

**Wonder of Wonders, or an account of The Nature of Things
Artists from Northern Ireland**

Being an exhibition of the artists Patrick Bloomer, Ian Charlesworth, Factotum, Seamus Harahan, Michael Hogg, Sandra Johiiston, Nicholas Keogh, Katrina Moorhead, Darren Murray, Mary McIntyre, William McKeown, Aisling O'Beirn, Peter Richards and Alistair Wilson, curated by Hugh Mulholland.

This exhibition, which great numbers of persons have been anxious to visit, presents a view of Northern Ireland which will not be widely known. For while it is informed by its place of origin, as could scarcely be otherwise, it is in no way limited by it. It would be impossible to present a view of Northern Ireland without touching on recent history. However, where artists have made reference to 'the Troubles' in this exhibition, they do so having lived through ten years of relative civil, if not political stability and from a position of the greatest reflection and composure.

While the artists may comment only very moderately on Northern Ireland's political history, there is evident in the work a condition which is shared between them. This condition is a desire to attest the value of inclusion, hope and freedom by means of acceptance, love and beauty. These virtues tend to the spiritual improvement of the beholder and abjure political cynicism, which is awful and appalling beyond description. For art about inclusion, understanding and acceptance, as will readily be agreed, is the most political work there is. It is of the most respectable order because it is essentially about freedom, and freedom can only be achieved through the self and through acceptance of our own nature. In this respect the artists selected are scarce to be separated from the international family of artist for they too are nourished by that same sublunary measure, our basic understanding of humanity. – The British Council