

Tom Ryan opens his home to art society

By MAIREAD NI CHAOIMH

ONE of Limerick's most famous artists Tom Ryan has opened his home and studio for the day to members of the Limerick Art Society.

"It isn't every day that a group of artists have the pleasure to be invited by a multi-talented and distinguished artist to visit him in his studio and home," said Gerda Hughes, chairperson of Limerick Art Society.

The group travelled on a mini-bus to Mr Ryan's home in County Meath.

"Tom showed us around his studio where many of his favourite paintings are hanging.

"We were intrigued to see where he painted and were surprised at the neatness and order in his studio," said Ms Hughes.

The visiting group saw paintings that reflect the artist's life in Limerick. "We saw many paintings of Limerick and the surrounding area which gives the viewer an idea of how proud he is of his Irish roots and particularly his native city," she added.

Mr Ryan was born in Limerick City in 1929.

He was made president of the Limerick Art Society in 1983 and in 1992 was the recipient of an honorary doctorate from UL.

A member of the Royal Hibernian Academy, last year he presented the Limerick Civic Trust with portraits of seven prominent people who had given extraordinary service to the people of Limerick.

In addition to viewing the paintings the group also took a look at the artist's garden.

"It was full of character, with exotic plants and grasses, a lovely pond with a wrought iron bridge and so tastefully laid out—every corner was of interest," reported Ms Hughes.

"As a son of Limerick Tom Ryan's artistic achievements has put Limerick on the cultural map and being the President he continues to steer and strengthen the Limerick Art Society in their endeavours to uphold the traditions of representational art," she continued.

Talking about his art Mr Ryan said: "I want art to address art to people, and I can't do that if I present them with a mystery."



Tom Ryan, RHA, at home



Members of the Limerick Art Society in artist Tom Ryan's garden