

Paul Hughes.

Joy, Obsession & Torment.

I am honoured and humbled to be showing alongside Gerard Stricher, an amazing artist, dripping in colour, in passion and energy.

He is made of the European French light, you can see it runs through his very being.

I so enjoy showing work with the Nicolas Auvray Gallery. A gorgeous intimacy is to be had here. I sense from him he wants to seek out and work with artists who never want to stand still, who will never feel they have arrived but who passionately push their work and his space. And that is fun. That is why I am here.

In this exhibition with Gerard I am showing work developed over the last 18 months with an emphasis on new 2025 work. The works are all connected, yet somehow show my everchanging mood swings. From daydreaming in my own amazing imaginary world of Giverny, to seeking out explosively expressing those utter momentary moments of feeling unadulterated joy.

To then extending this out to explore the Nordic / Norse concept of 'Glósóli', which is a sort of made up expression capturing the idea of the 'glow of the sun' or the 'glow of the soul'. There are moments I think my soul has experienced, has felt this sense of 'Glósóli', this sense of your inner soul momentarily bursting with joy.

How does it feel?

What can it look like?

Or am I just dreaming again?

I hope you enjoy what you see.

Stare at it.

Shout at it.

Sense it, smell it, touch it, even stroke it.

Just don't ignore it.

Please.

Px

Studio Playlist
Sample



I am a painter who is driven to obsession in everything I do.

I am relentless in my pursuit of 'what is next' and a stubborn unwillingness to settle or compromise in any piece I work on.

I am driven by the light and the darkness that surrounds us day in day out, with a particular focus on the multiplicity of points where light meets light.

I love the interaction of land, sea and sky and the ever-changing and ever-swapping of light between them. The constant absorption and transfer that is utterly continuous.

All that separates these three things is the compaction of the molecules in their make up. The solidity of land, the looseness of sea, the chaos of sky, and the movement of light between these three forms. Each is uniquely dependent on the others and as a painter I am merely an observer who in turn seeks to absorb this light in all its infinite shades.

I paint with huge physicality, passion and emotion. My paintings are of my heart and not my head. I constantly move between forms of realism and abstract expressionism.

I paint what interests me, I paint

what interests me to stare at. My desire is for people who stare at my work to let themselves get lost within it and to travel on their own journeys, through their own thoughts, feelings and memories. I want to paint 'stimulus', I paint to gain reactions, interactions. I paint to challenge myself and to overcome my own presumptions and assumptions as a flawed and imperfect human being that I carry and hold everyday. I don't paint background music.

I work in various materials, mainly acrylics, oils and raw pigments always looking to constantly develop and learn. I have so much to learn and in my own head I will never be good enough so that just drives me on every day. I am hugely influenced by the dark light of South West Kerry, where I have a studio in Kenmare and also by the wonder that is Dublin Bay.

Every new day in studio is a battle, a joyous, glorious battle of discovery and wonderment in colour.

Px

“Color is my
daylong Joy,
Obsession &
Torment”

Claude Monet



'Screaming for Joy'

This Land where I live, this small place on the edge of a continent, at the vanguard facing into the wild, infinite, Atlantic, like the bow of a ship cutting swathes through the sea. But this Atlantic does not batter us, it does not fight us but rather it rushes into us full of life and living, full of warmth, infinitely bear-hugging us over-enthusiastically in its challenging desire. We are rich and fertile and we are us and this place is this place because of it's 'hugging'. The warm currents, the nourishing seas, the salty rains, the walloping winds, the tumultuous 'noise' of it screaming it's joy to see us everyday

"My Mother always said I was a daydreamer and Mothers are always right."

Paul Hughes

Screaming for Joy (Glósóli)

I think the greatest feeling in the world is that fleetingly, momentary moment, when you are OK with yourself. Simply and utterly ok with yourself.

You like yourself,

You can be with yourself,

You enjoy yourself.

Your soul bursts with an explosion of joy through which you see the world around and in a flash, it passes.

You saw yourself, who you are and you think "here you are Paul, here you are"...

"And here you are, Glósóli

Og hér ert þú, Glósóli

And here you are, Glósóli

Og hér ert þú, Glósóli

And here you are, Glósóli

Og hér ert þú, Glósóli

And here you are...

Og hér ert þú..."

(Glósóli, Sigur Ros)



'My Giverny' series

"I have such a desire to do everything my head is bursting with it"

CLAUDE MONET

I have pursued Irish light, particularly the darker Irish light, all of my life. And then in the midst of another project I started to dream of being lost in Giverny, maybe it was my own personal Giverny, of my own imagining and consciousness. I dreamt of being there with Monet and the likes of Pollock, Motherwell, Krasner, Schiele, Turner and others. I dreamt we sat by the pond staring at the pond and everything it encompassed and we discussed what each of us saw, what obsessed us. I found myself getting lost in the minutiae of the reflections on the pond, the dripping light, the beautiful and delicate confusion, the veiling by the plants around, the hiding, the seeking. So I decided one day I would take this on as my next project for 2025/26. So I started working on one piece, then another and eventually it has started to grow and form into fascinating that is a constant battle between the physicality and darkness of my usual work and the

delicacy and intimacy and exuberance and colour of Monet and Giverny. In the same way Henri Rousseau never went to the tropics or far flung places to create his extraordinary 'jungle' works, but rather just focused on his imaginings and his dreams, I decided not to travel to the real gardens of Giverny as I wanted the paintings to be untainted by reality as what I have sought to paint are not reproductions of what is there but rather to create individual 'dreamscapes'. This will be an exhibition of 'daydreaming'. I daydream, sitting and lying by the pond at Giverny, staring endlessly at some distant spot, overwhelmed by the lines of light and colour. There is a battle not just of colour but of directions of light, contrary movements and actions and to this end I have found myself painting many sections with both hands so I get as close to the canvas as I can, 'feeling' and 'manipulating' and the application of colour and materials.

"I've been imagining I've been painting with the skies, the clouds, the plants and the reflections on the water that I have absorbed and I wanted to paint interpretations of

Monet's garden at Giverny. The reflections of the light on the ponds, staring through weeping willows and wysteria, across to his hidden small green Japanese bridge, the irises, the crocosmia, the waterlilies, the grasses, the reeds, the fading evening burning mists."

"If I could one day see Claude Monet's garden, I feel that, in that garden of colours and hues more so than of flowers, I would see a garden that is less a traditional florist's garden and more a colourist's garden, if you can say that, with flowers laid out in an arrangement that is not entirely natural because they have been planted so that only those whose colours match should bloom at the same time, creating expanses of blue or pink, and so that the artist's powerfully manifested intention has, in a way, dematerialised everything but colour."

Marcel Proust



Biography

2025:

'La Couleur Decomplexée', two person show avec Gerard Stricher, Nicolas Auvray Gallery, New York, Sept-Oct, 2025.

Le Meridian Beach Plaza, Monaco, Sept-December 2025.

G&M Design Exposition, Monaco, July/Aug 2025

New National Children's Hospital, large installation piece from 'My Giverny' series (to be installed later this year).

'I am here & I am Unwaiting', solo retrospective, Irish Arts Center, Hell's Kkitchen, New York, Jan-August 2025.

'European Modernist Landscapes', Group show, Nicolas Auvray Gallery, New York.

'Art Monaco', selected artists, Tanya Baxter Contemporary.

2024

'Green is a Myriad', solo exhibition in support of UNICEF, October 4-6, 2024, at the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts, Dublin.

'Screaming for Joy' at Volta Arts, Chelsea Industrial, New York, September 4-8, 2024.

Art Hong Kong, Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Hong Kong Invitational installation, July 2024.

'Across The Line', selected artists exhibition, Nicolas Auvray Gallery, Manhattan, New York.

Embassy of Ireland
Washington DC installation.

Art Central, Hong Kong, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Hong Kong.

2023

Miami Art Fair, Tanya Baxter Contemporary Gallery & Nicolas Auvray Gallery, Miami Florida.

Art Palm Beach, Nicolas Auvray Gallery, Palm Beach Florida.

'Unrooted', Sotheby's Institute of Fine Art, Lexington Avenue, New York.

Hamptons Art Fair, Nicolas Auvray Gallery, The Hamptons, Long Island, New York.

Irish Consulate installation, Irish Consulate, Manhattan, New York.

Irish Arts Center Exhibition and Auction (by invitation), Irish Arts Center, Manhattan, New York.

'Blue Line' (Bastard Blue™), Nicolas Auvray Gallery, Manhattan, New York.

'Bastard Blue™' at Volta Arts New York, Stone Step Gallery, Manhattan, New York. (debut in US).

'Bastard Blue™', The Complex, Dublin 7.

2022

'Staccato Part II', Three person show with Bridget Flannery and Paddy Lennon, curated by Dr. Eimear O'Connor, Greenacres, Wexford.

2021

European Modern Abstract Landscape, Group show by invitation from Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Hong Kong.

'A Place, On This Earth', solo show, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Hong Kong.

'Staccato', Three person show with Bridget Flannery and Paddy Lennon, curated by Dr. Eimear O'Connor, Kenmare Butter Market, Kenmare, Kerry.

2020

'While You Are Waiting', (Experimental Works Solo Show during Covid), Sandycove Store & Gallery, Dublin.

2019

'The Infinite Possibilities of The Space Between', Solo Show, The Stone Step Gallery, Blackrock, Dublin.

Invitational hanging of modern Irish Art, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Launch of Capital Dock Building, Dublin.

2018

'Chiaroscuro', Veiled Light Series, Solo Show, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, Hong Kong.

2017

'Chiaroscuro', Veiled Light Series, Solo Show, Tanya Baxter Contemporary Gallery, London, UK.

2009-2016

Various Group Shows and installations with Tanya Baxter Contemporary Gallery, London, UK.

2015

'Six Moments', Special Commission for the Indreni Organisation, Nepal.

2012

'Absorption', Solo Show, Tanya Baxter Contemporary Gallery, London.

2009

'Between Two Worlds', Solo Show, Tanya Baxter Contemporary, London.

'Do you Ever Get There', Solo Show, by invitation of the DDDA, CHQ Building, Dublin.

2006

'11 Paintings', Solo Show, Tramyard Gallery, Dalkey, Dublin.

