



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

It's rare that we are given the opportunity to understand how fully an artist lives in his own mind. Seeing the works of Fergus Martin at home in his studio, the contrast between his way of life and his output is stark: at first glance, there are no points of references here for the modernist sculpture and painting he has become renowned for.

Fergus lives and works from one of Dublin's last great bastions of arts communities – Henrietta Street in the north inner city. The faded Georgian palaces here are occupied by various artists and families: people who care enough about the buildings to live in them without central heating or other modern comforts.

Painter, sculptor and photographer, Fergus Martin is having a bit of a moment. KATE BUTLER visits his studio to find out what makes him tick. Portraits by AGATA STOINSKA.

In two rooms at the top of one of these buildings – six flights up – Fergus lives in the most simple splendour. “I think this room opens up into the sky,” he says. “I said to two friends recently, ‘I probably mean I’m very happy here, but the words that come to my mind are this is the happiest place I’ve lived in.’”

In recent years, Fergus Martin's work has gained increasing prominence, thanks to a series of critically acclaimed shows at the Green on Red Gallery, the Butler Gallery, the Lewis Glucksman Gallery and Project. This autumn, however, sees the artist have something of a moment, as the Irish Museum of Modern Art and Dublin City Gallery The