

standing

watercolours
nick miller

sitting

lying



Studio photographs:

Above: watercolours, portraits, figure & landscape, 2005-06

Right: watercolours, holiday France 2005





Studio photograph: Co Sligo, 2006. Rinpoche sitting.

¹The Venerable Panchen Ötrul Rinpoche is a Tibetan Buddhist Lama, the spiritual Director of Jampa Ling, a Buddhist centre in Co Cavan. He divides his time between there and Mongolia where he has been asked by the Dali Llama to help with the re-establishment of Buddhism

The phone rings, I keep painting and talking, at least two conversations going on, maybe a third with one of the children through the studio door. I am also thinking of how to feed my sitters - lunch, dinner - stuff from the garden always helps, it's a miracle. A cat at my feet, someone's dog sitting there. Attention has been a mantra; distraction is closer to the truth. Waking up and realising I can't feel the thorns on the trees. I tell myself it is all illusion, but I am not listening.

I started using watercolours again on holiday in France a couple of years ago, simple images of family holiday life. The medium is liberating, the pigments intense. I often use watercolour wrongly, thickly from the tube, there is nothing quite like it. In the sunlight in France, I cannot avoid Matisse. A while ago I had seen another retrospective in Düsseldorf. There, only the Odalisques lost me; the Orientalism, the women and all that material. Like a rat to poison, I eat the blue pellet and wait for thirst.

Back in the studio, I continue with watercolours, a new cycle of portraits. As part of this new work I find myself needing to re-visit painting naked people. But I've run out of naked friends, lives have moved on. At a gallery dinner I mention this to Josephine: a dinner guest volunteers, I laugh, say yes, thinking it will never happen, it does. And so it continues.

I like painting people more than any other form in art. In portraiture, naked or otherwise it feels like there is so much at stake. The presence of a person and their participation is a gift I treasure. The 'contract' to paint galvanises me. Some of these watercolours are unusual - of people I do not know well at all, others are closer. They are not commissions, just images of willing subjects; standing sitting or lying for reasons of their own, bringing a new and different energy to the studio.

In the middle of these, I cannot separate the first in a number of paintings I have made of The Venerable Panchen Ötrul Rinpoche¹, who I invited to the studio to sit. Maybe it is the robes in which he is clothed, a link to a different Orient or the clarity of his Buddhism in which I feel all desires reflected, but Rinpoche's painted presence amongst these other works is vital to me.

1. **Patricia standing I**, 2005
watercolour, 154 x 122 cm



2. **Derval standing I**, 2006
watercolour, 154 x 122 cm



3. **Rinpoche sitting I**, 2006
watercolour, 154 x 122 cm



4. **Noreen Lying I**, 2006
watercolour, 122 x 154 cm



5. **Gemma Lying I**, 2006
watercolour, 122 x 154 cm





6. **Derval standing III**, 2006
watercolour, 26 x 18 cm



7. **Patricia standing III**, 2005
watercolour, 30 x 22.5 cm

8. **Patricia standing II**, 2005
watercolour, 18 x 12.5 cm



9. **Derval standing II**, 2006
watercolour, 18 x 12.5 cm



10. *watercolour, 18 x 12.5 cm*





11. **Patricia Iying I**, 2005
watercolour, 31 x 40 cm



12. **Patricia Iying III**, 2005
watercolour, 22.5 x 30 cm

13. **Gemma sitting I**, 2006
watercolour 30 x 30 cm



14. **Derval sitting**, 2006
watercolour, 30 x 30 cm



Biography

Nick Miller was born in London in 1962. After graduating in *Development Studies* at the University of East Anglia he moved to Ireland in 1984 and now lives in Co Sligo. Miller has exhibited widely in Ireland and internationally including the solo exhibitions: “*Genre*” (2004), **The Butler Gallery**, Kilkenny; “*Figure to Ground*” (2003), **Royal Hibernian Academy**, Dublin; “*Closer*” (2000-01) **Rubicon Gallery**, Dublin; **Art Space Gallery**, London; **Kilkenny Arts Festival**; “*Paintings & Drawings*” (1998-99) **Rubicon Gallery** Dublin; **Art Space Gallery**, London; “*Figure*” (1996), **The Lowe Gallery**, Atlanta USA; “*Paintings*” (1996), **Fenderesky Gallery**, Belfast; “*South African Works*” (1994), **The Irish Museum of Modern Art** Dublin; “*Paintings & Drawings*” (1992) **Galerie D’Eendt**, Amsterdam and “*The Shadow Line*” (1991), **The City Arts Centre**, Dublin; “*Zoo work*” (1989), **Eve Linders**, Dublin. In 2002 he curated the visit to Ireland of Chinese artist Chen ZhongSen including amongst other events a joint exhibition “*Chen + Miller : East + West*” at **The Model Arts and Niland Gallery**, Sligo. Nick Miller is a member of **Aosdána**.

Collections include: Irish Museum of Modern Art, Irish Life PLC, RTE, The Arts Council (Ireland), Independent Newspapers, The National Drawing Collection (Limerick Municipal Collection), The Niland Collection (Sligo), Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Boyle Civic Collection, Dublin Institute of Technology, Allied Irish Bank, Irish Permanent, Bank of Ireland, Anglo Irish Bank, Ulster Bank and the European Investment Bank, Luxembourg.

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15. image overleaf:
Rinpoche sitting II, 2005,
watercolour, 61 x 45 cm

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