

# Shinnors is still a seller, but other artists left hanging

Works by late Jack Donovan fail to sell at auction, where half were unsold

ANNE SHERIDAN

A WORK by renowned Limerick artist John Shinnors has sold at auction in Belfast for nearly €10,000, but pieces by a number of other Limerick artists have failed to attract the public's eye.

In his distinctive black and white style, Shinnors' piece entitled 'Over Straw Island I' fetched £7,400 or €9,916 at Gormleys auction of fine art sale on the Lisburn Road in Belfast recently.

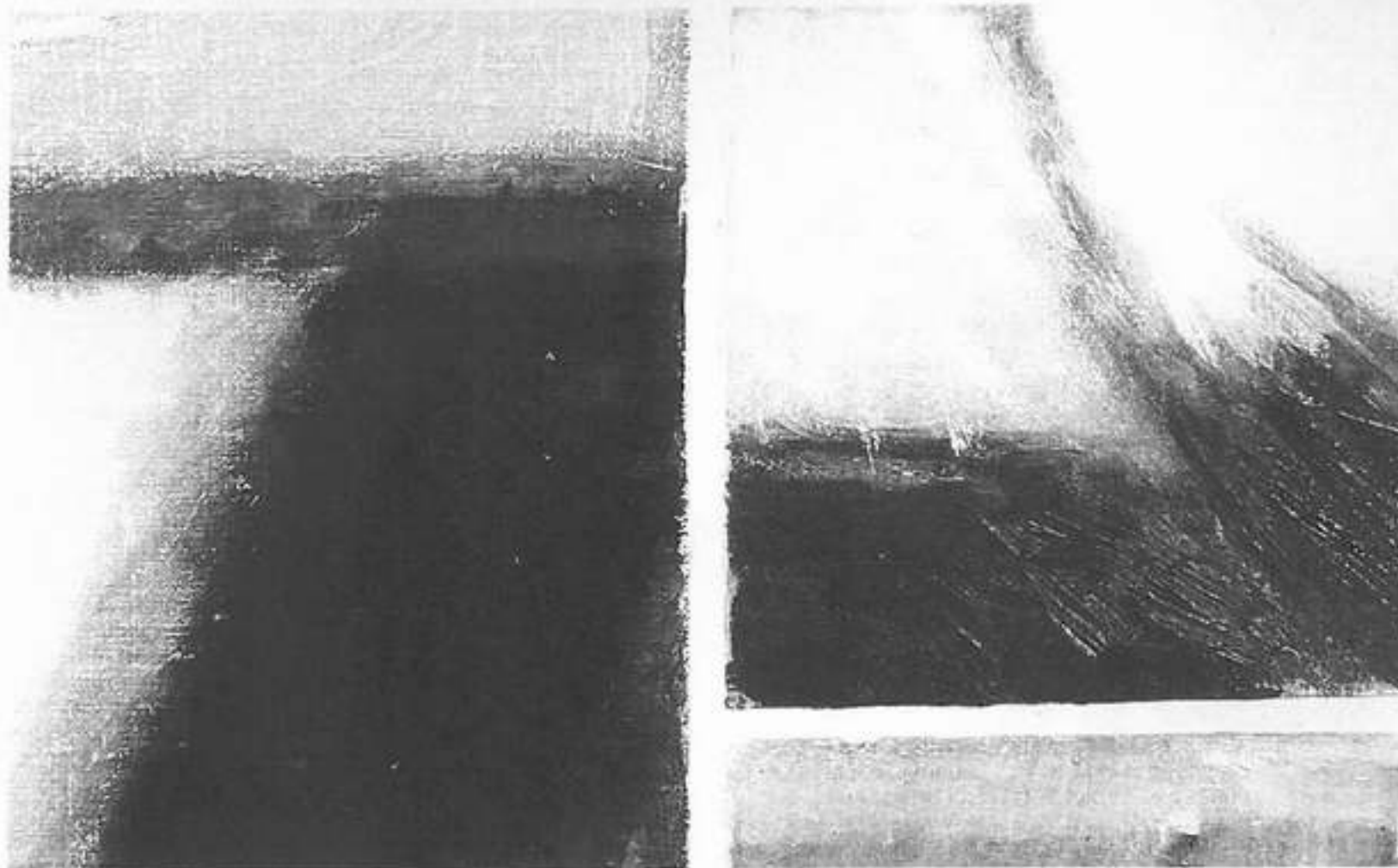
The artist is still recovering after being involved in a road accident last year, but is now out of hospital. The Roxboro resident - who turns 65 this April - suffered debilitating leg injuries.

The auctioneers said that the oil painting is a strong example of his abstraction which is executed in a subtle colour palette. It was previously bought by a collector who queued for three hours in the rain at an exhibition in The Hunt Museum in 2004, and has now sold it on.

With a guide price of between €11,000-€13,000, it eventually commanded the second highest sum in the auction - but it was The Session by JB Vallely which sold for the highest sum of the day - €17,822 after 18 bids.

The auction featured some 176 lots of art, of which 83 failed to sell - amounting to 47% - and are still available to buy, including a number by local artists.

Two of the four pieces by Charles Harper, RHA, who was the former head of fine art in the Limerick School of Art and Design, sold at auction, including Citizens Healing, which made €3,216 (£2,400) on its first bid, and Forgotten Landscape, which made €2,412 after seven bids. Mr Harper, who is originally from Valentia Island in Kerry and is now living locally, recently told the Limerick Leader that the economic crash has been a difficult time for artists, but he is now seeing a small up-turn in



the market.

"It has been fairly awful economically for artists over the last few years. I think artists would be the first people to suffer, mainly because art was seen as a luxury and a non-necessity; about 90% of the buyers disappeared but there has been a bit of a turn up. But I couldn't stop working - I'm an art addict," said Mr Harper, now a member of the Limerick Figure Drawing Society.

Two pieces by the late Limerick artist Jack Donovan also failed to sell, including Lot 89, entitled 'Going to the Post', which had a bid of €737. Circus Sons, another oil on canvas, failed to meet its guide price of €900.

Three landscape pieces, featuring scenes of Kerry, by well-known local artist Tom



John Shinnors' piece above, in his trademark black and white strokes, sold for nearly €10,000 at Gormleys auction house in Belfast, while Charles Harper's work Citizens Healing also sold for some €3,200. He admitted recently, however, that it is still a tough time for artists

Greaney, an honorary member of the Limerick Arts Society, and also a past student of the Limerick School of Art, which were each priced up to €1,000, also failed to find a new mount.

All six pieces by the award-winning Cecil Maguire from Armagh failed to sell. Their next art auction is on April 14, and pieces are currently being accepted for sale.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Accused of slashing car tyres

A LIMERICK city man was granted bail after he was charged with slashing the tyres of several parked cars on St Patrick's Day.

Niall Carey, aged 28, of Hyde Road, Prospect is accused of causing criminal damage to two cars at Wolfe Tone Street at around 5.30pm on March 17, last.

It is alleged around €240 worth of damage was caused when one tyre on a Toyota Corolla and two tyres on a Peugeot car were cut.

Detective Garda Brian O'Connor said the defendant made no reply when charged and he told Judge Aingeal Ni Chonduin a file is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Carey was granted bail, subject to conditions, and the case was adjourned to May 6, next.

### Asylum seeker to be sentenced

AN ASYLUM seeker who lives at the Mount Trenchard hostel in Foynes will be sentenced next month after he pleaded guilty to falsely imprisoning a woman in Dublin city almost two years ago.

Dublin Circuit Court was told on August 7, 2013, Chico Makamda, 32, grabbed the woman's wrist as she was walking alone at around 2am and tried to drag her into a laneway before she fought him off.

After hearing details of the offence, Judge Patricia Ryan indicated she will sentence the Angolan national after Easter.

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