

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist:	Donald Hounam
Title:	<i>Douglas Hyde Gallery, the Stairs, TCD</i>
Medium:	pencil drawing
Framed dimensions:	62.6cm x 62.6cm

Donald Hounam

b. 1948, Wales.

Donald Hounam is an artist, screenwriter, novelist and teacher. Hounam studied Medieval History at the University of St. Andrews, going on to write a PhD on the subject of Early Crusades and the Western Apocalyptic Tradition. Hounam then studied painting at the Ruskin School of Drawing in Oxford. In 1977, Hounam moved to Dublin where he worked both as a professional artist and as a teacher at the Dun Laoghaire College of Art. Hounam's work was shown at the Exhibition of Living Art in 1979, and in the same year the artist held a solo exhibition at Lad Lane Gallery in Dublin. He returned to Lad Lane in 1980 for a show which also featured the work of Michael Warren. His last recorded solo exhibition in Ireland was titled 'Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices' and held at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios in 1985. Hounam has since moved back to London and is now working as a screenwriter and fiction author. Hounam has recently published two young adult fantasy novels, *Gifted* (2015) and *Pariah* (2016).

The Douglas Hyde Gallery

Founded in 1978, Trinity College Dublin.

Douglas Hyde Gallery was originally founded by Trinity College and the Arts Council of Ireland. The DHG, is located in the Arts Building of Trinity College which was designed by ABK Architects in 1978. Gallery 1, whose image is captured here by artist Donald Hounam, was designed by Paul Koralek of ABK architects. Koralek was also responsible for quite probably the best example of Concrete Brutalism in Ireland, the Berkeley Library, TCD (1967). For the DHG, Koralek again plays with concrete in an expressive, brutalist format, juxtaposing heavy, angular concrete members with massive voids. Hounam has chosen the bold concrete stair as the focal point for his image; this is the approach to the large open plan gallery space in which some of the most significant contemporary art exhibitions in Ireland have been held. Up until the establishment of the Irish Museum of Modern Art in 1990, the Douglas Hyde was the primary, publically-funded contemporary arts space in Ireland.

The information in this article has been taken from <https://dhounam.wordpress.com/about/> , the NIVAL online archive and douglashydegallery.com [18/11/2016]

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