

The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

Artist: Leslie McWeeney
Title: Two Heads
Medium: inks on paper
Notes: signed: Leslie McWeeney

b. 1936, Kilteragh Lodge, Foxrock, Co. Dublin

Leslie McWeeney studied at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, under Seán Keating and Maurice MacGonigal, and at the École des Beaux-Arts, Paris, under Professor Souverbis.

Her favourite subjects are heads, often in gouache and inks, smallish in scale, but sensitive in their rendering of mood, of which the two works in the College Modern Art Collection are typical.

McWeeney began exhibiting at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art in 1954, where she continued to exhibit until 1963. In 1955, and again in 1962, she exhibited at the Oireachtas, and in 1957, she had her first solo show in Dublin at the Clog Gallery. From 1959-61, McWeeney showed her work at the Paris Biennale, and two years later with the Water Colour Society of Ireland. Throughout the 1960s, her work was shown in America and on the Continent, as well as in Ireland.

In 1987, McWeeney's work was included in the Irish Women Artist's exhibition which was jointly organised by the National Gallery, Ireland and the Douglas Hyde Gallery. In the catalogue to this exhibition Dorothy Walker gave high praise to McWeeney's wall hangings of the Stations of the Cross, which now hang in the Corpus Christi Church, Knockanure, Co. Kerry. Walker deemed this series to be "one of the most important works of religious art in the sixties", and found in them "no false note, nothing maudlin, nothing trite, but a powerful emotional content." (pp. 56-57)

Information contained in this article is from The Modern Art Collection Trinity College Dublin (David Scott, 1989), www.whytes.ie.

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