



Niall Leavy Artists Statement

*'I found I could say things with colour and shapes
that I couldn't say any other way'*

Georgia O'Keeffe

Niall has built a strong reputation in Ireland and internationally for his distinctive, vibrant and uplifting modern art. He has had four solo shows to date and his art has been shown around the world including Milan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Stockholm, Edinburgh, London, New York and the prestigious SOFA exhibition in Chicago.

Working from his studio in the village of Stamullen, Co. Meath, close to the heart of the historic Boyne Valley on the east coast of Ireland, Niall is an artist driven by positivity and energised by colour. In his paintings and creations, Niall aims to capture the different elements that go to create positive and transformative moments in our lives. He enjoys capturing the intensity and purity of colour in his work, reflecting the importance of appreciating of each ingredient that goes to make up really great moments.

Combining influences from his travels, in particular to Japan, his career in organisational psychology and coaching, with a rich and varied development in art history and practice, Niall uses colour, forms, energy, movement, contrasts of fuzziness and sharpness, depth, emerging light and space as a visual exploration and vibrant expression of a spectrum of positive emotions. His key artistic influences are drawn from a wide range of sources such as Damien Hirst, Op Art, Ian Davenport, Rudolf Stingel, Patrick Scott, Franco-Chinese artist Zao Wou-Ki, and installation artists such as Yayoi Kusama, Peter Gronquist and Tom Fruin, but all the time working to create his own very distinctive style.

With his classic small squares, each individual piece Niall creates is typically the result of a process of developing multiple layers, with elements of each layer protected and other elements washed, rubbed or scratched away. In creating a larger piece, Niall will typically have 6 or 7 different sheets running in the studio

over a c 3 - 4 week period, where he will have different effects and patterns building on the different sheets. He will paint a layer, then protect parts of it, and wash the rest off (it won't fully wash off, leaving interesting traces and marks). He then paints another layer, protects parts, and washes off again. This will all be repeated 4 - 5 times. This builds a 'history' on the paper, with each resultant square capturing a 'moment', a moment with it's own history, a 'positive moment'. After this period of 'building the layers' he pulls off all the protective film to reveal all the layers of colour. He then enters the second creative phase by cutting the sheets into 4cm squares and then all the small squares become his new palette for creating a new painting.

The vibrancy and depth of each piece provides the viewer with the opportunity to create their own narrative or narratives as they may respond differently at different times. Niall has 3 main 'colour themes' he paints to with his 'small squares' work, each representing an uplifting aspect on the spectrum of positivity.:

- 'Mesmerize' - Pinks, purple, orange, turquoise, grey & splashes of colours
- 'Revive' - Blues, green, turquoise & splashes of colours
- 'Orage' (or 'Stirring of the emotions') - Blue, grey, turquoise, white

The 'signature' on all Niall's work is a genuine 22 carat gold leaf square. The gold leaf square takes it's origin from the Japanese 'Inkan' or 'Hanko' (a personalised rubber stamp widely used in Japan), and it also marks 'the opportunity' (golden) to tap the restorative power of colour and embrace 'a positive state of mind'. Every gold leaf square is actually signed by Niall on the back ...!!

Having initially established a strong reputation for his 'small squares', Niall's creativity is kept fresh by continuously looking to bring new dimensions to his work. In recent years Niall has diversified his artistic offerings creating a series of distinctive mixed media 'stripe paintings'; a number of a very striking 'Infinity' paintings with his small squares, using lights and mirrors; a new series of mixed-media paintings inspired by the rich history of Persian style carpet making in Co. Donegal in the late 1800's; and he has also created the landmark coloured Glasshouse at the Wineport Lodge in Co Westmeath. In addition, some of Niall's latest work in the studio, eg 'Dublin Bay Wonder', draws influence from urban & street art, demonstrating how Niall likes to keep an edge to his work and reinforces his relentless drive to create art that is modern and visually impactful and at the same time speaks directly to the constant core inspiration of his work - positivity ...!!



NIALL LEAVY

The Old Dispensary
Stamullen
Co. Meath, Ireland
K32 FW66

+353 87 2512571

info@niallleavy.com
www.niallleavy.com