

An oil painting of two wolves in a field. The foreground wolf is looking back over its shoulder at the viewer, with a second wolf visible behind it. The background features a line of trees and a small house under a vast, cloudy sky with warm, golden light.

claremorris gallery

gallery

MARTIN GALE | In the Land
Nov 22 - Dec 13, 2025



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In this exhibition, *In the Land*, Martin Gale continues his quietly arresting exploration of the Irish landscape—its myths, its tensions, and the strange beauty that flickers at the edges of the everyday.

These paintings bring together an unexpected cast of motifs: wolves appearing at dusk, circus tents pitched incongruously in open fields, and the looping doughnut rings carved into empty beaches by “little boy racers.” Each image seems at once familiar and uncanny, rooted in real places yet touched by something dreamlike and unsettling.

Gale’s wolves move through the landscape with a sense of wary sovereignty. They act as both symbols and intruders, hinting at the return of something wild and ungovernable beneath the surface of rural life. The circus tents, meanwhile, introduce a more overt theatricality—bright, temporary structures poised against vast, unpeopled horizons. They suggest spectacle and escape, but also fragility, as though the show might evaporate at any moment, leaving only the wind.

In contrast, the doughnut rings—those looping marks left by night-time joyrides—carry a peculiarly human presence without ever showing a figure. They speak to bravado, boredom, and the small rebellions that animate otherwise quiet places. Gale paints them not as mere vandalism but as fleeting signatures, the evidence of lives lived at the margins.

Across all these works, Gale maintains his characteristic precision: crisp light, deep shadows, and a meticulous attention to surface. But beneath this clarity lies ambiguity—a sense that something is about to happen, or has just happened, unseen. The result is a landscape that feels alive with stories, both whispered and unresolved.

This exhibition invites viewers to dwell in that in-between space: where the ordinary becomes strange, where the rural becomes symbolic, and where the world we think we know reveals its deeper, more mysterious layers.

Rosemarie Noone
Director of Claremorris Gallery

MARTIN GALE | BIOGRAPHY

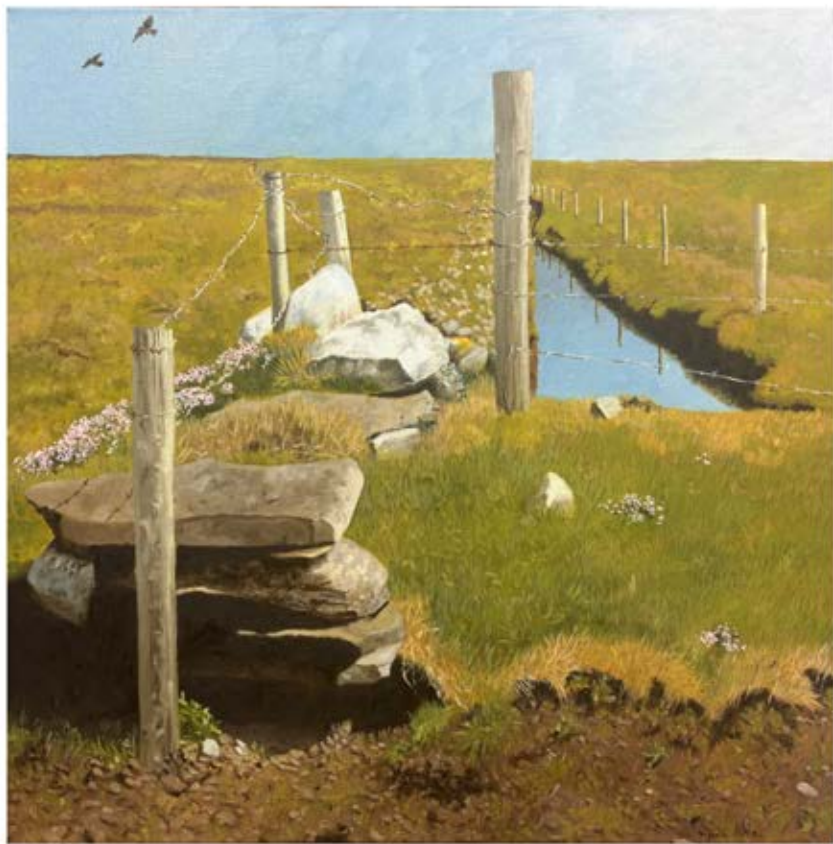
Martin Gale, born in Worcester, England in 1949, is a distinguished Irish painter whose work explores the interplay of people, animals, and the contemporary Irish landscape with a quietly unsettling realism.

He studied at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin (1968–1973) and soon after held his first solo show at the Neptune Gallery. In 1980 he represented Ireland at the XI Biennale de Paris, and two years later was elected to Aosdána. He became a full member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1996 and received an Honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from NUI Maynooth in 2013.

Gale has been the subject of a major RHA Gallagher Gallery retrospective that later travelled to the Ulster Museum, and his work appears in leading public and private collections, including the Irish Museum of Modern Art and the National Gallery of Ireland. Most recently, at the 195th RHA Annual Exhibition (Summer 2025), he won the Hanley Energy Sustainability Excellence Award for The Return (Re-wilding), underscoring his continued relevance and his commitment to themes of nature, renewal, and place.







Skylarking, oil on canvas, 60x60cm, €6,000



'Study for Bog Cotton' , oil/linen, 35x45cm., €4500



Bog Cotton, oil on linen, 105x120cm, €11,000



Doughnuts at Low Tide – study, 35x45cm oil linen, €4500



Doughnuts at Low Tide 130x160cm oil on canvas, €15,000



Into the Deep Wood (study), oil on canvas, 25x30cm €3,000



Traveller, oil on canvas, 120x120cm, €13,000



Outlanders, oil on canvas, 56x76cm, €8,000



Martin Gale, Home and Dry, oil on canvas, 35x45cm, €4,500



Lighting Up, oil on canvas, 50x70cm, € 6,000



Martin Gale, After Hours, Martin Gale, 30x40cm €3,500



Old World No. 3, oil on canvas, 20x30cm, €3,000



Old World No. 1, oil on canvas, 20x30cm, €3,000



Old World No. 2, 20x30cm, €3,000



The Wonder, 105x120cm, €11,000



In the Land (study), 25x30cm, €3,000



In the Land, 105x120cm : €11,000



Clearing, 105x120cm €11,000



Flight from the Forest, 35x45cm : €4,500



Two Flew Over, Martin Gale, 35x45cm : €4,500



Martin Gale, Three Flew Over, Oil on Canvas, 105x120cm : €11,000



German Shepherd, oil on canvas, 120 x 120cm, €13,000



Exhibition continues: Nov 22 - Dec 13, 2025
Gallery Hours: 1 - 6pm, Wednesday to Saturday

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