

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** George Campbell  
**Title:** *Composition (No. 1)* (1962)  
**Medium:** oil on board  
**Notes:** signed: Campbell  
exhibited: The College Gallery, Ulster Museum, Belfast, 20 March – 17 April 1963, cat. no. 4; The College Gallery 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Retrospective, Douglas Hyde Gallery, TCD, 3 June – 5 July 1980, cat. no. 7

b. 1917, Arklow, Co. Wicklow d. 1979, Dublin

George Campbell was the son of the well-respected artist Greta Bowen. He was largely self-taught, sharing many painting trips to Connemara with Gerard Dillon. Campbell's work is characterised by its rhythm and harmonious blend of colour, light and shade. Many of the subjects seen in his landscapes, still lifes and abstract compositions were inspired by the west of Ireland and southern Spain. The Spanish influence, in particular, can be seen in the form of bullfighters, gypsies, street scenes and musicians.

Around about 1940, Campbell moved to Belfast. He began painting in 1941, with his first exhibition in the Mol Gallery, Belfast, with Dillon in 1944. In 1946 he began showing with the Waddington Galleries, Dublin, which was to prove a long and significant relationship for the artist. Beginning in 1948, Campbell showed at the Royal Hibernian Academy for 30 years, being made an associate in 1954, and a full member in 1964. The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (and its predecessor, the Northern Irish Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts) also held several solo shows of the artist's work during his career.

In 1951, Campbell made his first visit to Spain and returned almost every year thereafter. He won the first prize at the Open Painting Exhibition in Belfast in 1962, and the Douglas Hyde Medal at the Oireachtas of 1966. He was profiled by both RTE and the BBC in the 1970s, and was made a Knight Commander of Spain in 1977.

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

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This information has been compiled by Art Collections assistants, interns, and volunteers  
For further information please consult [www.tcd.ie/artcollections](http://www.tcd.ie/artcollections)