

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Chris Doris
Title: *Untitled*
Medium: mixed media

b. 1962, Surrey

Chris Doris was born in Surrey, England in 1962. Doris studied at Blackrock College in Dublin, and though he was regarded as a capable student he never sat his leaving certificate exams, and instead focused on writing poetry which he posted all around his school. On leaving secondary education, Doris applied for a place at the Dún Laoghaire Institute of Art and Design but failed the drawing exam. Undeterred by this, Doris appealed for a spot and subsequently became top of his class in draughtsmanship. Doris graduated with a diploma in Fine Art in 1986.

In 1985, Doris had become engaged in his first work of public art, posting 800 hand-painted bitumen-on-paper heads all around Dublin city, on billboards, in backstreets and on boarded up windows. These heads competed with the advertising, signage and graffiti of the street, calling attention to the ways in which we view art and the context and associations which we in turn we assign our artworks. Over time these ideas developed further for Doris; the following year, he took part in the Rotating Group Exhibition in the Resocialization Unit of St Brendan's Mental Hospital and from 1985-90, Doris organised a group of artists to post their work on billboards across Dublin, again challenging the general perception of the ways and locations in which we view art.

Doris's first solo exhibition, 'Icons and Monoprints', was held at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in 1989, with 75 of his works filling one wing of the institution. Alongside his work as a printmaker, draughtsman and painter, the artist holds an MA in Mindfulness-based psychotherapy and is an accredited core process psychotherapist. Doris is also practitioner and preceptor of Sahaj Marg, an Indian system of spiritual training. The artist's experiences in psychology and meditation have informed his exhibitions and interventions, in particular his 40 days and 40 nights public art project, in which Doris spent 40 days and nights atop Croagh Patrick in Co. Mayo. For Irish art policy and practice, this was a particularly significant work as it marked the development of Irish public art towards participatory and process-based practices. During his 40 days and nights, Doris hoped to explore the nature of consciousness and connectivity, delving into an ancient, universal spirituality which has drawn so many pilgrims to the site of the mountain.

Recent exhibitions and interventions by Chris Doris include, 'How best to spend 10 minutes wuth an old man', (2013) The Dock, Carrick-on-shannon; 'More than this' held at Mountmellick in July, 2013 and Cork Vision Centre in April 2013. The artist has received a number of awards and bursaries and was nominated as a member of Aosdána twice; first in 1998, by Pat Hall and Patrick Graham (who taught Doris whilst at Dún Laoghaire college), and again in 2009 by Nick Miller and Mannix Flynn.

The information in this article has been taken from chrisdoris.ie and <http://www.nival.ie/collections/artists-database/view/artist/name/doris-chris/>

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