

## The Trinity College Dublin Art Collections

<b>Artist:</b>	Noel Sheridan
<b>Title:</b>	<i>The Bog</i> (1961)
<b>Medium:</b>	oil on canvas
<b>Dimensions:</b>	29.5cm x 39.5cm
<b>Notes:</b>	signed: N. Sheridan  purchased: Dawson Gallery, Dublin 1961  exhibited: Dawson Gallery, 1961; <i>George Dawson's Collection</i> , Douglas Hyde Gallery, TCD 5-27 August 1983, cata no. 69.

b. 1936, Dublin d. Fremantle, Australia, 2006

Noel Sheridan was a conceptual artist, painter, educator and administrator. Sheridan was born in Dublin, the son of well-known variety performer, Cecil Sheridan. Noel studied at Syngde Street Christian Brothers School where he showed an interest in both theatre and art. Following his secondary education, Sheridan worked in the accounts department of The Irish Independent as well as attending evening studies for a degree in Commerce at Trinity College Dublin. At Trinity College, Sheridan developed his passion for performance, joining the Players drama group.

At this time Sheridan was also working on his painting; his initial artworks were mainly abstract, sombre landscapes. Leo Smith, later to become Sheridan's dealer, invited the young man to exhibit these works at the Dawson Gallery in 1958. In 1961, Sheridan was awarded the Macaulay Prize which allowed him earn his MA in Fine Art from Columbia University in New York. Sheridan then went on to represent Ireland at the UNESCO Convention of Young Painters in 1962. Throughout the 60s in Ireland, Sheridan became involved in painter's groups and committees, one such group was the Independent Artists, who were seen as rebellious and politically aware. Sheridan continued to achieve success with his painting, winning the Carroll Prize for painting at the 1965 and the 1969 Irish Exhibition of Living Art. From the lyrical abstractions of his youth, Sheridan expanded his artistic practice, incorporating more of his flair for performance and also his interest in conceptual ideas, perhaps stemming from his experience of the New York art scene.

Sheridan began his career as an art educator in Australia in the 1970s, becoming the first in the world to be appointed a Professor of Conceptual Art, a position he held at the Sydney National Art School. In Ireland, Sheridan was to become the director of the National College of Art and Design from 1980-2002, interspersed with periods of travel and a four-year break in which Sheridan was the inaugural director of the Perth Institute of Conceptual Art (1989-93). Whilst at the Perth institute, Sheridan was an ambassador for Irish contemporary and experimental art, showcasing the work of the Blue Funk group in 1991.

A retrospective of Sheridan's work was held at the RHA Gallery in 2001; the entire exhibition was purchased by a pair of collectors who then donated it to the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

The information in this article has been taken from *Art and Architecture of Ireland, Volume V* (RIA, 2015) and <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/versatile-and-charismatic-presence-in-art-scenes-of-two-countries-1.1031166>

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