

Neil Shawcross's private collection arrives at The Merrion hotel

Considered Dublin's most prestigious destinations and home to one of Ireland's most celebrated contemporary art collections, the award winning 5 star Merrion Hotel is delighted showcase the private works of renowned artist Neil Shawcross. From Sunday, May 16th to Saturday, May 29th the hotel's Cellar Restaurant will display some works from Neil's personal collection for guests of the hotel to view.

This unique exhibition has been created in honour of Neil's 70th birthday. The collection is a personal and eclectic combination of works spanning half a century, demonstrating how Neils' painting technique has evolved over time. He returns to recurring themes, either subject matter or in his choice of palette.

Neil Shawcross was born in England and trained at Bolton College of Art and Lancaster College of Art. He has exhibited steadily throughout Ireland for more than thirty years in various galleries, including the Tom Caldwell, Belfast; Peacock Gallery, Craigavon; Bell Gallery, Belfast and the Sligo Art Gallery. He has also exhibited internationally in London, Hong Kong and U.S.A. He has been the winner of a number of prestigious awards and is five time recipient of Royal Ulster Academy Gold Medal. His work is represented in many private and corporate collections, including the Ulster Museum, Ulster Television, AIB, Aer Rianta, the OPW and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

*Please note paintings on display at The Merrion hotel are from Neil Shawcross's private collection and will not be for sale.

**Neil Shawcross art exhibition is in the Pepper Canister Gallery on Mount Street throughout the month of May.

For lunch and dinner reservations and to view Neil Shawcross's private collection, please call The Cellar Restaurant directly on telephone: 00 353 1 603 0630, facsimile 00 353 1 603 0700, email info@merrionhotel.com or visit the website at www.merrionhotel.com.

Lunch menu's in The Cellar Restaurant start from €20 and dinner menu's from €29.95.

**For further information please contact Laura Dwyer @ Kennedy PR
On 01 4762000 or email ldwyer@kennedypr.ie**

Editor's Note:

The Merrion opened in 1997, originally four magnificent Grade 1 listed Georgian townhouses, built by Lord Monck. Once home to wealthy Dublin merchants and nobility, including the Earl of Mornington whose first son, Arthur Wellesley (first Duke of Wellington) was born at No 24, the hotel is now one of Dublin's most treasured destinations. Located in the heart of the city, opposite Parliament House, The Merrion houses one of finest collections of contemporary Irish art, private Georgian style gardens, the award winning Tethra Spa, The Cellar Restaurant and Cellar Bar -

both located in the underground vaults, The Drawing Rooms with original fireplaces, antique furniture and world-class art and Bar No.23 – the small, sophisticated lounge for hotel guests.