

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Jan de Fouw
Title: *Stag*
Medium: lithograph

b. 1929, The Hague d. 2015, Dublin

Jan Adriaan de Fouw was born in the Netherlands, the son of a tram-driver. De Fouw was trained as a graphic designer at the Royal College of Art, The Hague. He worked as a trainee designer for the airline KLM from 1947 to 1949. After two years of Dutch army military service, he travelled throughout Europe before settling in Dublin in 1951. De Fouw's knowledge and expertise were highly sought after in Dublin; he began to work as a free-lance designer with a wide variety of clients, including Aer Lingus and The Irish Times. As free-lance designer at the bi-monthly magazine *Ireland of the Welcomes* (a position which de Fouw would hold for 44 years) he raised the standard of design at the periodical, using a wide variety of printing techniques.

The artist initially joined Graphic Studio Dublin in 1964, followed by the Society of Designers in Ireland. He was also instrumental in setting up the Black Church Print studio in 1982, becoming chairman (1991-94) and subsequently co-director of the studio from 1995-96. His printed works are mainly copperplate colour etchings of medium format, which explore the relationship between man, nature and the elements. In the 1980s, de Fouw began a series of 24 copperplate prints to accompany the text of *The Song of Amergin*, an ancient Irish epic. This collection, known as the *Amergin Series*, was published in 2000 and exhibited in 2004 at the Metatron Art Gallery in Enniskerry.

In 2001, de Fouw was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, which left him unable to draw, paint or create his print works. In search of a new way of expressing himself, the artist began to work in sculpture, using wax and clay which was then cast in bronze. De Fouw sold these sculptures at the annual Royal Hibernian Academy shows in 2004 and 2005.

De Fouw has participated in countless group shows, both nationally and internationally, including exhibitions in Los Angeles, Boston, Toronto, Sydney and Beijing. The artist was a member of the curatorial committee of the National Print Museum from 1992-2012. His work is represented in private and corporate collections in Ireland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Austria, Spain, the USA and China. De Fouw was an honorary associate and guest lecturer at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

The information in this article has been taken from <http://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/people/dutch-designer-and-illustrator-who-made-a-home-in-ireland-1.2129697>, and <http://www.independent.ie/regionals/braypeople/news/etchings-illustrate-27612529.html>