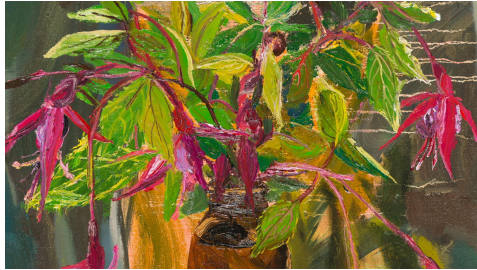




REVIEW

# Art: our choice

John P O'Sullivan

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12:01am,  
The Sunday Times

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## Vessels - Nature Morte

The title of Nick Miller's impressive and expressive new show in Skibbereen can be translated as "still life". However, the French term "nature morte" carries a resonance that confirms mortality is the issue here.

The paintings were inspired by a long-term creative project at Sligo's North West Hospice and by his mother's terminal illness. Miller used a selection of her vases and other vessels to add a personal dimension to the universal truth implicit in the work. The flowers are on the turn, some petals strewn around the bases, but we still see the glory of what they were.

They give us intimations of mortality and a poignant reminder of the transitory beauty of this world.

The varieties chosen represent the changing of the seasons: the hazel, the honeysuckle, the blackthorn and the fair daffodils that haste away so soon. The paintings have an energy and immediacy that come from being completed in one sitting. Miller describes this as "seeing the fullness of life before it passes" and says making paintings this way "offered some release in the face of transience and mortality". The artist is determined to seize the time - tomorrow may be too late.

*Catherine Hammond Gallery, Skibbereen*  
*Mon-Fri: 11am-5pm Sat: 11am-4pm 028 51690*

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