

WILLIAM MCKEOWN

b. 1962 Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland

d. 2011, Edinburgh, Scotland

EDUCATION

- 1993–94 University of Ulster, Belfast, Northern Ireland (MA Fine Art)
- 1986–87 Glasgow School of Art, Scotland, (MA Design)
- 1981–84 Central St Martin's School of Art & Design, London, UK
- 1980–81 University College London, UK

CURRENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS

- 2026 Songs to the Siren, The Model, Sligo, Ireland (GROUP, 24 January – 12 April 2026)
- 2025 And that moment the bird sings very close / To the music of what happens, The Mac, Belfast (Solo, 9 October 2025 – 4 January 2026)
- The Shape of Things, Workplace, London, UK (Group, 28 November – 17 January 2026)

SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 An Open Room, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2022 William McKeown, Château La Coste, Aix-en-Provence, France; curated by Jonathan Anderson
- 2021 William McKeown, Casey Kaplan, New York
- 2016 The Dayroom, 2004–2010, Dallas Museum of Art, TX, USA
Chance Encounters II, two-person exhibition with John Ward, LOEWE Design District Store, Miami, FL, USA; ; presented by Jonathan Anderson
- 2015 Cloud Cuckoo Land, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2013 St Carthage Hall, Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland; curated by Eamonn Maxwell
- 2012 William McKeown, Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, UK;
curated by Paul Nesbitt
A Room, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2011 The Waiting Room, The Golden Bough, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, Dublin, Ireland;
curated by Michael Dempsey
- 2010 Five Working Days, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
A Certain Distance, Endless Light, two-person exhibition with works by Félix González-Torres, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima), UK; curated by Gavin Delahunty
Pool, two-person exhibition with Dorothy Cross, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2009 Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Enrique Juncosa
- 2006 Hope Paintings, Hope Drawings and Open Drawings, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
- 2004 The Bright World, Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
The Room at the Horizon, Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland
Cloud Cuckoo Land, The Paradise (16), Gallery 2, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Cloud Cuckoo Land, Sleeper, Edinburgh, UK
- 2002 The Sky Begins at Our Feet, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Forever Paintings, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

SOLO & TWO-PERSON EXHIBITIONS CONTD.

- 2001 In an open room, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 1998 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 1996 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 All flowers in time bend towards the sun, The Coach House, Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Paul Hallahan & Lee Welch
Pictures of You, curated by Miles Thurlow, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin
Coalescence: Happenstance, Shimmer Shimmer, Rotterdam, The Netherlands curated by Paul O'Neill
Take Hold, Centre for Contemporary Art Derry, Derry, Northern Ireland
- 2024 Take A Breath, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
Place des Vosges, Paris, France
like the light at the beginning of the world, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2023 Other Worlds, Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, Ireland; curated by Daniel Nelis
- 2021 The Narrow Gate of the Here-and-Now, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
New Perspectives: Acquisitions 2011-2020, National Gallery of Ireland
Ghosts from the Recent Past, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ireland; co-curated by Rachael Gilbourne, Janice Hough and Claire Walsh; steered by Annie Fletcher
- 2019 The Extended Mind, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland; curated by Miranda Anderson, Tessa Giblin and James Clegg
Shadowplay, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2016 We are the Center for Curatorial Studies, Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, NY, USA; curated by Paul O'Neill
Passages in Modern Art: 1946–1996, Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX, USA
- 2015 The Untold Want, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Patrick Murphy
New Art New Nature, Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Into The Field, The Model, Sligo, Ireland; curated by Marie-Louise Blarney
30 for 30, Tallahassee City Hall Gallery, Florida, USA
- 2014 Re-framing the Domestic in Irish Art, Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, Ireland; curated by Aoife Ruane, Amanda Coogan and Jane Humphries
- 2013 Changing States: Contemporary Irish Art & Francis Bacon's Studio, BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium; curated by Michael Dempsey, Christina Kennedy, Barbara Dawson and Margarita Cappock
- 2012 Into the Light: The Arts Council – 60 Years Supporting the Arts, The Model, Sligo, Ireland; curated by Emer McGarry
Time Out of Mind, IMMA @ NCH, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Christina Kennedy, assisted by Brian Cass
- 2011 De l'émergence du Phénix, Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, France; curated by Caroline Hancock
Twenty, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
Interlude, Gallery 1, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2010 Surface & Reality, Kilkenny Arts Festival, curated by Oliver Dowling, Kilkenny, Ireland; curated by Oliver Dowling
Collecting the New, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 2009 Traces: IMMA Limited Editions, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 2008 Order. Desire. Light. An Exhibition of Contemporary Drawings, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Enrique Juncosa
10,000 to 50: Contemporary Art from Members of Business to Arts, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland

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- 2007 Wild Honey, Burren College of Art Gallery, Clare, Ireland; curated by Michael Dempsey
- 2006 A Dream of Discipline (and other works), three-person exhibition with Dorothy Cross and Kathy Prendergast, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland; curated by John Hutchinson
- 2005 The Nature of Things, Northern Ireland Pavilion, 51st Venice Biennale; curated by Hugh Mulholland
Rooms for Waiting In, Galway Arts Centre, Galway, Ireland; curated by Michael Dempsey
Four Now, GLUCKSMAN, Cork, Ireland; curated by Sarah Glennie
- 2004 Coalesce, With All Due Intent, The Model, Sligo, Ireland; curated by Paul O'Neill
Thinking of Ideas, The Golden Thread Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
No-one Else Can Make Me Feel Colours That You Bring, Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Vaari Claffey and Isabel Nolan
In Time of Shaking, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland; selected by Professor Cián Benson (UCD)
- 2003 Colour Chart, curated by Hugh Mulholland, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
New Works on Paper, Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Line/Form/Colour, No.0&1 John Dillon Street, Dublin, Ireland
Permaculture, curated by Grant Wilson, Project Arts Centre, Dublin, Ireland; curated by Grant Wilson
New Additions 2003, The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, Bourn Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland
- 2002 The Holiday Show, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland; curated by William McKeown
Works on Paper, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
Mirror, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick, Ireland; curated by Michael Canning
Works on Paper, Fenton Gallery, Cork, Ireland
- 2000 The Sea & The Sky, curated by Patrick T. Murphy and Richard Torchia, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland; Beaver College Art Gallery, Glenside, Philadelphia, USA; curated by Patrick T. Murphy and Richard Torchia
A Measured Quietude, David Winton Bell Gallery, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, USA; Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland; The Drawing Center, New York, NY, USA (1999); Berkeley Art Museum, University of California, USA (1999)
- 1999 Group Show, Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast, Northern Ireland
- 1998 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 1997 East International, Norwich Gallery, Norwich School of Art & Design, Norwich, UK; selected by Tacita Dean and Nicholas Logsdail
Residue, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
IMMA/Glen Dimplex Artists Award Exhibition 1997, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland
- 1995 Group Show, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 1994 Belfast Young Contemporaries, One Oxford Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Hit & Run, Catalyst Arts, Wilmot House, Belfast, Northern Ireland
MA Fine Art Exhibition, Orpheus Building, Belfast, Northern Ireland; 99 Gallery, Glasgow, UK; Guinness Hop Store, Dublin, Ireland

AWARDS

- 2008 Elected a member of Aosdána
- 2002 Arts Council of Northern Ireland Award
- 2001 Sirius Project, Roches Point, Co Cork

COLLECTIONS

Dallas Museum of Art
The Hugh Lane Gallery
Irish Museum of Modern Art
The Ulster Museum
Arts Council of England
Arts Council of Ireland
National Gallery of Ireland
Château La Coste

FILM

2016 Idir Neamh agus Talamh: Saothar William McKeown, short film directed by Pat Collins (Harvest Films) based on the work of William McKeown

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2025 Crafted World – Jonathan Anderson’s LOEWE
- 2023 In an Open Room, monograph published by Kerlin Gallery; texts by John Hutchinson, Declan Long, Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith, William McKeown and Isabel Nolan
Yvonne Scott, Landscape and Environment in Contemporary Irish Art, Churchill House Press, Ireland
- 2015 The Untold Want, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; texts by Patrick T. Murphy and Caroline Hancock
- 2011 Creative Ireland: The Visual Arts (Contemporary Visual Arts in Ireland 2000-2011), edited by Noel Kelly & Seán Kissane, pp. 118–119
- 2010 Traces of Light, mima, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art; texts selected by members of the public and staff at mima
Issue 5, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast
- 2009 Traces: IMMA Limited Editions, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; texts by Christina Kennedy and Seamus McCormack
- 2008 William McKeown, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; essays by Enrique Juncosa, Declan Long, Corinna Lotz and Chris Arthur
Order, Desire, Light: An Exhibition of Contemporary Drawings, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
- 2006 A Dream of Discipline (and other works), Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin
Subjective Affinities..., Alabama Chrome, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; essay by Declan Long
- 2005 The Nature of Things, text by Michele Robecchi, Venice Biennale
- 2003 New Additions 2003 – The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, University of Limerick; text by Samuel Walsh
- 2002 The Sky Begins at Our Feet, Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast; text by Isabel Nolan
The Holiday Show, Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; text by William McKeown
- 2001 In an open room, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; text by John Hutchinson
Mirror, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick; text by Michael Canning
- 2000 The Sea and The Sky, Beaver College Art Gallery, Pennsylvania and Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; texts by Susan Stewart, Patrick T. Murphy and Richard Torchia
- 1999 A Measured Quietude, The Drawing Centre, New York/Berkeley Arts Museum; text by Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith
- 1997 East International, Norwich Gallery, Norwich School of Art and Design; text by Lynda Morris
The Glenn Dimplex Artists Award 1997, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin
Residue, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; text by John Hutchinson

SELECTED PRESS

- 2025 Gemma Tipton, '2025 in art: 10 shows to look out for over the next 12 months', The Irish Times, 5 January
- 2024 Eve Hill-Agnus, 'Paris With the Effect of Rain', Artforum, 31 October
 Devorah Lauter, 'Paris Art Week Is Packed With Satellite Fairs for Every Taste', Art News, 18 October
 Adnan Qiblawi & Verity Babbs, 'Art Fairs Are Blooming All Over Paris. Here Is Your Go-To Guide to What's On This Week', Artnet News, 14 October
 'Fall 2024 exhibition, Place des Vosges', eflux Agenda, 11 October
- 2023 Alice Carroll, 'Life in living colour', Trinity News, 23 October
 John Graham, 'William McKeown, An Open Room', Paper Visual Art, 27 September
 Artforum, 'Must See', 12 September
 Philip Carton, 'Events Calendar', Business Post, 9 September
 Niall MacMonagle, 'William McKeown's "open art" is a breath of fresh summer's art at the Kerlin', The Sunday Independent, 4 September
 Tony Clayton Lea, 'The Guide: Visual Art', The Irish Times – The Ticket, 26 August
- 2022 Matthieu Jacquet, 'Le créateur Jonathan Anderson commissaire d'une exposition dans un somptueux domaine de Provence', Numero, 29 March
- 2021 Bryan Martin, 'William McKeown', The Brooklyn Rail, December 2021 – January 2022 Issue
- 2016 Christina Clemente et al, 'Designer Debuts to Snag This Month in Miami', Ocean Drive, 12 December
 Rae White, 'Here's How the Fashion World Did Art Basel Miami Beach', Fashionista, 7 December
 Ashley Parker, 'Chance Encounters II Exhibition Opens at LOEWE Miami Design District During Art Basel Miami Beach 2016', International Business Times, 4 December
 High Net Worth, 'The Loewe Foundation Presents the Works of John Ward & William McKeown in Art Basel 2016', 2 December
 Luxury Daily, 'Miami Art Week draws luxury participants courting creative crowd', 2 December
 Alix Browne, 'Jonathan Anderson and Loewe: Past, Present, Future', W Magazine, 1 December
 Wallpaper*, 'Chance encounters: Loewe brings painting and pottery together in Miami', 1 December
 Whitewall, 'Chance Encounters II Opening at Loewe in the Design District', 1 December
 Gary Pini, 'What's Happening Wednesday at Art Basel Miami Beach 2016', Paper Mag, 30 November
 Nick Remsen, 'Jonathan Anderson and Loewe Take Miami by Storm', VOGUE, 30 November
 WWD, 'Art Basel: So Are We Here to Party or What?', 30 November
 Emily Manning, 'i-D's ultimate guide to Art Basel Miami Beach 2016', i-D, 29 November
 Bethan Ryder, 'Design Miami preview', The Telegraph, 27 November
 Miami Herald, 'In 2016, a new design for Design Miami', 11 November
 Cristín Leach, 'There is proof of life after death for Irish artists', The Sunday Times, 3 July
 Nolan Jimbo, 'Day Break', Dallas Museum of Art Uncrated, 29 June
 Eileen Kinsella, 'New Dealers Invest in Dallas as Art Fair Week Quickly Approaches', artnet News, 11 April
- 2015 Zoë Jellicoe, Dublin Inquirer, 21 October
 Robert Clark, The Guardian Guide, 16 October
 Zara Hedderman, Le Cool Dublin, 15 October
 John Graham, Enclave Review, Issue 13, Autumn, p. 1
 Sarah Kelleher, Enclave Review, Issue 13, Autumn, pp. 1–2
- 2013 Cristín Leach Hughes, The Sunday Times, 12 May
 Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times, 10 May
- 2012 Patricia Andrew, 'Interesting Inverleith and beautiful botanics', Cassone, July
 Luke Clancy, Art Review, May, pp. 128–129
 Robert Clark, The Guardian Guide, 24 March, p. 37

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- 2012 Cristín Leach Hughes, The Sunday Times, 18 March, p. 13
Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times: The Ticket, 2 March, p. 24
- 2011 Irish Arts Review, Vol.28, Issue 3, Autumn, p. 28
Irish Arts Review, Vol. 28, Issue 1, Spring, p. 30
- 2010 Elizabeth Fitzherbert, 'Latest Additions to IMMA's Permanent Collection Provoke Thought', The Wall Street Journal, 28 May
Mark Sheerin, Culture24, 8 April
Becky Hunter, White Hot Magazine of Contemporary Art, April
Kate Butler, The Sunday Times, 7 March
Robert Clark, The Guardian, 6 March
Joanne Welford, 'Tripping the light fantastic at mima', Evening Gazette, 5 March
e-flux, 3 March
Network per l'Arte Contemporanea, Undo.net, March
Media Net News, February
Evening Gazette, 'What's On', 26 February
Architecture Now, 'Pool', 23 February
- 2009 Four Seasons Magazine, Issue Four, pp.94
- 2008 Eimear McKeith, 'Just William', The Sunday Tribune, 16 November
Emily Mark Fitzgerald, 'Horizons of Light', Irish Arts Review, Autumn, pp. 80-83
- 2006 'Hope paintings, hope drawings & open drawings', Totally Dublin, January
Catherine Leen, The Sunday Times, Culture Magazine, February
- 2005 Francesca Bonetta, Northern Ireland at the 51st Venice Biennale, Circa, Winter
- 2004 Cristín Leach Hughes, The Sunday Times, 4 January
- 2003 Aidan Dunne, The Irish Times, 14 November
Cristín Leach Hughes, The Sunday Times, 15 May
- 2002 Aidan Dunne, 'The intangible business of going on holiday', The Irish Times, 26 August
'Sky's the Limit', The Irish Times, 17 August
Catherine Daly, 'The Holiday Show', The Sunday Times, 15 August
'The Sky Begins at our Feet', The Irish Times, 1 August
- 2001 Sarah Durcan, Circa, Summer No96
Catherine Daly, The Sunday Times, 8 April
Niamh Collins, TNT, 25 April
Cristín Leach, ACE-RTÉ internet site, 26 April
Medh Ruane, The Sunday Times, 29 April
Sara Keating, In Dublin, p. 64
- 2000 Mark Ewart, The Irish Times, 17 May
Aidan Dunne, 'When the sky's not the limit', The Irish Times, 8 August
- 1998 Melanie Morris, d'side, September
Angela Murray, The Tribune Magazine, 20 September
Aidan Dunne, 'Land, Sea, Sky, Paint', The Irish Times, 16 September
Medb Ruane, The Sunday Times, 29 September
The Sunday Tribune, 29 September
Tim Hilton, Independent on Sunday, 27 July
- 1997 Louise East, The Irish Times, 22 May
The Irish Times, 31 May
Aidan Dunne, The Tribune Magazine 25 May
Medb Ruane, The Sunday Times, 25 May
- 1996 Brian Fallon, The Irish Times, 26 September

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1996 Aidan Dunne, The Sunday Tribune, 8 December
 Medb Ruane, The Sunday Times, 8 December
 Aidan Dunne, The Sunday Tribune, 29 September
 Medb Ruane, The Sunday Times, 29 September