

claremorris gallery

gallery



# Artefacts

Kate Murphy & Ciaran Bowen

Nov 25 - Dec 9th

# Artefacts | Kate Murphy & Ciaran Bowen

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Artefacts is an exhibition of new work by Kate Murphy and Ciaran Bowen that will run from November 25th until December 9th.

Regarded as 'process painters', the two Wexford based artists both push the boundaries of their materials, rarely handling paint conventionally but using it like paper or plastic, plaster, wood or printing ink. Though their work diverges in technique and subject matter, both artists tell a history of making and thinking processes. They share a reverence for the materiality of paint as a sculptural medium. Bowen uses sheets of dried paint skins, cutting shapes with scissors or punches.

Both artists are hoarders of dried paint. Bowen purposefully creates large sheets of it while Murphy has more of a scavenging approach, treating pieces of paint as found objects, saving dried blobs and discs of paint from tubs and trays or collecting the carved out shavings of previous works. Bowen never lets his paint go to waste either. Offcuts from previous works are saved for future use. Dried paint or objects are collected by both artists and in their hoards, pieces of paint are catalogued, like archaeology finds, each one a precious remnant of what it was before and therefore connected to the whole cultural archive of the artists' previous works and their processes.

Works in Murphy's works seem haphazard, like scratches on an old object or on the surfaces of an abandoned space. The paintings use the surfaces, textures and colours of the domestic to try to describe

the very visceral, bittersweet experiences of longing, loss and nostalgia that certain objects and spaces can provoke.

The surfaces are very tough but tactile and have the old, worn presence of neglected interiors or once-loved objects now languishing in the attic. The work is personally grounded and explores and expresses the Home's many functions as a personal and cultural artefact. It is a primitive, protective shelter, a tribal headquarters, a repository of memory, a symbol of status, class and culture and a school of How to Be. In these works, the Home nurtures while it restricts, protects while it confines.

Ciaran Bowen's work predominantly focuses on the materiality of paint and how it can be manipulated and pushed through a variety of processes. By combining the paint with industrial materials, it allows the surface of the work to be moved outside the constraints of traditional painting. By drying sheets of paint, he manipulates them by cutting, collaging, printing and flooding the surface of the work. It is not only about the surface of the work but the interplay of materials/ forms and how they intersect.

# Kate Murphy

## Bio

Kate was born in Dublin but now lives and works in Co. Wexford, Ireland. She graduated from the National College of Art & Design in 2000 with an honours degree in Fine Art.

Kate's work has been selected for national and international group exhibitions. She represented Ireland at Artisterium, Georgia's International Contemporary Art Exhibition in 2013 and in 2020 her work was shown at BEEP Painting Biennial, Wales.

In 2021, Kate's work was selected for Wide Open Spaces at Wexford County Council and in 2018 took part in Wexford Arts Centre's/ Wexford County Council's dual-space exhibition of contemporary painting entitled And Creatures Dream...

In 2019, Kate's work was accepted into the Royal Hibernian Academy Annual Exhibition and into Cairde Visual, the annual group exhibition at The Model Gallery, Sligo. She was an invited artist at the Boyle Arts Festival 2014.

In 2006, 2007 and 2009 she had solo exhibitions with Stone Gallery, Dublin.



Kate's fourth solo exhibition, *The Good Room*, was in Wexford Arts Centre in 2011. Talbot Gallery in Dublin hosted *This is the Point of Contact*, in October 2013.

Kate was short-listed for the Golden Fleece Award in 2010.

She was awarded an Artlinks bursary in 2017. Her work is in the collections of The Office of Public Works, the Bank of Ireland, Wexford County Council, Wicklow County Council and in private collections.



Kate Murphy, Untitled Series III,  
oil on board, 75 x 53cms, €1,850



Kate Murphy, Untitled Series I,  
oil on board, 33x37cms, €800



Kate Murphy, Untitled series I,  
oil on board, 86 x 80cms, €2000



Kate Murphy, This thing that Watches, oil and googly eyes on board, 15 x 15cms, €450



Kate Murphy, Blue Room, Oil on plaster, 15 x 15cm, €450



Kate Murphy, Untitled series I, oil on board, 86 x 80cms, €2000



Kate Murphy, This thing that pours out,  
oil on board, 15x5cms, €450



Kate Murphy, Rainbow, oil on board, 29x30cms, €800



Kate Murphy, Screen Series iii, oil on board, 40x40cms, €950



Kate Murphy, This thing that sits inside,  
oil on board, 15 x 15cms, €450



Kate Murphy, Screen series v,  
oil on board, 40x40cms, €950



Kate Murphy, Table,  
Oil on board, 15x15cms, €450



Kate Murphy, Coming Undone Series II,  
oil on board, 16 x 23cm, 2020, €450



Kate Murphy, Chair,  
oil on board, 15 x 15cms, €450



Kate Murphy, Coming Undone Series II,  
oil on board, 16 x 23cm, 2020, €450



# Ciaran Bowen

## Bio

Ciaran Bowen (b. 1990) is an artist based in Wexford. He achieved his BA (Hons) in Fine Art from SETU Wexford in 2015.

Recent shows include: (2023) The Royal Academy of Arts Summer Exhibition, London, (2023/2022) RHA Annual Exhibition, Dublin, (2023) Cape Sacred, West Wales Art Center and (2022) A Slight Hiccup, La Grange Gallery, France.

He was a recipient of the “Making and Momentum: In Conversation with Eileen Gray” Artist Prize (2022) awarded by Fashion designer Richard Malone as well as the Artlinks Bursary Award (2022). His work is also held in public and private collections including Carlow IT (2015), Wexford County Council (2019) and Wexford Arts Centre (2018 & 2021). As well as private collections in Ireland, United Kingdom and USA.





Ciaran Bowen, Prop,  
Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 25 x 35cm, €750



Ciaran Bowen, Other World,  
Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Canvas,  
50 x 60cm, €1500



Ciaran Bowen, On top of the Mountain,  
Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 20 x 25cm, €400



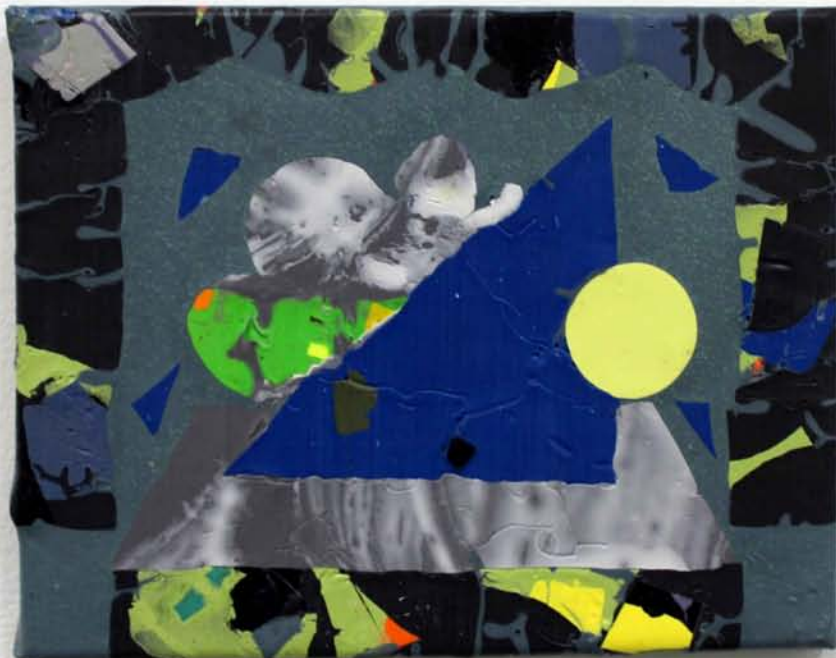
Ciaran Bowen, Curtain Call, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 25 x 45cm, €800



Ciaran Bowen, String Theory, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 30 x 40cm, €900



Ciaran Bowen, Mind Map, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 25 x 35cm, €750



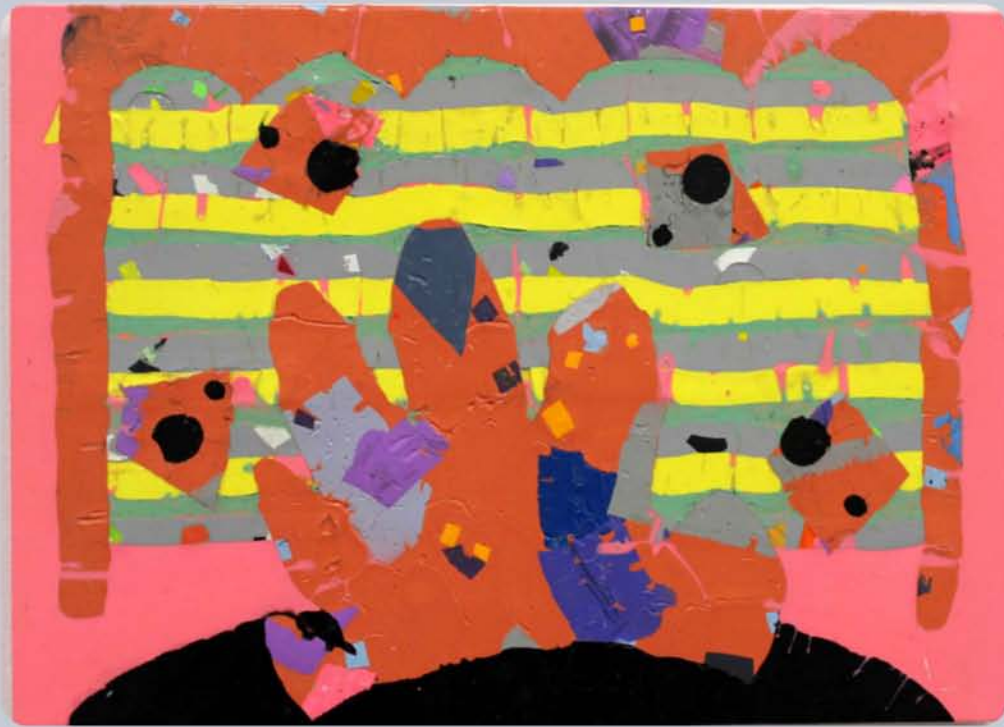
Ciaran Bowen, Midnight Surprise, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Canvas, 20x 25cm, €400



Ciaran Bowen, Formation, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 25x35cm, €750



Ciaran Bowen, Dark Paradise, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 30 x 40cm, €900



Ciaran Bowen, Theatre II, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 30 x 40cm, €800



Ciaran Bowen, Theatre II, Acrylic Paint Skin stretched over Board, 30 x 40cm, €800

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Gallery Hours - 1 to 6pm, Wednesday to Saturday  
or by appointment, (087) 7912337

[www.claremorrisgallery.com](http://www.claremorrisgallery.com)

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