



## Visualising The Berkeley Library @ 50

1967 marks a formative moment in terms of visual arts synergies in Ireland, with the emergence of a number of initiatives which not only took root but proceeded to influence and forge the national profile of contemporary visual arts practice to the present day. Since the 1920s, and most particularly from the 1940s onward, Ireland witnessed individual and collective efforts to embrace, promote and increased engagement with 'International Modernism' under the auspices of The Friends of the National Collections, The Irish Exhibition of Living Art, The Independent Artists, The Arts Council, and The Contemporary Irish Art Society. 1967 marked a seachange, with the opening of the first ROSC exhibition, held to revitalise Ireland's connection with contemporary international artistic movements. At Trinity College Dublin, in the Summer of 1967, the iconic Berkeley Library, designed by Paul Koralek, opened its doors and, simultaneously, the Trinity Exhibition Hall was inaugurated, to complement the existing activities of Dublin City Gallery, The Hugh Lane, and to go some way to resolving the dearth in Ireland of 'kunsthalle', or temporary exhibition spaces capable of both receiving and generating significant Irish and international exhibitions. The Trinity Exhibition Hall was funded by the University in conjunction with the Arts Council of Ireland, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lady Dorothy Mayer, The Chester Beatty Trust, and the Guinness Trust. While the College had already been proactively collecting modern and contemporary art since the establishment of 'The College Gallery' Art Hire Scheme in 1959, The Exhibition Hall realised a desire to create a public platform for modern and contemporary art which would find its permanent home in The Douglas Hyde Gallery from 1978 onwards. During the same academic year, the Department of the History of Art and Architecture was established, originally known as the Department of Visual Arts. 2017 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership between the University and The Arts Council and heralds the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of The Douglas Hyde Gallery in 2018. This display features works produced in and around this pivotal moment of 1967, many of which were purchased directly from the Arts Council of Ireland.

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List of works, clockwise

**Anne Madden** *Big Red Mountain Series* (1967), oil on canvas  
Purchased from the Arts Council of Ireland, 1976

**Erik Adriaan van der Grijn** *Will you walk into my parlour...?* (1968), acrylic on canvas  
Purchased as the winner of the Carroll's Award, Irish Exhibition of Living Art, 1968

**Robert Ballagh** *Series 4, No. 3* (1968), acrylic on canvas  
Purchased from the Brown Thomas Gallery, Dublin, 1969

**Barrie Cooke** *Kitchen* (1964), oil on canvas  
Purchased from the Hendricks Gallery, Dublin, 1964

**Patrick Scott** *Gold Painting 42* (1969), oil and gold leaf on canvas  
Purchased from the Arts Council of Ireland, 1976

**Cecil King** *Berlin Painting* (1970), acrylic on canvas  
Purchased from the Arts Council of Ireland, 1976

