

# Press Information

## MARTIN MOONEY

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Martin Mooney is one of Ireland's finest young painters. He was commissioned to paint a series of works for the elegant neo-classical main stairwell in the front hall of The Merrion, Dublin's most luxurious 5-Star hotel, which opened in October 1997.

The Merrion is composed of four magnificent Georgian townhouses, which make up the Main House, and a specially designed contemporary Garden Wing. The Front Hall remains much as it would have been when the house was built in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Plain white walls show off the original cornices and plasterwork, leaving Mooney's murals as the main decorative feature. These, in subtle, warm colours, depict imaginary classical ruins, buildings and architectural details.

After attending the University of Ulster, Mooney studied at Brighton Polytechnic, followed by a Post Graduate Degree at the Slade School of Fine Art, London. His work has been widely exhibited in both one-man and group exhibitions including The Soloman Gallery, Dublin; Waterman Fine Art, London; Theo Waddington Fine Art, London; and both The Royal Academy, London and The Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin. Mooney's work has also been exhibited in Boston, Barcelona, Toronto and Johannesburg.

Martin Mooney's style is particularly apt for The Merrion's Georgian interior. This is perfectly illustrated by Brian Fallon, Chief Critic of The Irish Times writing about the artist's work in 1996:

*"Martin Mooney is a traditional painter - that much is evident, but then it is a compendious term. He paints still life, landscape, cityscapes (one of his favourite themes or subjects), sometimes with figures added and sometimes without..... Mooney's pictures have a pronounced architectural element, almost an architectural design. They are carefully balanced, even "laid out" and planned, and I am inclined to think he has studied the 18<sup>th</sup> century masters whose formal sense sometimes resembles a terraced garden. He is not as formal as they were, but plainly likes to "build" in paint. He is an educated artist who thinks much about his work."*

Mooney is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the Richard Ford Award, Royal Academy, London and the George Campbell Memorial Grant. His work is included in many important private and corporate collections in Ireland, Britain, Spain, the USA, Canada and Hong Kong.

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