

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Fionn McCann
Title: *Rory* (2007)
Medium: archival pigment print
Dimensions: 76cm x 76cm

Fionn McCann

b.1973, Dublin

Fionn McCann is a commercial and Fine Art photographer, based in Dublin. The artist studied at UCC, earning a BA in Archaeology. It was through his travels that McCann became interested in photography and on his return to Dublin he worked as an assistant to Tony Higgins, a well-known fashion and advertising photographer. McCann's work is distinctly photojournalistic, thoughtfully objective though often with a humorous element. 'General Practice' is a recent, major body of photography by McCann, documents the day-to-day work of GP Doctors and their interactions with patients in diverse areas across Ireland. This exhibition premiered at the Gallery of Photography in 2013, and following this toured to the Hunt Museum, Limerick in 2013, Tallaght Hospital in 2014 and in 2015 it was installed in Trinity College Dublin's Biomedical Sciences Institute. 'General Practice' has since returned to the Trinity College Dublin teaching facilities at Tallaght Hospital where many students and practitioners of medicine may enjoy McCann's work. Further exhibitions by McCann include 'District 9' (2015) held in Terzi, Siena- for which the artist travelled to Italy to bear witness to wild boar hunting in Tuscany, and 'Analogue' (2011) held at the National Print Museum. McCann's work is in the collections of Trinity College Dublin and IMMA. The artist has shown at the RHA Annual Exhibition on numerous occasions and was also shortlisted for the Hennessy Portrait award in 2014 for his portrait of renowned Irish artist Brian O'Doherty.

Rory O'Neill/Panti Bliss

b. 1968, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo

The subject of this portrait, Rory, is Irish drag queen and gay rights activist Rory O'Neill, often known by the stage name Panti Bliss. O'Neill/Panti is considered to be Ireland's best known drag queen and one the most significant figures in LGBT rights activism, particularly with regards to the 2016 campaign for marriage equality in Ireland and the recent media scandal referred to as 'Pantigate' when Panti was asked by broadcaster Brendan O'Conner in a nationally televised interview to name of examples of people who had showed anti-gay attitudes. Those named (including member of the Iona institute, Breda O'Brien and John Waters) complained of defamation and RTÉ were put under pressure to remove the interview from their website. This drew attention the continuing homophobia of those in high profile

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roles in Ireland and further aroused the support of those who believed Rory was entitled to share personal opinions. Panti Bliss has also been the subject of 2015 widely successful documentary, 'the Queen of Ireland'.

For this portrait, Rory has been captured in a defiant, traditionally masculine pose, arms crossed over his bare chest looking straight out at the viewer. Rory's face however is covered in make-up; he has been photographed half in his drag persona, Panti Bliss. In fact Rory has said that it is 'in my femininity that I find the qualities I need to survive: strength and perseverance. And there's a certain exquisite irony in that, because it is often the negative reaction to my perceived femininity that I'm trying to survive in the first place' [<https://twitter.com/PantiBliss?lang=en>].

Information in this article has been taken from fionnmccann.com

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