

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Kathy Prendergast  
**Title:** *Nut*  
**Medium:** pastel on paper  
**Notes:** signed: K. Prendergast '90  
exhibited: Kathy Prendergast, Douglas Hyde Gallery TCD, Dublin, 7 March-12 April 1990; Arts Council Gallery, Belfast, April-May 1990; Oriel Gallery, Cardiff 23 June-21 July 1990  
Purchased from the artist

b. 1958, Dublin

Born in Dublin and now living in London, Kathy Prendergast is one of Ireland's most prominent artists. She studied at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, and then at the Royal College of Art, London. She has been exhibiting since the 1980s, and has represented Ireland at the Paris Biennale in 1985 and the Venice Biennale in 1995. In Venice her exhibition of a series of her *City Drawings* won her great acclaim and she was awarded the *Premio 2000* for the Best Young Artist.

Prendergast is a highly skilled sculptor, painter, installation artist and draftsman. Regardless of medium, her body of work focuses on themes of gender and identity, power and control, landscape and her own life. Her early work which brought her initial acclaim consisted of depictions of the female nude in various media, mapped out to resemble chartered land, or mechanised suggesting the body as a machine to be powered and controlled. To *Control a Landscape, Irrigation* is an example of this body of work.

Prendergast has also explored the idea of motherhood and mortality in her work. Pieces such as the *End and the Beginning I & II* make use of her mother's, her own, and her child's hair to express the common link between the two women and the young girl, but also it suggests age and mortality, and the cyclical nature of life. Her work is very much concerned with the expression of experience, the experience of being a woman and a mother. Works such as the *Secret Kiss*, where the artist has knitted two balaclavas together at the front so they appear to be locked in an embrace, carry a surrealist tone similar to the work of Meret Oppenheim. The choice of material and the manipulation of a common domestic object in this way, imbue the work with a sensual gravity.

Her work is featured in collections throughout the world: the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane, the Tate Gallery, London, and the Cheekwood Museum of Art, Nashville. She has held solo shows in both the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, as well as shows in London and New York.

The information contained in this article is from <http://www.kerlin.ie/artistBioPopup.aspx?nid=187> and <http://womeninthearts.wordpress.com/2010/03/17/>