



Artist: **Patrick Scott**
Title: **Berkeley**
Date: **1967**
Medium: **V'soske tapestry**

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

Scott trained initially as an architect, becoming partner at the renowned Irish architecture firm Scott Tallon Walker. He was also a passionate artist, exhibiting with 'The White Stag Group' as early as 1941, holding his first solo exhibition in their gallery in 1946. By 1960, he became a full-time artist and continued his rise to prominence, representing Ireland at the Venice Biennale that same year.

Between 1966 and 1979, the artist collaborated with the influential French weaver, Francois Tabard in Aubusson, France. In 1972, he produced one of his many masterpieces, *Blaze*, formerly of the Bank of Ireland Collection. Throughout his lifetime Scott also held positions as a textile designer for Brown Thomas, a carpet designer for Kilkenny Design Workshops, and a graphic designer for Coras Iompair Éireann. Although widely known for his minimalist aesthetic - favouring monochromatic colours, geometric shapes, and the application of gold leaf – Scott's tapestries exude a more vibrant palette, such as is evident in The Berkeley Library tapestry. However, there is a zen-like, meditative quality that pervades his whole *oeuvre*, the circle and square being fundamental units of form, particularly to his painting. In 1964, the artist began his practice of including gold leaf and, to a lesser extent, palladium (silver), which is now synonymous with his paintings. Scott's sustained focus on the circle is one of the most striking features of his lengthy career; in fact, it has been suggested that he has done for the circle what Albers did for the square.

This tapestry was commissioned by the architect of The Berkeley Library, Paul Koralek (Ahrends Burton Koralek) as an integral element of the building's design, and has been displayed in this location since the Library's inauguration in August 1967.

