

# Gemmell exhibition opens at Gallery 75

By DEARBHLA LOOBY

WELL-known artist Michael Gemmell has brought his exhibition *Water, Light and Stone* to Limerick.

The 52-year old artist, originally from Coleraine, opened his solo show in Gallery 75.

The opening was attended by well-known Limerick artists and art lovers, including John Shinnors, who recently sold over E250,000 worth of his paintings on the opening night of his exhibition at Limerick City Gallery of Art.

Michael Gemmell is no newcomer to the world of art.

At the age of 14, he left school and found a job as a studio assistant in a Dublin graphic studio.

"His boss, Peter Coyle, took an interest in his artistic talent and sent him to night classes at the National College of Art.

"During his time he joined the Dublin Camera Club and attended a window display course in the afternoons," a spokesman for the exhibition said.

Michael's family moved to Shannon, where he concentrated on his painting career and attended the College of Art in Limerick. He spent most of his time outdoors painting the landscape.

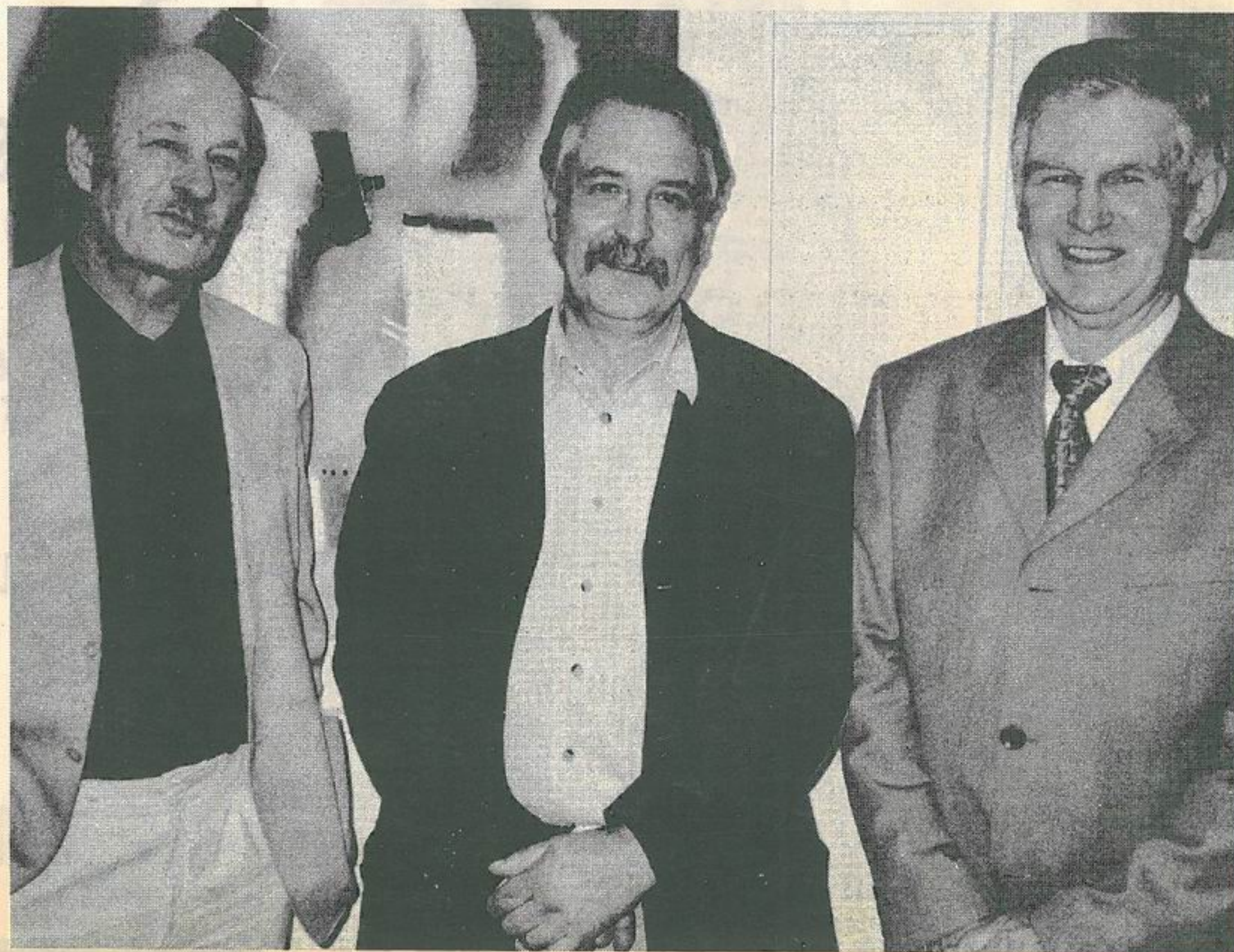
When he left college he opened a sign writing and screen printing studio in Shannon, and held both solo and group exhibitions in Limerick and Clare.

Michael moved back to Dublin and developed his business in the world of interior design, travelling to the United States, Germany and Spain.

But much of his work was concentrated in Ireland, working on pubs, restaurants and hotels. He designed these projects to include his paintings.

"My work is like a bird's eye view of the landscape. I paint bogs, fields and islands with slabs of oil paint. I concentrate on the effect rather than merely depicting the scene and I think this achieves a delicate balance of abstract and representational imagery through hues of colour, tone and form," Michael said of his own work.

He works from his studios in Dublin and Wicklow.



Michael Gemmell, pictured at his exhibition with John Shinnors and Roger McCarthy

Artists  
Michael Gemmell