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The Irish Times - Friday, September 21, 2012

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AIDAN DUNNE

Rubicon Gallery, 10 St Stephen's Green,
Dublin Tues-Sat noon-5pm Until Oct 6
01-6708055 rubicongallery.ie

Nick Miller is well known for his vigorous landscape and figurative paintings and drawings. Many of his landscapes address rural Co Sligo, where he has lived for many years, from the vantage point of a mobile studio – a truck. Some of these “trucksapes” feature in his new body of work, though the location is fixed: in the yard where his studio is located.

Throughout a sequence of paintings, Miller explores several potentially conflicting notions of landscape. There is the iconic outline of Ben Bulbin, visible and not that distant. But we are not allowed to forget that the picturesque landmark is rooted in the real world, glimpsed from the metal fabricator's yard stocked with piles and pieces of steel, and from the truck-studio, a working space in much the same way as the metal workshop is a working space.

The result is a bracing, invigorating series of paintings that compel us to think about the landscape we're looking at.