

Eco-friendly antique furniture up for grabs at Adam's auction

Superb collection of Irish antique furniture and objets d'art offer buyers the ultimate green purchase



Philip Carton
Fine Arts

Bidding closes on February 27 at Adam's At Home auction which is currently on view at its salerooms on St Stephen's Green in Dublin.

If you are unable to make the view, the sumptuously produced 467-lot catalogue makes for tempting reading.

I was delighted to read on the inside of the back cover a note, *Sustainability Starts at Home*, which cites a 2019 report that 1.2 million reusable bulky items – primarily furniture – go into landfill, a number which has probably increased in the last five years.

So in an effort to double down on reusing and re-homing furniture, there are several noteworthy duos. Just about in time for spring planting,

lot 1 comprises a pair of 20th century terracotta planters decorated in the form of baskets, each of circular tapered form with reeded rims, raised on four acanthus and flower supports. (€300-€500).

Lot 4 is a pair of wise, carved sandstone owls; the decorative duo guiding €500-€700.

Another handsome double act is Lot 48, a 19th-century mahogany plate bucket and peat bucket, both functional and with brass detailing bringing great symmetry to a room (€1,000-€1,500).

The sale includes 12 lots of Limerick silver from a private collection. Lot 72 is a pair of Irish provincial bright-cut silver serving spoons, Limerick circa 1790, with the maker's mark of William Fitzgerald. The handles are engraved with



Pair of French kingwood giltmetal marble topped chests, estimate €400-€600



Pair of carved sandstone owls, estimate €500-€700

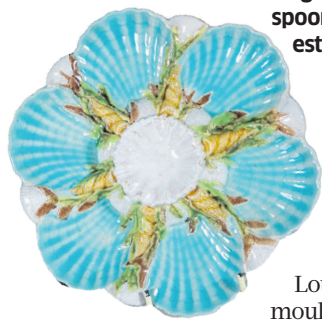


Pair of Irish provincial bright-cut silver serving spoons, Limerick circa 1790, estimate €2,000-€3,000



Pair of 16-branch moulded and cut glass chandeliers in the Venetian style, estimate €2,000-€3,000

Two George Jones Majolica oyster dishes, estimate €100-€200



A crest of a griffin head and struck 'sterling' and with fleur-de-lis mark (€2,000-€3,000).

Let there be light with Lot 118, a pair of 16-branch moulded and cut-glass chandeliers in the Venetian style fitted with two tiers of alter-

nating down swept scroll arm branches, hung with facet cup droplets, and rows of beaded swags and moulded flowers. (€2,000-€3,000).

Lot 205 personifies the beauty and balance of matching furniture. The George III inlaid mahogany side cabinets date to circa 1770, with two

cupboard doors above two short and three long drawers with a detachable fretwork on top. The pieces have a warm glow about them and are estimated at €2,000-€3,000.

Those with more continental tastes should consider Lot 295, an impressive pair of French kingwood gilt met-

al marble-topped chests of serpentine shape with green mottle marble top above three drawers on cabriole legs. (€400-€600).

Requiring less space, Lot 300 is a pair of Staffordshire China models of Dalmatians with the distinctive black spots, the regal-looking pair seated on blue cushions (€300-€500).

We finish with two George Jones Majolica oyster dishes from circa 1880 (€100-€200).

Jones began his seven-year apprenticeship with Minton aged 14, opened his own pottery in 1862, and was successfully producing Majolica by 1866, going on to become one of the most respected makers.

Majolica is the anglicised version of the Italian word 'maiolica', a term used to describe this type of lustreware imported from Spain and which eventually came to be used for all types of tin-glazed earthenware.

At Home by Adam's, ends February 27. See: adams.ie.

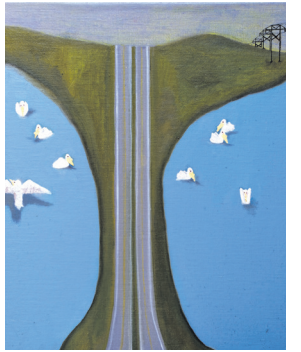


Mollie Douthit: *When Worlds Collide* is running until March 24 at Butler Gallery, Kilkenny

Meet the artist: Mollie Douthit



Originally from North Dakota, Mollie Douthit has lived between Ireland and the US since 2012. She holds a BFA from the University of North Dakota; Post Baccalaureate from Tufts University, Boston; and an MFA from Burren College of Art, NUIG.



Saint Guinefort

She places her work in the tradition of 18th century still life painters, most notably Jean Siméon Chardin and his depictions of everyday objects. She is also drawn to the stillness found in the work of Giorgio Morandi and Gwen John. Contemporary influences include Alice Neel, Chantal Joffe and Peter Dreher.

Douthit starts every day with a run, followed by all things domestic and finds thrills in mending clothes, baking bread and reading. With a home-based studio, daily moments, objects and places inspire her personally narrative paintings.

A solo exhibition of her work titled *When Worlds Collide* is running until March 24 at Butler Gallery, Kilkenny. See: butleryallery.ie

How my artistic journey began

Since I was about five, it never felt like a hobby, it was always just me.

Where the title for my current show came from

In this show all works are from my mind, but the content is an overlap between past, present, and in one case my future desires. The paintings are also of memories from when my husband and I started sharing our lives together – our worlds colliding.

What I want my audience to feel when viewing my work

I always want to evoke a sense of calm, even if there

are other emotions at play such as humour or sadness.

Artists who have influenced me

Morandi and Gwen John are two of my biggest influences, but currently my best friend, Sara Baume, a writer, is also an influence on me, making me feel like I am living the way I am supposed to, or artists are supposed to, in weird ways that work for our work.

I have a collection of

Chocolate on hand at all times. I also have at least three jars of peanut butter open as well, most of which are the Irish brand Nutshed.

An artist whose work I would collect if I could

I think I would like to live with a Vilhelm Hammer-shoi.

A place that means a lot to me

Malmö where my husband lives.

A place I'd like to visit

London in the 1960s

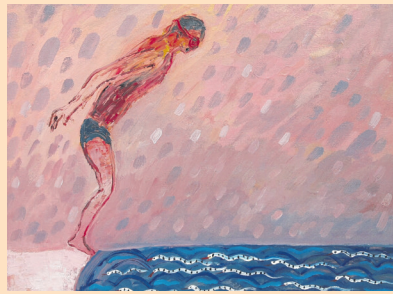
In another life I would have been

A baker. I spend a great deal of time baking when I have the chance, and since 2019 have been passionate about keeping my sourdough starter happy.

The best piece of advice I ever received

Life is not a dress rehearsal.

Events calendar



Doubt by Budi Gugi is on show at the From Another Island exhibition in Claremorris Gallery

* **February 25:** A timed auction of Asian art and antiques by South Dublin Auctions, Dublin 12; see: southdublinauction.com

* **February 27:** Jewellery and silverware auction by John Weldon Auctioneers, Dublin; see: jwa.ie

* **March 2:** Antique furniture and collectables by Reilly's Antiques, Prosperous; see: reillysantiques.ie

* **Closing March 3:** Art for Gaza Auction, artworks generously donated by leading Irish artists including Mick Mulcahy, Dorothy Cross and Charlie Tyrrell to name a few. The entire proceeds of the auction, without deduction of costs, will go to Médecins Sans

Frontières, Doctors Without Borders, who are working on the ground in Gaza. Further information see: whytes.ie

* **March 4:** Antiques and interiors auction by RJ Keighery, Waterford; see: antiquesireland.ie

* **Until March 9:** Budi Gugi *From Another Island* at the Claremorris Gallery, Claremorris; see: claremorris-gallery.ie

* **Until March 10:** Hughie O'Donoghue; *Territory* (new large scale works by the artist) at the Glucksman, Cork; see: glucksman.org

* **Until March 31:** *Half Shy*, new works by Zsolt Basti, at the RHA, Dublin; see: rhagallery.ie

Sit at top table at Victor Mee auction

Victor Mee's two-day spring interiors sale takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 27 and 28 at the auctioneer's Cloverhill facility in Co Cavan.

Among the lots on offer are several vernacular pieces of sponge-ware and furniture that are well worth investigating. I was particularly taken by some of the impressive dining tables in the sale.

The dining table holds an important place in all our homes, central to gathering, conversation and important life moments. Among the noteworthy examples to break bread on is Lot 66, catalogued as a good-quality pine country kitchen table raised on square legs and double stretcher. Measuring 270cm long, it would give a rustic feel to any kitchen or dining room (€1,000-€1,500).



Robert Strahan & Co dining table, estimate €4,000-€8,000

A sale highlight by value and scale is lot 325, a majestic 4.4 metre dining table made by Robert Strahan & Co of

Dublin, an exceptional 19th century mahogany split pod dining table with five leaves (€4,000-€8,000).

Robert Strahan & Co was founded in 1776 and by the mid-18th century, when this table was crafted, it was considered to be one of Ireland's premier furniture designers and makers, exhibiting works at the Great Industrial Exhibition, Dublin, in 1853 and in 1862 at the London International Exhibition.

In addition to commissions for grand country houses, Strahan also manufactured pieces from its Abbey Street premises under the family name until 1969.

Lot 810 is a 20th century fruitwood refectory table on shaped supports and square stretcher, with a beautiful patina. Measuring 212cm, it would comfortably seat eight people (€450-€750).

Spring Decorative Interiors Sale, February 27 and 28; Victor Mee. See: victormeeauctions.ie

Wild beauty captured at Morgan O'Driscoll

There are some 231 lots on offer at Morgan O'Driscoll's Irish Art Online auction, which closes on February 26.

While viewing the sale, I recalled the Greek philosopher Plutarch's inspired statement: "Painting is silent poetry." Painting can also be a mirror to nature and there are several works in the auction which show how different artists have depicted and interpreted nature and landscapes.

For example, Lot 13 is a hyper-realistic work titled *Andean Emeralds* by British-born wildlife artist Steve Burgess. The painting depicts two male hummingbirds which call the Andean cloud forest from Colombia to Peru their home (€1,000-€1,500).

Males and females are similar in appearance but the male hummingbird boasts a blue crown and the female a green one. Both genders are green above, white below, and possess a coppery upper tail.

Lot 17 is a moonlit landscape by Grace Henry titled *Moonlight*. The oil on board has a surrealist quality and rather than being a haunting moonlight, the warm orange hues make it a wholly inviting work. (€1,200-€1,800).

The top lot by value is lot 18, *Sunlight Meadow II* by Kenneth Webb, founder of the Irish



Cloghane from the Glen Road by Michael Flaherty, estimate €1,200-€1,800

School of Landscape Painting. The painting is a delight, the oil paint treated almost like watercolour to create a dreamlike scene of red poppies floating on a golden yellow canvas (€12,000-€18,000).

Another captivating landscape, Lot 31, *Drowned Forest with Nesting Box* by the Belfast born artist Victor Richardson, is pointillist in style. (€3,000-€5,000).

Another Belfast born artist's take on landscape, Lot 42, *Curragh by the Shore* by Daniel O'Neill, is a petite and textured oil on board which captures all the drama of the sea (€1,500-€2,500).

Lot 72 just radiates heat; *Chamartin de la Rose* (1949) by David Clarke, son of Harry Clarke and Margaret Crilly. Clarke left Ireland after World



Andean Emeralds by British-born artist Steve Burgess, estimate €1,000-€1,500

War II and spent the next ten years painting across Europe and the US. This gem is a memento from those adventures (€800-€1,200).

Finishing the tour is Lot 119 by Kerry-born contemporary artist Michael Flaherty titled *Cloghane, from the Glen Road*.

With rich and gestural impasto, the work captures both the ruggedness of the west coast and its individual crisp light (€1,200-€1,800).

Irish Art Online Auction, Morgan O'Driscoll; closes February 26; see: morganodriscoll.com

MORGAN O'DRISCOLL IRISH ART ONLINE AUCTION



BIDDING ENDS MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY
Between 6.30pm & 9.30pm
View catalogue and bid at www.morganodriscoll.com

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February 27th & 28th
Live Online from 5:30pm
Viewing:
Sunday February 25th (2pm - 6pm)
Monday February 26th (10am - 5pm)
Cloverhill, Cavan, H14D573
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AT HOME
Auction Tuesday 27th February at 11am
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ADAM'S
Viewing Today 1-5pm & Monday 26th Feb 10am-5pm