

Paintings, drawings and watercolours from the studio of the late Colin Middleton - on Friday 4 October 1985.

- - Colin Middleton



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Colin Middleton Paintings for Sale

It seems unlikely that this was a painting of a specific person, as Middleton generally seems to have depicted imagined or composite figures inspired by his general experience of a place and its inhabitants, rather than directly drawn from or inspired by a single person. Middleton established strong bonds with the various landscapes in which he lived, managing to find within them a reflection of his mood over a certain period, as well as allowing different landscapes to suggest formal and stylistic developments in his work. There is remarkable tonal contrast in each work and the vibrant palette expresses Middletons passion for this landscape and his self-belief as a painter, despite the difficulties and doubts he still experienced.

Colin Middleton

These changes coincided with shifts in Middleton's painting, as he renewed and strengthened his interest in abstract art in which the theoretical use of colour began to dominate.

Colin Middleton, Surrealist Painter: Biography, Paintings

Like the concurrent Wilderness Series, the Westerness paintings depict a stylised, dream-like landscape in which are brought together various elements from across Middletons life and work. Colin Middleton RHA MBE 1910-1983 The highly respected Irish landscape artist, and Surrealist Colin Middleton was born in 1910. The Westerness Series has arguably remained relatively neglected and has been seen as an extension of the Wilderness series, but in many ways it can be seen as one of Middletons major achievements in its own right, dealing with, and in some ways perhaps resolving, spiritual and pictorial concerns that continued through his career.

Colin Middleton, Surrealist Painter: Biography, Paintings

Aged seventeen, Middleton had followed his father into his linen design firm and increasingly struggled to reconcile the techniques of this work with his ambitions as a painter, writing about this dialectic and, at times, attempting to integrate both identities within his work. While he was learning and at Belfast College of Art, he was heavily influenced by the work of the Dutch Expressionist. Its mood reflects the peace and optimism the artist

felt during this period, during which he found recognition and success exhibiting with Victor Waddington in Dublin.

Colin Middleton, Surrealist Painter: Biography, Paintings

The series refers in its name to Finnegans Wake, from which the title of the second painting of the cycle, Into the Shandy Westernness She Rain, Rain, Rain, is taken. A poet and musician, Middleton also produced murals, mosaics and posters.

Colin Middleton Paintings for Sale

The 'Dublin Magazine' at this time said of him 'Apart from the brilliance of his paint, he has one rare quality in his inexhaustible capacity for wonder'. He also exhibited alongside at the Tooth Galleries in London.

Colin Middleton Paintings for Sale

Within a range of literary references Middleton integrated influences from recent travels, notably the Sanctuary of the Virgin of Montserrat, which he had visited when in Barcelona. Despite these difficulties, 1954 must have appeared to have been a year of great success for Middleton, with a two person show alongside Daniel O'Neill at the Tooth Gallery in London and a major retrospective at the Belfast Museums Stranmillis Gallery in the autumn. UV light inspection reveals a few small spots of retouching along the upper edge and along the right hand edge; also some further minor touches in the upper right hand quadrant, also near the centre of the composition and to the left of the keyboard.

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