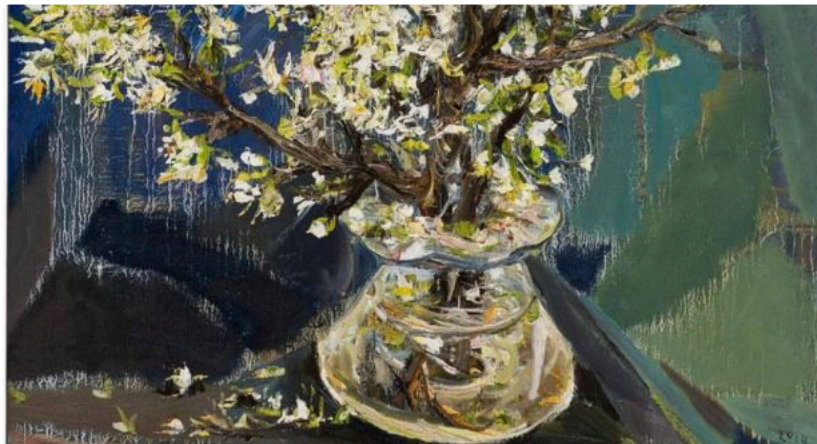


Candyfloss geraniums and a home from home in Cork

Home Front: interiors, art, people, events

Arminta Wallace



Nick Miller still life with flowers

Traditionally, still life paintings have been more than simply decorative: they have always served as both a celebration of life and a reminder of its ending. The Sligo-based, London-born artist Nick Miller had the opportunity to explore both sides of this delicately-balanced equation when he began a series of flower paintings as a personal response to working on a long-term creative project at Sligo's North West Hospice – and to his own mother's terminal illness. Over the course of a year, taking her collection of vases, bottles and pots, Miller made arrangements of whatever native wildflowers or garden plants were in season. The result is a series of paintings which fairly pulse with life, from a froth of blackthorn blossom in a purple vase to a cool green glass jar filled with elegant hazel. The same jar looks very different when it holds the vibrant pink spikes of rosebay willowherb – a plant which is not always celebrated, to put it mildly, by gardeners – while a hardy geranium comes in cheeky shades of candyfloss. *Vessels: Nature Morte* is on show at the Catherine Hammond Gallery in Skibbereen, Co Cork until August 10th. hammondgallery.com