

**HUGH LANE  
GALLERY**

**PATRICK  
GRAHAM**

Transfiguration

17 March – 10 July 2022



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council



[hughlane.ie](http://hughlane.ie)



Patrick Graham, *Figure in landscape*, 2021 (detail).  
Courtesy of the artist. Photography by Denis Mortell.

## Introduction

Hugh Lane Gallery is delighted to present the first solo museum exhibition in Ireland by Irish artist Patrick Graham, who is widely regarded as one of Ireland's most influential contemporary painters. Entitled *Transfiguration* this survey exhibition showcases a selection of his collage drawings from the *The Lark in the Morning* series alongside the monumental triptych paintings from the 1980s and a selection of his recent work from the *Síle na Gig* series.

Patrick Graham's painterly, improvised surfaces regularly convey a startling openness and vulnerability. His works are often abrupt and even violent but also tender, vulnerable and feel inordinately exposed, even unhinged, and suspended in space. In a world where the legitimacy of facts is in constant flux, Graham is in many ways an artist of continuity. He is an artist who invokes a philosophy of 'living in truth', of keeping a sacred space for what you can prove to be true and to leave a trace of that truth for others to see.

Graham emerged in the 1980s in a period of uncertainty among painters and he consolidated a position that was dedicated to a personal search for existential meaning through aesthetic experience. Graham's canvases reveal an enthralling space introducing a diagrammatic universe that teems with meaning. The artist often incorporates words onto his canvas but not as citation or illustration, rather, the words and the paint, both made of painterly lines are visible, inseparable actions that pack a visceral immediacy. In these actions, Graham thrusts the artwork into the present. By awaking the senses the artist alerts the viewer to the transience of revelation.

We are delighted to present *Patrick Graham: Transfiguration* in Hugh Lane Gallery, accompanied by a fully illustrated publication and will include contributions from Richard Cork, Kelly Grovier and Jörg Heiser, on sale from May with book launch to be announced. *Transfiguration* is supported by an associated education programme throughout the duration of the exhibition. Please see [hughlane.ie](http://hughlane.ie) for details.

**Curated by Michael Dempsey**

## Patrick Graham

Patrick Graham was born in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath in 1943. He was awarded a scholarship to National College of Art and Design (1959–63) and since the late 1960s has exhibited in Ireland and internationally. He is a member of Aosdána. In 1987 Graham was awarded the Presidents Gold Medal, Oireachtas Exhibition, and in 1988, the painting award at the International Cultural Festival in Baghdad, Iraq. In 2016 Graham was awarded the Savills Art Prize. Graham's works are in private and public collections. He has participated in many symposia including the National Gallery of Ireland; Berkeley Art Museum, IMMA, Trinity College Dublin; Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; Hokkaido Museum, Japan; University of Michigan; Northeastern University, Boston; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Jack Rutberg Fine Arts, Los Angeles and Hillsboro Gallery, Dublin.

## Education programme

**PUBLIC LECTURE – Wednesday 16 March, 4 pm**

**Talk: 'Mimetic Rituals, Centrifugal Forces: On Patrick Graham's Painterly Work' with Jörg Heiser**

Free, booking on Hugh Lane Gallery [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or come

**on the day subject to availability.**

**PUBLIC LECTURE – Friday 13 May, 1 pm**

**Talk: 'At the edge of the real, neither here nor there: The art and imagination of Patrick Graham', with Kelly Grovier; followed by Q&A with artist Patrick Graham**

Free, booking on Hugh Lane Gallery [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or come

**on the day subject to availability.**

**FIGURE PAINTING – Saturday 2 July 10 am–4 pm**

**and Sunday 3 July 11 am–4 pm**

**Exploring the figure in new contexts while looking at**

***Patrick Graham: Transfiguration***

A two day workshop for adults with artist Beth O'Halloran where participants will be painting from the

figure using techniques informed by Patrick Graham's

stylistic choices – paintings as collections of marks,

collage, drawn and painted lines. Fee: €50 and materials

are provided. Booking on Hugh Lane Gallery [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

**STUDY MORNING – Friday 8 July 2022, 10 am–12.30 pm**

Themes arising from the *Patrick Graham: Transfiguration*

exhibition will be explored with contributors including

writer, broadcaster and art critic Cristín Leach;

filmmaker and activist Grace Dyas and further speakers.

Free, booking on Hugh Lane Gallery [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) or come

**on the day subject to availability.**

**SUNDAY PUBLIC TOURS – 2.15 pm**

**Exploring our collection and temporary exhibitions**

Free, no booking required or come on the day subject

**to availability.**

For further information on our *Patrick Graham: Transfiguration* Education Programmes including Coffee Conversations, Culture Clubs, VTS discussions, additional art courses and more please see

[www.hughlane.ie/education](http://www.hughlane.ie/education)

