

Carrickfad

Colin Corkey



THE western coastline of Ireland has long been the inspiration behind much of my art work. Whether it's experiencing the relentless Atlantic breakers rolling in and battering against the rugged shores of Donegal, or quietly contemplating the 'secret' worlds of the rock pool, the possibilities for the painter are limitless.

The work featured here is a detail from a painting of a special place known as Carrickfad; special, because of happy childhood memories and has been the inspiration behind several paintings over the years. This is a promontory of rock that reaches out into the Atlantic in Donegal Bay. Uncovered at low tide, there is only a relatively brief few hours to investigate and absorb the hidden worlds that lurk within these mysterious depths before the whole place becomes completely submerged.

The process of focusing in on a detail in such a painting draws a parallel with the experience of looking down into the actual world of the rock pool. As I looked into the

detail of this painting, little sandy coves, rugged shores and rock crevices with strange imaginary sea life were suddenly revealed.

During the creative process, whether in music, poetry, literature or painting, a window inevitably opens into another mysterious world, infinite and inexplicable. As Picasso once stated, in response to a request for an explanation of his work, "Everyone wants to understand art. Why not try to understand the song of a bird?".

The painting is in mixed media which included a combination of sand and clay from the shores of Donegal along with acrylic paint. Much of the surface was then subjected to fire resulting in some scorching and blistering. The work was cut into random sections and finally reassembled in a new format. It was selected for the Royal Ulster Academy Summer Exhibition.

Contact: colinmcorkey@icloud.com