

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Patrick Ireland (Brian O'Doherty)

**Title:** *Here*

**Medium:** ink on graphpaper

b. 1934, Co. Roscommon

Patrick Ireland is the artistic alter-ego of the Irish-born artist, critic, curator and theorist, Brian O'Doherty. He adopted this identity in a public performance at the Project Arts Centre in 1972 as a form of protest against the events of Bloody Sunday in Derry. The artist undertook to sign his works 'Patrick Ireland' until such time as the British military presence was removed from Northern Ireland and all citizens were accorded their civil rights. He exhibited under this name for thirty-six years in numerous exhibitions, including Documenta, the Venice Biennale, and ROSC.

O'Doherty graduated from Trinity College Dublin and the Cambridge Medical School, before emigrating to the USA in 1957 to study at Harvard. He moved to New York in 1961, at which time he decided to devote himself to the visual arts. He soon garnered attention in the burgeoning conceptual art scene as both an artist and a critic, enjoying positions at the New York Times and at the periodical *Art in America*.

O'Doherty/Ireland's work has covered a broad range of themes and media over the course of his career, from sculpture to painting, and installation to performance art. In his work he investigates limits of perception, language, serial systems, and identity, seeking to engage viewers' minds as well as their senses. His influential essay *Beyond the White Cube*, seen by many to be a turning point in the emergence of conceptual art, argues that galleries' antiseptic white walls have helped to determine the meaning of modern art as much as the artworks themselves. O'Doherty/Ireland strives to move us beyond this white cube, emphasizing the spectator's role in the experience and interpretation of art.

O'Doherty has had retrospectives at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Elvehjem Museum, and MOMA P.S.1. His work is held in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. On May 20, 2008, in recognition of the progress for peace in Ireland, O'Doherty ceremoniously buried his alter ego at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin, and resumed to being called by his birth name.

Information contained in this article is from Brian O'Doherty/ Patrick Ireland : *Between categories* by Brenda Moore-McCann (2009) and [www.nyu.edu/greyart/exhibits/whitecube/patrickhome](http://www.nyu.edu/greyart/exhibits/whitecube/patrickhome)

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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)