

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

**Artist:** Patrick Scott  
**Title:** *Device* (1971)  
**Medium:** limited edition reproduction print (2013)  
**Edition:** 218 of 500  
**Dimensions:** 29.7cm x 21cm

b. 1921, Kilbrittan, Co. Cork d. 2014, Dublin

Scott only became a full-time practicing artist in 1960. Having left his home town of Kilbrittain, Co Cork, he studied architecture in University College Dublin, and joined the firm of renowned architect, Michael Scott. He worked there for fifteen years, during which time he had a hand in the design of Busaras, and designed several mosaics for the interior of the building, which many now see as a precursor to his work with tapestries. He was made a partner at the firm in 1959, before leaving it in 1960 to pursue his career as an artist. His first solo show took place in 1944, but he only retired from architectural design when he realised he could support himself while working as an artist alone. His work as a designer also resulted in the orange design scheme for the old CIE Intercity trains.

He was a member of the White Stag Group as early as 1941. Two years later, he took part in the first Irish exhibition of Living Art. In 1958 he displayed work in the Guggenheim International Exhibition, New York, and in 1960, won the national award at the same exhibition. He also represented Ireland at the 1960 Venice Biennale. In 1969 he was appointed a director of the board at Kilkenny Design Workshops, the semi state body set up to foster and encourage industrial design in Ireland, and in 1973 was appointed a Governor of the National Gallery of Ireland. Later in the Seventies he was declared a trustee of the Irish Museums Trust and ten years later became a member of the Aosdana. In 1990 he was conferred with Associateship of the National College of Art and Design and in 1992 was conferred with an honorary degree in Civil and Canon Law from UCD.

His career has consisted of two threads; one as an abstract painter, and the other as a highly skilled tapestry designer. His painting is renowned for its minimalist sophistication. He is regarded as a pioneer of abstraction in Ireland. His artistic interests would appear to hail from his own interests in Buddhism, with something of a Zen-like, meditative quality to them. His work often incorporates geometric forms against a pale, plain background, particularly in his 'gold paintings', where shapes of gold are contrasted with an un-primed canvas. The circle and square are the basic elemental tools in his work. Scott's sustained focus on the circle is one of the most striking features of his career, which has spanned six decades; in fact, it has been suggested that he has done for the circle 'what Albers did for the square.'

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His work in tapestry however, is somewhat different, where Scott indulges in a wealth of colour and pattern. His earliest textile designs were for printed linens which were commissioned by John Maguire for Brown Thomas in Dublin and he designed carpets for a Co Cork manufacturer. His first tapestry (1963) was for the Intercontinental Hotel in Cork (now Jury's Hotel) and was made by V'Soske Joyce in Co Galway. He has also designed nine woven tapestries for the Aubusson workshops of Tabard Frères et Soeurs in France and ten in Mexico for the village weavers of Oaxaca. His associates at the firm where he once held the position of partner, now *Scott, Tallon and Walker*, were among his first tapestry patrons, which they incorporated into their building projects. His work in tapestry boasts many important pieces, including *Blaze*, 1972, which sees a fire-like collage forming a circle or disc against a rich blue background, which is now in the collection of the Bank of Ireland.

His solo shows have included exhibitions at the Dawson Gallery, Dublin and the Hamilton Galleries, London, throughout the sixties. A retrospective of his work was held at the Douglas Hyde Gallery, TCD in 1981 and subsequently travelled to the Ulster Museum, Belfast and the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork. An exhibition also took place in the BP Gallery, Brussels in 1990. Another major exhibition of his work was held in the Hugh Lane Gallery in 2002, and in the Fenton Gallery, Cork, in 2005.

In 2007 he was elected Saoi of the Aosdana, and presented with the golden torc to denote his position by President Mary McAleese at Aras An Uachtaran. Only five living members of the Association are entitled to hold the position at any one time. Previous Saoithe have included Samuel Beckett and Tony O'Malley and his contemporaries are Louis Le Brocqy, Seamus Heaney, Anthony Cronin and Brian Friel. Just recently, in July 2009, he received an honorary degree from Trinity College Dublin.

Other works by the artist can be found in the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Hugh Lane Gallery, the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork, the Museum of Modern Art, New York and Mitsubishi Bank in Tokyo.

The information in this article was taken from  
[http://www.irishartsreview.com/html/vol19\\_no1/scott/scott\\_feature.htm](http://www.irishartsreview.com/html/vol19_no1/scott/scott_feature.htm)

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