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**Debbie Godsell**

**‘the infinite whatever’**

**Biography:**

Debbie Studied at the Limerick college of Art and Design and the Crawford College of Art, where she graduated with a Masters in Fine Art Research in 2002. Since then Debbie has been working fulltime as an Artist and an Art educator. Debbie has been guest lecturer at the Art Departments of The Crawford College of Art, Galway Institute of Technology and the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology. Debbie currently teaches fulltime in the Art Department at C.S.N, Cork where she is the Course Director for level 6 Certificate in Art. Debbie is a full member of Cork Printmakers where she delivers specialist workshops in textile screen printmaking. Her work is widely collected in Ireland by The OPW, Cork University Hospital, St James Hospital, The ulster Bank, Bank of Ireland, Allied Irish Bank, Crawford Municipal Gallery, U.CC, U.C.D, Cork Opera House, Port of Cork to name a few. Debbie is also a full member of Visual Arts Ireland. Full website available at [www.debbiegodsell.weebly.com](http://www.debbiegodsell.weebly.com).

**Statement of work**

The ‘’Infinite whatever’’ is a term coined by the New York Times travel writer Eric Weiner. Weiner describes his experiences of ‘Thin’ places as where ‘’the distance between heaven and earth collapses and we glimpse the divine, transcendent, or the infinite whatever’’. In these places we may be ‘’jolted out of old ways of seeing the world’’. It is these places, real, imagined that interest­ me as an artist.

My engagement with the landscape happened after I experienced a tragic loss in my life and a sudden relocation to the countryside. I believe that a landscapes can mirror how a person is feeling (think stormy sea’s). In my case walking through the seasons served as a reminder of life’s cycle, light after darkness, the return of hope. Ruskin called this ‘’the pathetic fallacy’’, the idea that a landscape can mirror the emotional state of the person found within it. I disagree.

The thin place is a very old concept. The Celts believed heaven and earth were only three feet apart and even closer in some places. Often thin places are associated with wild or intensely rural landscapes. I have gathered imagery and symbols from areas mainly near my home that for me represent the unknowable. Winifred Gallagher puts even more succinctly in her book ‘The power of place’ when she writes ‘’whatever the reason some places can inspire a sense of presence something perceived by the senses rather than seen…a momentary contact with some entity larger and greater than the mind’’.

The children in the work are my son and his best friend. They represent curiousity, vulnerability and fragility. Many believe that young children live very close to thin places by their very natures. Nan Goldin in her series photographs of children in *Eden and after* said that ‘’Kids are born with a consciousness of another existence and as they get older they forget it. They, she says ‘’are nothing to do with god or any other higher power, children are beyond that’’.

**Group exhibitions**

‘Present’, Group exhibition of Cork Printmakers, curated by Sarah Kelleher, Connecticut Centre for Contemporary Printmaking, New York.

‘Hope’, Glor Arts Centre, Ennis, Exhibition of National Printmakers, curated by Mike Byrne. ‘Limerick Printmakers Open Submission’, November 2015, Belltable Arts Centre, Limerick. ‘Tweet box’, Impact 8 Printmaking symposium, Hangzhou China, curated by Noelle Noonan and Catherine Hehir. Also shown in The Belltable Arts Centre, Lismore Castle Gallery and City Hall Atrium,Cork.
'Here and Now', Macroom Town Hall gallery, 2014 and 2015 curated by Norah Norton.
‘Woven into Memory', an exhibition of textile work, Wexford Arts Centre 2014.
'Aether',Three person  exhibition, Macroom Town Hall Gallery 2013, essay by Dara Waldron.
 ‘21’ ,Cork Printmakers at the Wandesford Quay Gallery 2013
'Excavate', Cork City Museum 2012, curated by Breda Lynch.
'Art Style' Brown Thomas Cork 2013
'Tales from the Road' Bluewell Gallery 2012
'The Mythical and the Mundane' Cork Printmakers selected exhibition, Siamsa Tire 2012 ‘All in this together’ Cork printmakers Group exhibition 2010
‘Backwater 2010'  Crawford Art Gallery 2010
'Charles Tyrell’ selects' Kinsale Arts Festival' 2009
'Node' National print exhibition, original print Gallery 2008
Group Exhibition MacBride Gallery 2008
'Death and Desire' Sirius Arts Centre 2007, curated by Sandra Minchin
'Time and Place' Macroom Town Hall Gallery 2007 curated by Norah Norton
'C2' Crawford Gallery 2005.
**Solo and Two person Exhibitions**
'Savage' Solo Exhibition, Triskel Arts Centre 2003
'Tide' Solo Exhibition, Form Gallery 2005
'Idyll', Two person exhibition Lemon Street Gallery 2007
**Awards and Bursaries**
C.I.T research bursary 2002
Arts council Travel award 2002
Cork city council Arts Award 2004
Cork Printmakers Bursary Award.
**﻿﻿Collections**
Cork Opera commission for 160th Anniversary 2015
Port of Cork commission for Cork capital of Culture 2005