

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Patrick Graham  
**Title:** *Transfiguration* (1986)  
**Medium:** printed reproduction

b. 1943, Mullingar

Patrick Graham was born in Mullingar, County Westmeath, Ireland in 1943. From childhood he had a natural talent for drawing and painting. At 13 years of age Graham was apprenticed to an artist in his hometown. Unbeknownst to the young Graham, his mentor submitted his drawings to the local education authorities. He was promptly awarded a scholarship for which he was too young to qualify. At age 16, he legitimately accepted a 3 year national scholarship to the National College of Art in later rejecting one offered by the Royal College of Art in London. The following year, Graham was awarded the RDS Prize for Drawing.

During his time at NCAD, the teaching in the college was geared towards a more traditional, academic style of art. Graham was one of the most able students at the college but he had great doubts about his work as he felt it did not challenge his ability. On leaving NCAD he worked as an art teacher and in an advertising company but constantly regarded his work as a failure. By the late 1960s he had given up the art world. He did not draw for a number of years but at times returned to his art to counteract periods of despair.

Patrick Graham began exhibiting again in 1974, and these works reveal his use of art as a means of personal expression. He once said that "art in the real sense is creation out of nothing but one's own experience, whole and entire." His work combines exquisite draughtsmanship and expressive layering of images and words, in a variety of media, from small works on paper to monumental canvases.

Graham is a member of Aosdána, and currently lives in Dublin. He is represented in major public and private collections at home and abroad including the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), and Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane.

Information contained in this article is from <http://www.jackrutbergfinearts.com/artists/graham.html>

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