



Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists in the Brothers of Charity Services

BY LINDSAY HOPE & MATTHEW SEXTON



Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists in the Brothers of Charity Services

by Lindsay Hope & Matthew Sexton

Peter Triest Publications

Kilcornan House

Clarinbridge

Co Galway, Ireland

H91 K2E9

e-mail: petertriest.publ@bocsi.ie

ISBN 978-1-8382723-1-9

Copyright © Brothers of Charity, 2021

The authors: Lindsay Hope and Matthew Sexton

Lindsay Hope was born in Leeds. She studied Art in Leeds College of Art, and earned an honours BA in the History of Art with Film and Visual Media from Manchester Metropolitan University. Lindsay worked as an artist and art tutor before joining the staff of the Brothers of Charity in 2007 as an instructor with responsibility for the art programme at Castlehyde Day Service, Fermoy, Co Cork.

From a very creative and supportive family who have always encouraged his love of Art, **Matthew Sexton** is a proud Kerry man from Kenmare. He now lives in Cork and attends Castlehyde Day service. He has enjoyed art since his youth, especially drawing and painting. Preferring to use Acrylic paint, Matthew's art is vibrant and very distinctive in style. The subjects of his Art are quite varied, he likes to draw people especially portraits of people important to him, like famous musicians and dancers. His other passion is music, especially traditional Irish music.

Series Editor: Patrick McGinley

Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists in the Brothers of Charity Services

Index

- 2 Foreword, Michael Hennessy, National Chief Executive
- 3 Introduction, Lindsay Hope
- 4 “Abstract” by Joey Creighton, Co Waterford
- 6 “Me and my brother John” by Gerry Fahy, Galway
- 8 “Apple” by Bríd Harhen, Co Clare
- 10 “Mexico” by Clement Moylan, Galway
- 12 “Sunshine on a Rainy Day” by Diarmuid Moynihan, Cork
- 14 “Strictly the Best” by Mary O’Shea, Co Waterford
- 16 “Hot Stuff” by MacDara Roche, Cork
- 18 “My Angel” by Matthew Sexton, Kenmare, Co Kerry
- 20 “Signs are to Eyes what Words are to Ears” by Anna Shields, Limerick
- 22 “The Bastion Gallery, Athlone” by Alan Tarpey, Roscommon
- 24 “Believe” by Kate Wall, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick
- 26 “Princess Anna” by Ger Walsh, Co Waterford
- 28 Acknowledgements

The Front Cover

“Self-Portrait” by Caroline Burke – Art Supporter: Lily Kelly.



From Belclare, Tuam, Co Galway, Caroline is a dedicated painter who loves the countryside and loves Art. Her favourite pastime is painting nature and flowers as it reminds her of home. She likes to work slowly and meticulously. She considers every brush stroke very carefully, hence the very clean and neat finish in her work. Caroline likes to discuss and get an opinion on the progression of her work as it develops. Her delicate colour palette is always interesting and fits well with her themes of nature with which she is closely in tune.



Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists in the Brothers of Charity Services

Foreword



It is my privilege to welcome the publication of *Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists in the Brothers of Charity Services* by Lindsay Hope and Matthew Sexton. Lindsay and Matthew have succeeded in bringing together artists from around the country who are rightly proud of their artistic talent and who have generously responded to our invitation to share their artwork.

As I turned each page my admiration for these artists grew and I was simply unable to pick my favourite painting. Moreover, I was delighted to note that the artists represented every region of the Services: Joey Creighton, Mary O'Shea and Ger Walsh from the South East; Matthew Sexton, Diarmuid Moynihan and MacDara Roche from Southern Region; Bríd Harhen, Kate Wall and Anna Shields from the Mid West; and Gerry Fahy, Clement Moylan, Caroline Burke, and Alan Tarpey from the Western Region. These widespread artistic achievements illustrate that this high level of artistic merit is no mere local phenomenon and indicates the availability of art education, and support for developing the artistic talent of women and men who choose to pursue this interest.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to every Artist Supporter who has clearly succeeded in nurturing and developing the creative talents not only of the artists whose work is presented here but many others who are supported by our Services.

Finally, well done Lindsay Hope and Matthew Sexton, I really appreciate your dedication in bringing together such a beautiful art collection and, to quote from Lindsay's introduction, *"...creating important social connections and rich relationship amidst uplifting art"*.

Michael Hennessy
National Chief Executive, January 2021.



Introduction

The urge of a person in the Brothers of Charity Services to produce art is welcomed, valued and embraced. Art can be a means of therapy or simply a relaxing and enjoyable activity which allows the individual to get lost in the process... the pure pleasure of applying creamy paint to a canvas or the feeling of moist clay pushing and squishing through one's fingers. Many supported artists really love working together - spending time with a favoured individual creating an enriching piece of art while enhancing a valued relationship.

The creation of art nurtures an improved imagination and uplifts the spirits. Men and women who may have intellectual disability or autism sometimes encounter difficulty in communicating with others. Conversation or face to face contact can be awkward, uncomfortable and even stressful. Art is often an essential part of their wellbeing, allowing them to communicate and express their view of the world in a calm, safe and non-judgemental environment.

Many artists supported in the Brothers of Charity Services have the opportunity to experiment with novel classes of media with the guidance of skilled artists and are encouraged to develop their own unique and authentic art skills. As they recognise that they are valued and that their artwork is respected, they embark on an important personal journey to the realisation that their creative work, and consequently, they themselves, have genuine importance and relevance in their community. Art can be a celebration of the artist, of what they have achieved, of what they love, of who they are.

I am fortunate to have had the joy of experiencing this with one of the artists featured in this Booklet whose work was part of a group exhibition with other artists attending his day service. He enjoyed everything involved in planning and organising the exhibition so much that it became a goal for him to have his own exhibition. His determination was such that he not only achieved his goal but he has gone on to have three more successful solo exhibitions. He felt empowered by achieving his goal. His confidence and independence soared. His satisfaction, as the red "sold" dots appeared on his work,

gave him the determination to strive towards the creation of even more inspirational artwork.

Art can bring people together in so many ways, including group projects physically creating artwork together, and individual pieces of art coming together in an exhibition. An important further dimension is the coming together with those attending the exhibition thus creating art and also creating important social connections and rich relationship amidst uplifting art.

Lindsay Hope, Jan 2021

Artist: Joey Creighton

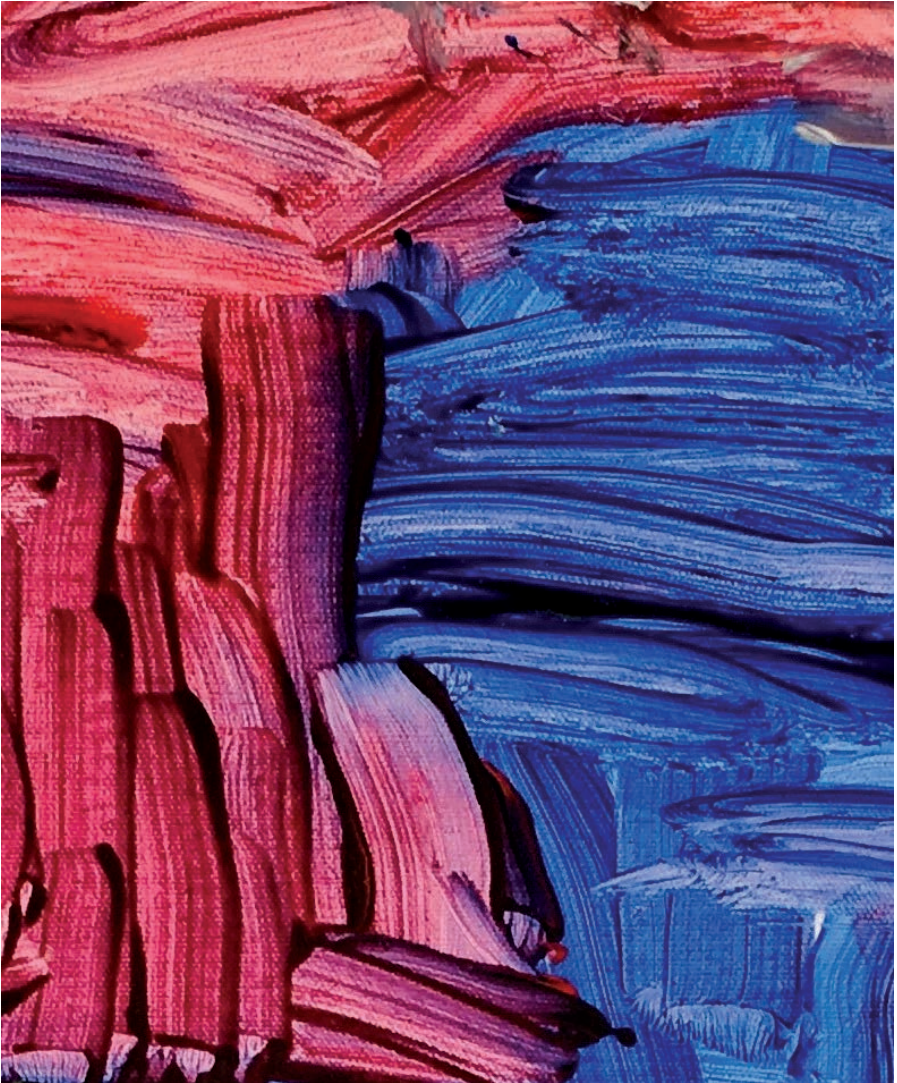


Joey Creighton lives in Tramore, Co Waterford in a house where he is supported by Brothers of Charity Services staff, and he has been in residential support all his life. Joey became a prolific artist when he started doing Art Therapy six years ago. He says he is happiest when he is painting and that it makes him

feel calm. Art has allowed him the freedom of expression that he was sometimes denied in life. Joey draws and paints places he can relate to like Belmont Canteen where he used to work before he retired.

The turning point in Joey's life was when he was reunited with his family and this is dramatically and positively reflected in his art style and use of colour.

He has made a video about his life and has presented it to the Brothers of Charity National Advocacy Conference and also earlier this year in the Nursing Faculty of Waterford Institute of Technology in a presentation entitled, *Disability and Mental Health*. Joey is an active participant in advocacy and equal rights movements. He likes nothing more than discussing these matters in order to ensure that everyone is listened to and treated fairly whatever their challenges may be.



“Abstract” by Joey Creighton

Artist: Gerry Fahy



My name is Gerry Fahy. I am from Ballinfoyle, Co Galway. I have a twin brother, John. My two sisters are Bridie and Mary. I like to go home for a cup of tea and watch football.

I come to Studio C every Friday where I draw pictures of my family. I like painting big pictures. I like using clay too. Next week I'm going to make a big man. Drawing makes me feel good. I bring my pictures home and give them to Bridie and Mary.

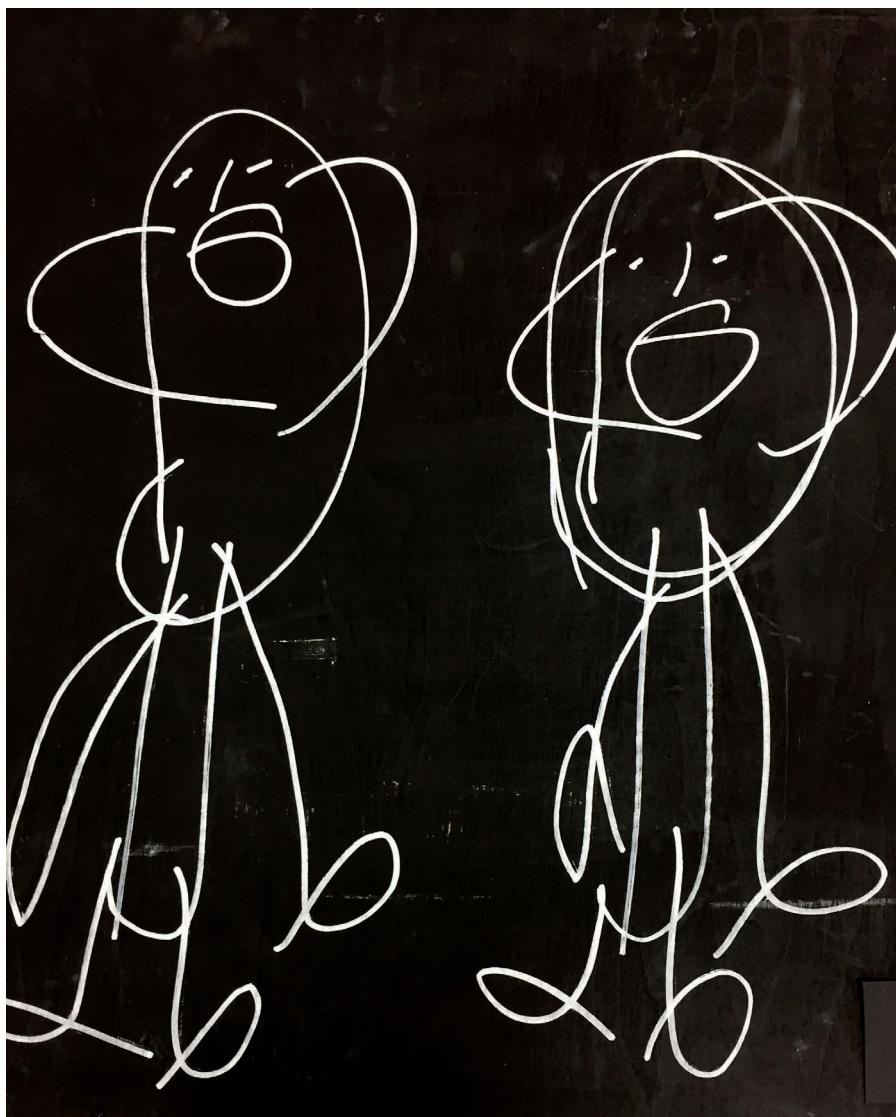


GERRY'S ART SUPPORTER: LILY KELLY

Gerry is a truly original artist. He is really passionate about his drawings. Each and every one of them are so precious to him. The inspiration for all of his drawings are his family. His medium of choice would be black pen on paper. These pictures in particular are drawn very quickly and, as a result, are full of energy and expression. His pictures tell us his story in such a distinctive style. I believe Picasso would be highly impressed!



*A coffee mug
designed at Studio C*



"Me and my Brother John" by Gerry Fahy

Artist: Bríd Harhen

Bríd Harhen lives near Liscannor, Co Clare. She loves to paint outdoor scenes. She loves to paint the beautiful flowers that grow in the Springtime. The flowers catch her attention when they sway in the wind and dance around like ballerinas. A hallmark of her work is the beautiful flower, the Tulip. She loves to paint using Acrylic paints and has painted many beautiful pieces.

BRÍD'S ART SUPPORTER: MICHEL RIAND, ENNISTYMON.

Michel Riand has worked with the Brothers of Charity since 2005. Previously, he worked with the l'Arche community in France for 15 years.

Michel has arranged three exhibitions for Bríd over the past 10 years. All three were a great success as art exhibitions and a bonus in terms of community inclusion for Bríd. A self-taught artist, Michel painted regularly in France until his move to Ireland allowed him to discover the beautiful north Clare scenery and its people and wildlife - and to begin a new range of paintings, "The Wonders of North Clare". michelriand.com



"Poppy Field"
by Bríd Harhen



"Little Flowers"
by Bríd Harhen

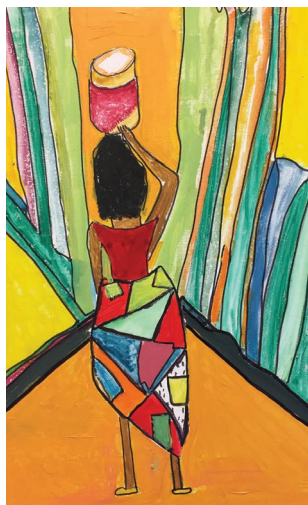


“Apple” by Bríd Harhen

Artist: Clement Moylan



I was born in Tuam, Co Galway and my father was from Ardahan, Co Galway. Our family spent many years in Castlereagh, Co Roscommon where I grew up. I love painting boats and water, this love began here in Galway in the Brothers of Charity Services. I love painting Africa and all the wild animals and the great colours there. I am very happy in Studio C. Lily Kelly is a wonderful teacher and I appreciate all her help. I really love seeing people enjoying my paintings and I want to send a picture to Daithi and Maura in RTE.



"Africa"
by Clement Moylan

CLEMENT'S ART SUPPORTER: LILY KELLY
Clement is one of the happiest Artists with whom I've had the pleasure of working. I love the confidence he has in his own work. He has his own style and he is absolutely convinced that it's perfect for him. That is a true gift to have. The combination of imagination and reality is what makes Clement's work so unique. I believe his paintings give the viewer an immediate lift which is just what we need at this time.



"Mexico" by Clement Moylan

Artist: Diarmuid Moynihan



Diarmuid is a man in his fifties who has attended a Brothers of Charity Day Service in Cork since 2002. From 2002 to 2020 Diarmuid had little or no interest in art. During Covid-19 his Day Service was provided in his residential home and as routine is extremely important to him, this has been a difficult year for him. Nevertheless Diarmuid has coped very well thanks to staff establishing and maintaining a new set of daily routines with him.

Rachel Padfield started working in Diarmuid's residential home in August 2020 as part of his Day Service and introduced art, mainly because of another person there who wished to have support with his art work. Straight away Diarmuid was very interested and wanted to join in. "We now have a one-to-one art session every afternoon and this has created an important routine for Diarmuid. It has been a learning curve for both of us, with me introducing new methods and Diarmuid picking up new skills. We very much work together on the art pieces. With my background in Art Therapy I feel strongly that these sessions are an important form of therapy. Diarmuid is relaxed and calm during the sessions and he remains focused for long periods of time. Diarmuid who is non-verbal and I have found a new way to communicate through the process of art."

DIARMUID'S ART SUPPORTER: RACHEL PADFIELD

I started painting while living in Scotland with the landscape there being such an inspiration. I went on to study Fine Art Printmaking and gained a degree in Dundee. Over the years I became more and more interested in Art Therapy and in 2002 I completed my Master's Degree in Art Therapy in Cork. With Art Therapy, art becomes a crucial mode of expression for people who are non-verbal and this is the work I value the most.



"Sunshine on a Rainy Day" by Diarmuid Moynihan



Artist: Mary O'Shea



Mary O'Shea loves painting portraits and she manages to capture the essence of every individual in each one. She has completed a series of portraits of friends and staff in *The Meeting Place* Day Service which she attends in Tramore, Co Waterford. Mary has won several talent competitions with her art and her posters featured in an advertising campaign for a *Christmas Pantomime* for two years running. Mary also loves

music and dance and has performed in Brothers of Charity Shows, music recitals and dance performances. Her positive energy and infectious smile are reflected in her vibrant and uplifting pieces of art.

Strictly the Best Dancing 2017



Artwork by Mary O'Shea

Strictly 2017



November 30th & December 1st 2017
Garret Lane Arts Centre, Waterford

"Strictly the Best" by Mary O'Shea

Artist: MacDara Roche



A Native of County Cork, MacDara Roche has dedicated many years of his artwork to creating Tile Mosaics. He enjoys visiting seaside towns and fishing villages and his favourite art subjects are fishermen, boats and the seaside. A secondary theme, reflecting his love of music, is the creation of mosaics of Record Sleeves. Working with the assistance of his art teachers, he bakes his carefully coloured tiles in a kiln and then, wearing safety goggles, he uses his trusty pliers to break them into pieces of various sizes - his art medium.

MacDara can spend several days creating his product, and he finds this wonderfully relaxing. MacDara is very happy to accept commissions!

MACDARA'S ART SUPPORTER: DON CONNOLLY

MacDara has been coming to *The Lodge Day Service* since 2010. Since that time, his Art Supporters have become very familiar with his likes and talents. His likes and interests are expressed through his art. Over the years, staff have given him some of his ideas while he has chosen his own creations from picture books and the world around him, generally favouring seaside themes.

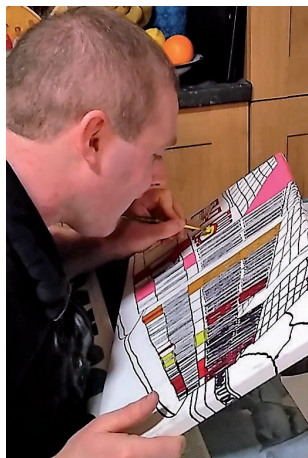
This expression of art comes in the form of Tile Mosaics which he much prefers to Painting. MacDara is extremely creative and he is endlessly precise when it comes to this highly skilled work. He possesses excellent hand to eye co-ordination when fitting and cutting tiles into smaller sections of the mosaic. Examples of his mosaic projects include fishing boats with fishermen, lighthouses, horses and the record sleeves of music groups.



“Hot Stuff” by MacDara Roche



Artist: Matthew Sexton



I love painting pictures of Angels and holy pictures. I enjoy drawing and then applying bright paint to my pictures. This painting, “*My Angel*” looks like a stained glass window of a church. I find painting so relaxing and yet it is really important to me. I love to be in the art room in Castlehyde with the music on with my brushes and paints in my hand.

My art has been in many group exhibitions and I have had my own Art exhibitions as well. I like choosing which paintings will be in the exhibitions and enjoy

meeting with the guests that come to see my paintings. I feel very proud when all my paintings are being displayed.

MATTHEW’S ART SUPPORTER: LINDSAY HOPE

Lindsay Hope was born in Leeds. She studied Art in Leeds College of Art, and earned an honours BA in the History of Art with Film and Visual Media from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Lindsay worked as an artist and art tutor before joining the staff of the Brothers of Charity in 2007 as an instructor with responsibility for the art programme at *Castlehyde Day Service*.



"My Angel" by Matthew Sexton



Artist: Anna Shields



My name is Anna Shields and I'm from Limerick City where I live with my family. I'm 49 years old and I go to a day service here in Limerick that is run by the Brothers of Charity. I love my routine and spending time with my friends. I really love photographs - be it looking at them, taking them, or being in them and I never ever miss an opportunity to arrange nice snaps when there is a camera nearby.

ANNA'S ART SUPPORTER: KATIE GALLAGHER

I know Anna from coming to the day service. Anna has had a hearing impairment since birth and she is an extremely proficient Irish Sign Language (ISL) user. In 2019 Anna stepped in front of the camera to show off her sign language skills at an event in Limerick city for people who have an intellectual disability and who also use ISL. She then submitted this image for a public Art exhibition in Limerick City which was a very proud moment for her. The caption was chosen to impart the importance of sign language as a tool in supporting Anna in her life. Anna doesn't speak but is nonetheless incredibly expressive. Adapted communication is extremely important to Anna.



Signs are to eyes what words are to ears

“Signs are to Eyes what Words are to Ears” by Anna Shields

Artist: Alan Tarpey



I am an artist from Knockcroghery, Co. Roscommon. I love painting people and animals and the spaces they inhabit, using pen and ink to bring out the colour of the subject. An eyesore in real life can be relieved by my stroke.

For the past 10 years of being an artist, the painting of buildings and street scenes with social commentary were the order of the day. Lately I have turned to painting mostly animals, old ruins, old buildings, and timely specials. Most subjects are seen during walking and cycling.

I featured on the documentary Brent Pope: “Inside Out” on RTE One in 2015.

ALAN’S ART SUPPORTER: MARIANNE FALLON

Alan is employed as a Clerical Officer in Brothers of Charity Services Roscommon. He has developed his career as an artist within the last 10 years, with his first solo exhibition being held in the Bastion Gallery, Athlone in 2012. Alan has a keen eye for place and detail in his work, often incorporating subtle satirical comments on current events into an art piece. He regularly travels to towns in the West and Midlands of Ireland, capturing old and new buildings with a fresh eye. His work in various media serves as a valuable social commentary on the evolution of modern Ireland whilst maintaining a subversive sense of humour. Alan’s status as a self-taught artist of note was highlighted in a 2015 Brent Pope documentary celebrating outsider artists currently working in Ireland. Alan has received some high profile commissions for his work, including one from Professor Mary McCarron, for a large piece on display in the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability, Trinity College, Dublin.



“Bastion Gallery, Athlone” by Alan Tarpey



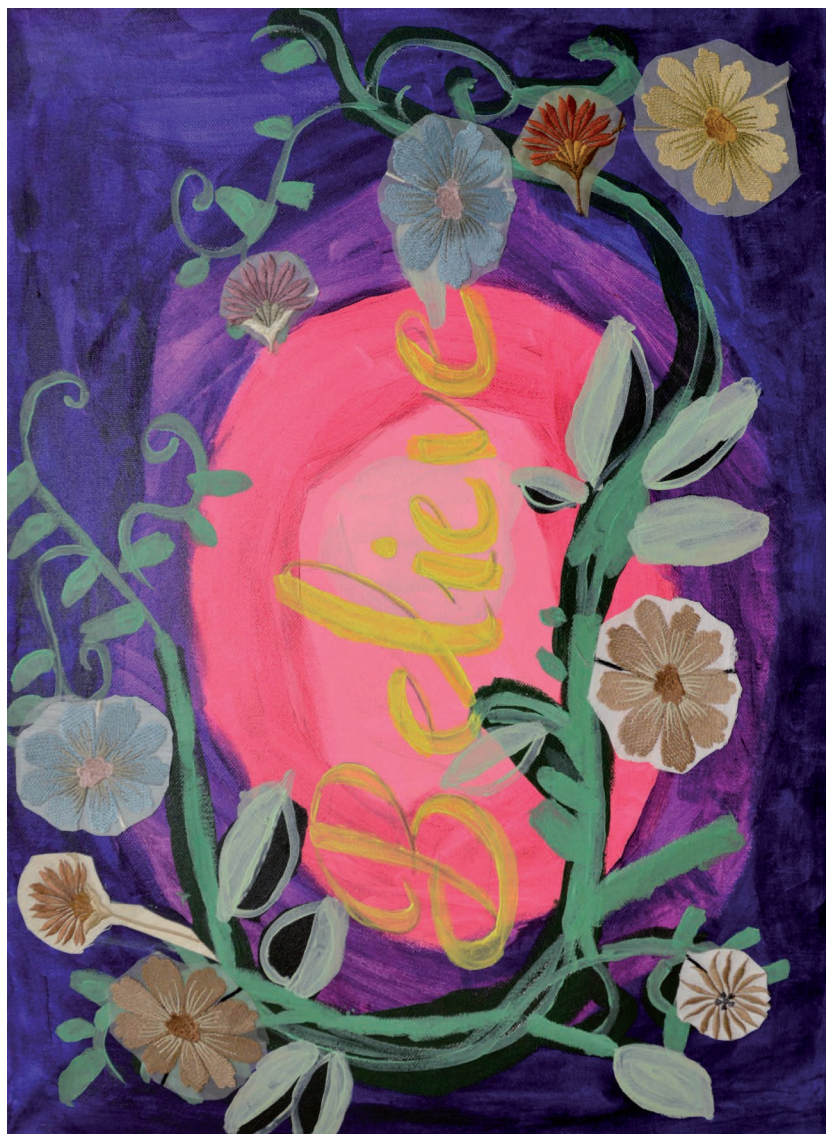
Artist: Kate Wall



I'm 38 years old from the town of Abbeyfeale in Co. Limerick where I live with my family. I'm a friendly and quiet lady who really enjoys expressing myself through art work. I attend a day service in Abbeyfeale that is run by the Brothers of Charity. Through this I regularly attend art classes and I'm very passionate about it. I love being out and about in my local community and enjoy capturing nature's beauty through art.

KATE'S ART SUPPORTER: JACKIE SHEEHY

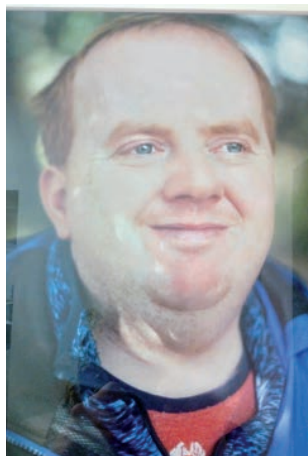
Kate enjoys the great outdoors, is very mindful of her surroundings. She has a great appreciation for nature. Kate selected this piece of artwork to showcase as it is close to her home, where her heart is - and it always helps her to believe in herself to think of what she has achieved through her art.



"Believe" by Kate Wall, Abbeyfeale, Co Limerick



Artist: Ger Walsh



Ger Walsh loves architecture and in particular cathedrals. He has travelled Europe extensively where he has visited many cathedrals and other buildings of historical importance. He is a self-taught organist and has played in St Patrick's Cathedral and at several Sunday masses in Waterford City & County. Tchaikovsky is his favourite composer and the 1812 Overture is his preferred piece to play. Having joined the *Coast Guard Cultural Centre* art group where he is a valued member, his art has developed

in a way he is very proud of. This has resulted in him taking part in several art exhibitions and selling some pieces. Ger loves to walk and often gets inspiration from his time in the outdoors to engage in new art projects and designs.



"Princess Anna" by Ger Walsh, Co Waterford

Acknowledgements



Matthew Sexton



Lindsay Hope

We have greatly appreciated the opportunity to work in celebration of the artists of the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland and to bring their paintings to a wider audience. We thank the artists: Caroline Burke, Joey Creighton, Gerry Fahy, Bríd Harhen, Clement Moylan, Diarmuid Moynihan, Mary O'Shea, MacDara Roche, Matthew Sexton, Anna Shields, Alan Tarpey, Kate Wall, and Ger Walsh for happily agreeing to share their artwork in *Celebrating Fine Art and Great Artists*.

We recognise that the work of their art supporters has contributed significantly to the art education of not only the artists whose work is included here, but to the art education of many, many of the people we support around the Country. Sincere thanks for all your work, Lily Kelly, Michel Riand, Don Connolly, Katie Gallagher, Marianne Fallon, Jackie Sheehy, Gosia Lawnicki, Eleanor Dalton and Marie Lynch.

Louis Quinlan in the South East, Katie Gallagher in the Mid West and Lily Kelly in the West ensured that we had an adequate number of vibrant artworks from which to make our selections - we are truly grateful for all their work.

We wish to thank the Series Editor, Patrick McGinley for his unfailing advice and assistance at every stage of the production, for the design of the booklet, and for dealing effectively with all of the technical gremlins that popped up in the course of our work.

Lindsay Hope and Matthew Sexton, January 2021



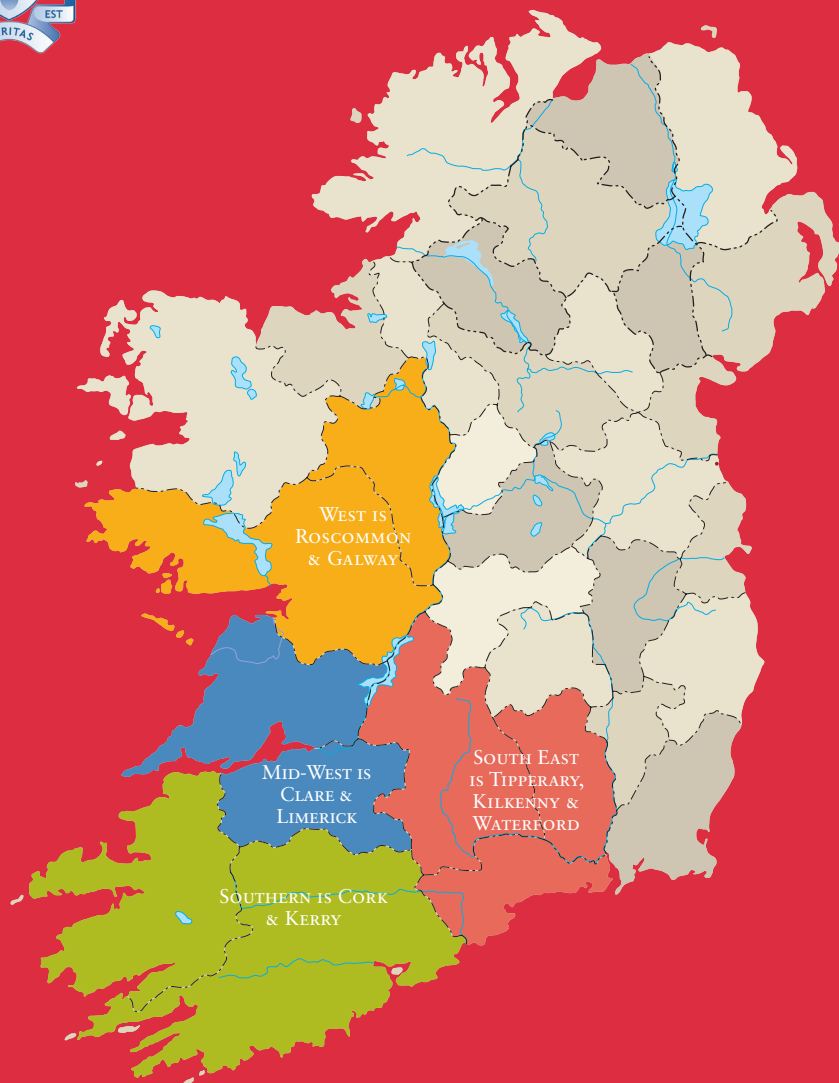
A Celebration of Quality in the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland

As Service Providers all of us who set out to provide supports to children and adults with special needs recognise that the Quality of the supports we offer is of the utmost importance. Sadly, and all too frequently, when we set out to measure Quality we generally end up measuring the lack of Quality. Our focus, whatever the measurement instrument, too often switches entirely from the 92% of what we do really well, to the 8% which we don't do very well. Of course that 8% needs systematic, corrective and time-lined attention. But we must not give it *all* of our attention, we cannot allow the 92% to be taken for granted... to fade gently away into the Celtic Twilight.

Resolving not to let that happen, the Brothers of Charity Services decided that while continuing to address the 8% that requires to be dealt with, we should celebrate the 92%. We are pleased to recognise the many important areas where the people we support, staff, families, volunteers and local communities achieve the highest standards. We gratefully acknowledge the tremendous commitment of every member of staff who, working individually and as team members in co-operation with other stakeholders, achieve wonderful, sometimes amazing, outcomes.

We decided to produce a Series of Booklets full of success, colour and fun - to celebrate how so many of the people we support have been encouraged and assisted to become great Artists, Actors, and Music lovers. We will celebrate a range of important achievements including the many successes of Advocacy, a different perspective on Risk Assessment, the wonderfully happy Home-Sharing outcomes, the best of our Housing Provision, and the Friendships and Relationships that support a person to live her or his dream as a fully participating member of society. We are happy to celebrate together in 2021 the level of success we have achieved in implementing the Mission of the Brothers of Charity by: *"Providing quality services to support people who are in danger of being marginalised... and creating opportunities and choices that develop and maintain connected lives where all are cherished as valued and equal citizens in our communities."*

PMcG, Series Editor



Over 8,400 men, women and children received support from the Brothers of Charity Services Ireland in 2020, with over 4,300 employees (about 3,500 wte) making it the largest provider of support services for people with intellectual disability in Ireland.