

Bantry artist exhibits in Florence



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Bantry artist Teresa Moran recently showed her work at an international exhibition in Florence, Italy. She was one of over 700 artists from around the world invited to take part in the fifth International Biennale of Contemporary Art during December 2005.

"It was a wonderful experience from beginning to end," said Teresa. "It was a real honour for me to be showing my paintings in Florence, the home of beautiful art. And of course, it was a great experience to take part in such a prestigious, international exhibition, as the Florence Biennale is recognised as the world's most comprehensive exposition of international contemporary art. Artists from more than 70 countries exhibited around 2500 works in all media (paintings, photographs, sculptures etc) both in its main site in the historic Fortezza da Basso in Florence, and in public squares throughout the city," explained Teresa.

Each artist was given three metres of exhibition space and so Teresa decided to bring three oil paintings. The first one was entitled 'Silver Strand with Boy, Glencolmille, Co. Donegal'. It shows a boy at the water's edge contemplating whether he will go in for a swim on a sunny but chilly July day.

The second painting she brought over to Florence was

called 'Up the Bank (Spring), Carrick-on-Suir', and the third painting Teresa exhibited at the Biennale was of emerald blue sea, entitled 'No Boundaries'. This seascape could be anywhere — the waters of Gearhies, West Cork, the waters of Clonea Strand, County Waterford, or the waters of warmer climes. Teresa wanted to display the movement of warm water on a sunny day, so that the viewer could 'feel' the blues and greens of the water.

For Teresa Moran, nature is her passion, and she finds inspiration from the seascapes of West Cork, the rich countryside of the River Suir, and the Comeragh Mountains. Her work reflects the beauty and power of the sea, the ever-changing colours of the mountains, and the calming effects of the river. Many of her paintings are in private collections in Ireland and abroad. She studied the techniques of the old Masters during a two-year full time course in Florence, Italy, where she was awarded a professional qualification in 2002.

"I paint mainly in oils but I also use other media. I have various projects on the go at any one time. From time-to-time someone will ask me to paint a particular location. At the moment I am working on several landscape oil paintings, some tempera images on wood, and some water-

colours."

Teresa also likes to paint religious images, sometimes inspired by the Italian Masters such as Giovanni Bellini, and sometimes inspired by stained glass windows. Her painting of 'Our Lady from Clonea Power' inspired by a Harry Clarke window, is now with its new owner in Chicago.

Teresa, whose mother Betty Minehane is from Bantry, grew up in Carrick-on-Suir. She received a grant from South Tipperary County Council towards the costs involved in participation in the Biennale. Her studio is located at the top of the hill in Faughan above Gearhies Pier on the Sheep's Head peninsula.

"My grandmother, Annie O'Driscoll, and my great grandmother, Mary O'Donovan, grew up at the foot of Faughan. My grandfather, Patrick Minehane (who owned the West End Bar in the Square in Bantry, now the Waterfront restaurant) grew up on Whiddy Island. As a child, I spent much of every summer in Bantry, and have fond memories of being out on fishing boats, listening to music in the West End Bar, and swimming at the Abbey. So I have definitely come back to my roots," says Teresa.

Teresa has recently launched a range of greeting cards featuring photos of her artwork. The range includes images of Bantry Bay from the Abbey, Gougane Barra, the Comeragh Mountains, the river Suir; as well as other images. The cards are blank inside and so can be used for all occasions, and are on sale in Bantry newsagents. Cards will be available shortly in Skibbereen Heritage centre and also in Clonakilty.

Teresa can be contacted about her paintings and her greeting cards on 086 1552775 or email artbyteresamoran@gmail.com. Images of her art can be seen at www.artvitae.com.