

CV and Career Statement for Betty Brown M.A. P.P.R.U.A

Betty Brown was elected President of the Royal Ulster Academy in 2018 and completed a three-year term of office in June 2021. As Chairman of the RUA Trust she became acting Director of the organisation during a time of unprecedented social change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As Chairman of the RUA Selection Committee and curator of the RUA Exhibitions 2018-2020 at the Ulster Museum, she led the RUA to expand its Open Selection part of the Annual Exhibition in 2018 and 2019. When the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown put the 139th Annual Exhibition in doubt, Betty commissioned a ground-breaking 3D Virtual Exhibition from Marshall Arts Media. This turned out to be prescient and the RUA has received wide ranging praise for the quality of the Virtual Exhibition and new integrated website which also provided an online sales facility. During Lockdown, this decision enabled schools to take part in Virtual tours which allowed the RUA education programme to continue when practical visits to the museum became impossible.

Betty currently holds a trustee position on the Board of the British Institution Fund which is based at the Royal Academy and selects a yearly art award to young British artists.

During 2019 she has been invited to exhibit in the RHA Annual Exhibition in Dublin and in the Boyle Arts Festival participating again in 2021. She has taken part in the Hamilton Gallery St Brigid's Exhibition which took place in Sligo and travelled to the Irish Embassy in London. Betty also contributes to the annual Yeats Poetry Exhibition organised by the Hamilton Gallery Sligo in 2018, 2019 and 2020 which was being held in the Museum of Literature in Dublin and had to be suspended in the first lockdown in March.

Work in Public Collections

- 2021 RUA Diploma Collection.**
- 2019 US Ambassador's Residence, Dublin.**
- 2018 RUA Diploma Collection**
- 2009 Irish News Collection.**
- 2007 Office of Public Works.**
- 2000 Ballinglen Archive Collection.**
- 1986 RUA Diploma Collection.**

Awards and Prizes

- 2021 ACNI CIRP Individual Artist Award (project ongoing until end of March 2022).**
- 2010 Ards Borough Council, Tyrone Guthrie Bursary Award.**
- 2007 ACNI Individual Artist Award.**
- Royal Ulster Academy Irish News Award (representing Ireland Today).**
- 2006 ACNI CYP Artist in the Community.**
- 2005 Ards Borough Council, Sister City Bursary to Peoria, Phoenix, Arizona.**
- 2005 ACNI Travel Award.**

Royal Ulster Academy Gold Medal for “Like a Dog” a life-sized composite sculpture.

1999 Betty received a fellowship to the **Ballinlen Arts Foundation** in Mayo and has continued to return there with Fellowships until 2009.

1994 **ACNI “Women in the Arts Now”**. The course gave excellent opportunity to reinvigorate mid-career and included travel to Germany and an exhibition in France.

1994 **“Lord Dunleath” Bursary award to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre** followed by several residencies in **1995/1996**.

1986 **Guinness Peat Aviation Award, Dublin.**

Main Exhibitions.

2021 – 1986 As a member of the **Royal Ulster Academy**, Betty has exhibited in every **Annual Exhibition** and also back to **1981** as a non-member.

2007 **“Betty Kills Toys” Ards Arts Centre.**

1992 **BP Portrait Award, National Portrait Gallery, London.**

1987 **Beauty & the Beast, Aberystwyth Arts Centre.**

1986 **New Contemporaries Exhibition, London.**

London Contemporary Art Fair at Olympia.

Nicholas Treadwell Gallery, Kent.

1980/81 **Imperial Tobacco Portrait Exhibition, National Portrait Gallery, London.**

Betty notes that she considered herself a painter until 1984 when her art practice underwent a complete change of direction during the course of an M.A. at the Ulster University 1984/1985.

“Being challenged to rethink the creative process I began to build composite life-sized sculpture, originally as inspiration for painting but these had become challenging artworks in their own right and my M.A. Degree show consisted entirely of sculpture works. These subsequently travelled to England and were shown in the Walker Gallery, Liverpool 1986, City Artist’s Gallery London, and Nicholas Treadwell Gallery Kent.”

Betty’s artistic practice began in 1979 with a self-portrait accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition following her BA Degree in Portsmouth Polytechnic 1976 – 1978.