

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Michael Mulcahy  
**Title:** *The New Plant*  
**Medium:** mixed media on paper  
**Framed dimensions:** 67cm x 55cm

b. 1952, Cork

Mulcahy grew up in Dungarvan, County Waterford. He began his artistic education in Cork at the Crawford Municipal School of Art and then travelled to Dublin where he studied at the National College of Art and Design. As a young artist, his striking street performances and his obvious lack of regard for established social conventions saw him make a bold entrance on the relatively conservative Irish art scene of the 1970s. This also gave birth to a curiosity in foreign cultures and a desire to travel beyond the confines of Irish shores. His travels took him to Timbuktu, to Papua New Guinea, and to a Buddhist monastery in Korea amongst other places.

These interests are consistently reflected in his work, which often portrays indigenous people and natural environments. His use of colour and his manner of application recall ethnic decoration and the fauvist approach to the expressive value of colour. The charged energy of his portraits combined with the richness of tone used, have made Mulcahy an interesting artist throughout his career.

Throughout his global travels Mulcahy continued to exhibit works. His first solo show was in 1981 in Wexford. The Douglas Hyde Gallery, Trinity College Dublin also held an exhibition of his work in 1989 and a major show in 1994. That same year Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane exhibited his *Do-Gong Series*. He has also exhibited with Suzy O'Mullane in the Cill Rialaig Gallery, 2004, and elsewhere. Abroad he has exhibited at the Paris Biennale (1981-83), the Fifth Biennale of Sydney (1984), and took part in the Exchange Ireland--Germany Exhibition in 1988. He also took part in several Exhibitions of Irish Living Art. In May 2005, at the request of the Irish Ambassador to Belgium, he exhibited a series of painted heads at the Irish Embassy in Brussels.

Other works by the artist can be found in the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), the Allied Irish Bank Collection, Dublin City Gallery the Hugh Lane, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery in Cork and the Australian National Gallery. Mulcahy currently resides in Waterford and is represented by the Taylor Galleries in Dublin.

Information contained in this article is from [www.artireland.net/sys-tmpl/michaelmulcahyapril06/](http://www.artireland.net/sys-tmpl/michaelmulcahyapril06/) and [www.joanclancygallery.com/michael\\_mulcahy.shtml](http://www.joanclancygallery.com/michael_mulcahy.shtml)