

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Charles Brady
Title: *Billie Can* (1974)
Medium: oil on linen
Notes: signed: Brady
exhibited: Figurative Image, Exhibition Hall, TCD, 6-30 November, 1974;
George Dawson's Collection, Douglas Hyde Gallery, TCD, 5-27 August
1983, cat. no. 10

b. 1926, Manhattan, New York d. 1997, Dublin

Brady sharpened his artistic skills at night classes in drawing before entering the Art Students' League in New York for a year in 1948. He has lived between America and Ireland, holding a position as lecturer in painting in NCAD, Dublin from 1976 until 1983. Brady has an innate ability to take mundane, everyday objects and turn them into items which create an intense aesthetic experience for the viewer by using a simplified composition and muted colours. The five works which represent him in the College's Modern Art Collection are typical of this, featuring variously, a clothes peg, a billie can, a white envelope, a bell and a hat box (belonging to Wolfe Tone).

Ironically, the economic pressure which forced Brady into painting small format pictures when he first moved to Dublin produced what has become known as his trademark small-scale works.

Brady's works have often appeared in group exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Babcock Gallery, New York, and in Philadelphia and San Francisco. He has also exhibited regularly with Figurative Image, Irish Exhibition of Living Art, Oireachtas, and the Royal Hibernian Academy.

He has won numerous awards throughout his career, including the Player Wills Open Competition (1971), the Douglas Hyde Gold Medal at the Oireachtas (1973), the Landscape Award at the Oireachtas (1975), the Carroll's Award at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art and the Keating/McLoughlin Medal awarded by the RHA and the ESB.

Information contained in this article is from The Modern Art Collection Trinity College Dublin (David Scott, 1989) and www.visual-arts-cork.com.

This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers
For further information please consult www.tcd.ie/artcollections