

THE
MERRION
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PLINTH

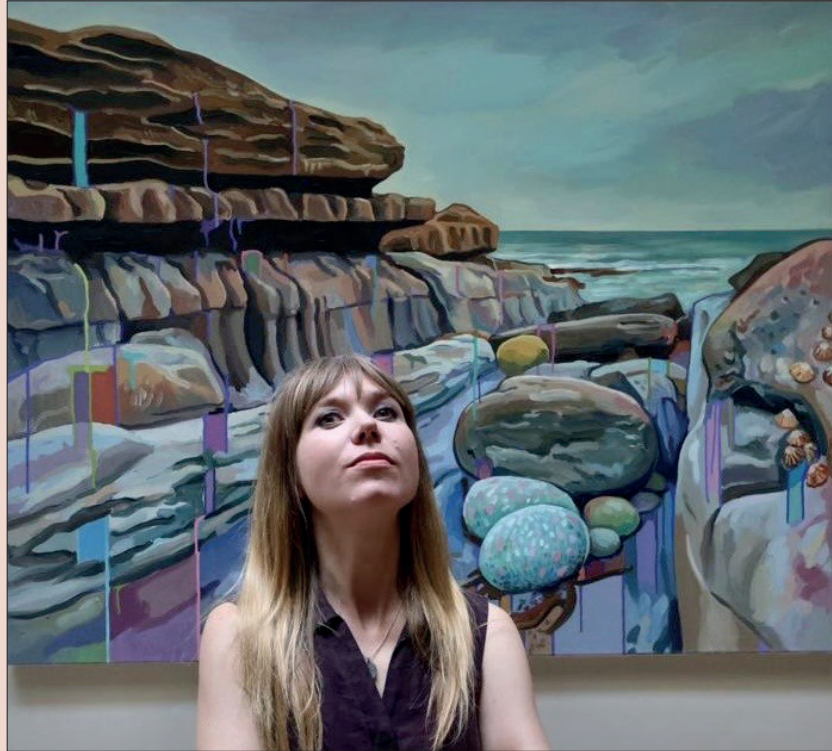
A PRIZE OPEN TO ALL FORMS OF
CONTEMPORARY ART

The
MERRION
DUBLIN

THE MERRION PLINTH

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Cecelia Danell, winner of the 2024 Merrion Plinth Prize with her work *'The Farthest Shore'*.



We are delighted to launch the 2026 edition of our biennial contemporary art award *The Merrion Plinth*.

Open to all forms of contemporary art we are inviting professional artists to enter this open submission competition. As dedicated supporters of late 19th and early 20th century art, we aim to support living artists by sponsoring this prize honouring outstanding talent.

Our third winner was Cecilia Danell who outlines the benefits of the prize to her work as an artist: *"I was delighted to win the Merrion Plinth Award as it acted as a further validation of my work and provided timely financial support. It felt really special attending the award reception and seeing my painting in situ, having it so prominently displayed at the hotel has helped introduce my work to new people. I would like to thank the judges and the Merrion Hotel for supporting me as an artist, it's most appreciated."*

Our aim is to provide a platform for artists to bring their work to new audiences and be seen alongside some of the great Irish artists of the last century. Our collection holds some significant artworks relevant to the history of Irish visual culture and our ambition is to promote the importance of visual art being made today. The selected artwork will be exhibited in a dedicated area in The Merrion Hotel.

€ 5,000 Award to the successful artist

OPEN TO all professional artists resident in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK

OPEN TO artists in all visual art forms that adhere to guidelines (except performance)

The selected artist will be exhibited in a dedicated area in the The Merrion Hotel for 2 years

The closing date for entries: 24th April, 2026

Selection panelists include:

Lochlann Quinn, Chairman, The Merrion Hotel

Patrick Murphy, Director, RHA, Dublin

Oonagh Young, Director, Oonagh Young Gallery

Application Form, CV, Images and Proposal material must be sent by email to themerrionplinth@merrionhotel.com

For queries please contact Oonagh Young by email to the above address.

CRITERIA

The Merrion Plinth Art Award is open to all artists based in Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK, of any nationality, aged 18 or over.

- All visual art forms will be accepted for submission except art performance
- Each artist can submit one piece of work only.
- Submissions must be made by an individual, not institutions or collectives. However, the proposed work can be executed by an individual or through a collaborative process.
- Submissions must adhere to Artwork Specifications and Terms and Conditions

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- The selected work will be displayed in the garden foyer / corridor in the following ways:
 1. On the existing plinth 40 x 45 x 110 mm
 2. Occupy a space - maximum dimensions: 80cm x 80cm x 300h cm
 3. Wall based work - maximum dimensions: 80cm x 300h cm
 4. Wall based work on corridor - maximum dimensions: 250cm x 220h cm

Location factors to consider:

- The works must take into consideration a busy hotel environment
- There is a large amount of sunlight in the garden foyer area
- Please note this areas are not invigilated but hotel staff pass this area regularly
- The artist can recommend their preferred site within the specified areas but the final decision will be with The Merrion Hotel

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IMAGES OF PROPOSED LOCATION FOR ARTWORK



TERMS & CONDITIONS

Works entered:

- Must be the sole and original work of the entrant or collaborative partnership.
 - Proposals for new work are preferred but it must be capable of completion within a month of winners notification. It can also be an existing work that has not previously been exhibited.
 - Must be made of non-perishable material.
 - Must not infringe the copyrights or intellectual property rights of any person, organisation or entity.
 - The award must cover the artist's fee and production budget.
 - The successful work must be made available for sale during the period it is installed in The Merrion Hotel. The price will be at the discretion of the artist with all proceeds of the sale going directly to the artist. The Merrion Hotel retains the first option to buy the work for its collection.
 - The artwork will be on display for approximately two years or until such time that a new winner has been selected and installed.
 - Submissions will not be accepted in person and no late submissions will be accepted.
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The successful entry:

- Dates for delivery and installation in summer 2026 will be defined by the Merrion Hotel and must be adhered to.
 - By accepting the award, the artist agrees to commence production of their work, and complete and deliver it to the Hotel by the completion date.
 - The artist is responsible for delivery of the work to the Merrion Hotel on completion.
 - Must be exhibition-ready by completion date or ready for hanging if appropriate.
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The decision of the selection panel will be final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into after a winner is selected.

By agreeing to these terms and conditions, artists grant the Merrion Hotel the right to reproduce images of their artworks on the Merrion Hotel website, and on all print and digital promotional material, including (but not limited to) social media, now and in the future.

By submitting an Application Form, each entrant agrees to the Terms and Conditions, and warrants that their entry complies with the requirements set out here.
