, and published by Brooke Alexander Inc., New York.

In 1975 she vacated the New York art scene and moved to Ireland, where she lived in the historic Smarmore Castle, near Ardee, Co. Louth. During this time she explored erotic imagery found in early cave paintings, Paleolithic sculptures and fertility objects. While living in Ireland she held several solo shows in the Douglas Hyde Gallery, and the Oliver Dowling Gallery, and continued to write for art journals throughout the United States. In 1984 she then moved to Amsterdam where she still lives today.

Her work can be seen in the Irish Museum of Modern Art as well as public and private collections throughout Europe and America.

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Information contained in this article is from [www.jobae.net](http://www.jobae.net) and [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)

This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers.  
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