

Outhere: An Exhibition Proposal By Denis Buckley

Overview



Sequence from *Outhere*: 30min HD Single Channel, 2023

Outhere is a combine exhibition of moving image, drawing, painting and structure. The premise is one where the artist, (in performative persona), leaves the mainland of his native county, rows out beyond the Great Skellig to uncover the mathematical equation, he believes, is hidden in the contours of the islands. Once deciphered, he is convinced this equation will define Ireland. The failure of his journey is the interest.

The search consciously begins where Werner Herzog's, 1976 film, **Heart of Glass**, ends, in a small boat going out to sea from The Great Skellig in South Kerry. For the film finale Herzog has 4 men row out seeking the abyss at the edge of the world, doubting and unknowing if the earth is indeed flat. The Skellig has long been site and point of departure for other far ranging and diverse seekers.

A moving image work, (part supported by Kerry County Council Arts Grant) will complete early 2024, location filming having taking place in July 2023. The work is performed/recorded by the artist in the persona of "The Mariner", who returns, not only to tell of his failure to find the equation, but more pressingly of the dangerous temperatures he encounters at sea. His forewarning is for a world running into destruction, but his vantage point from a tiny vessel in the Great Atlantic positions human intervention at its most impotent. Alone at sea he finds a mathematical equation in an unfolding historical dialectic underpinning the forward trajectory of the cosmos. This age of numbers, he is convinced, may offer hope.

Outhere was conceived after filming in Kerry for **Progress** 2022, Script created during a driving trip through 40 degree North European temperatures.

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Drawing

Outhere has series of studio drawing & watercolours of and around the island. Everchanging light signifying historical propulsion independent of action.

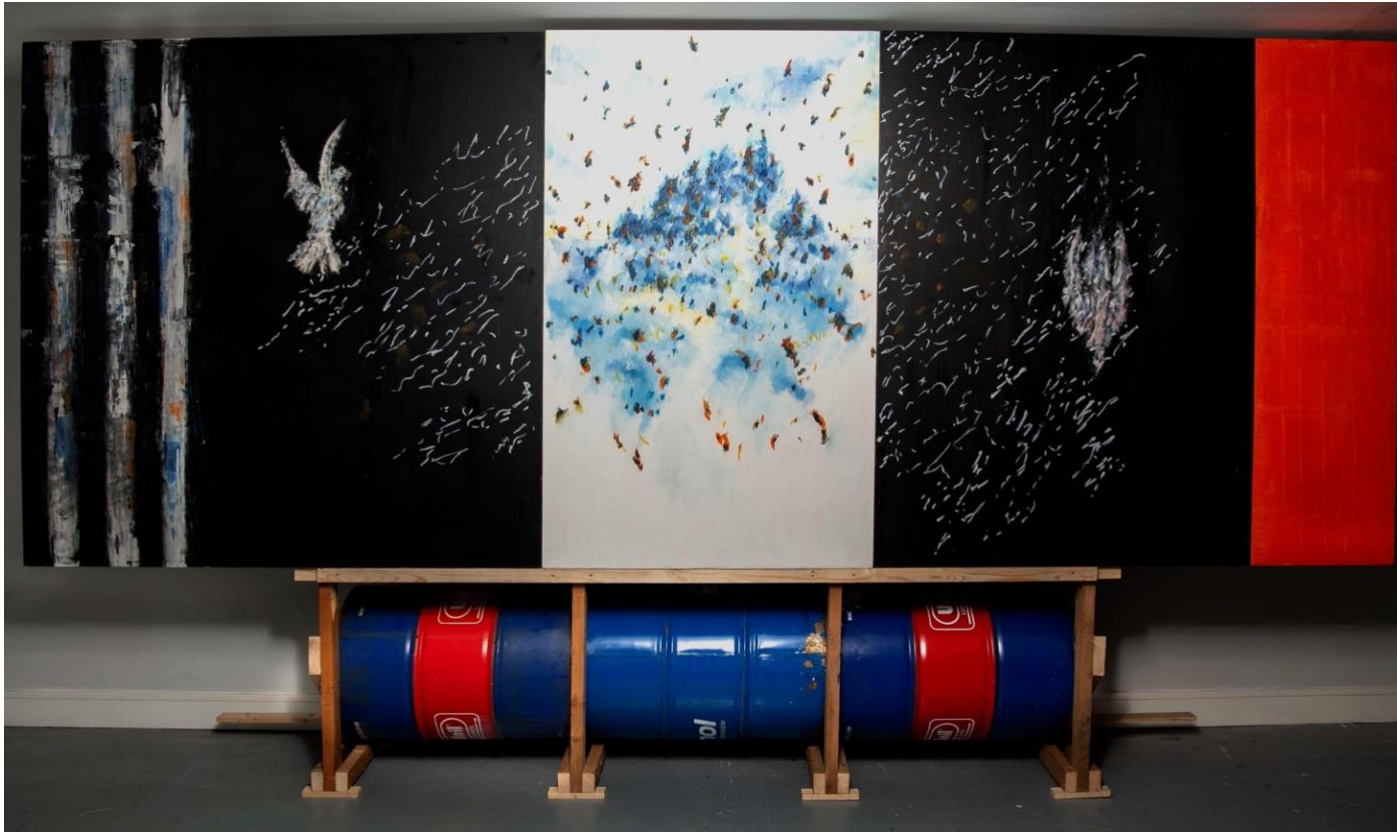


The Skellig Seen From The Mainland Under The Veil Of Mathematics 2 A-D, 2022/23, Pencil On Paper, 298mm x 1090mm



Reflets dans l'eau 2, 2023 Watercolour on Paper, 300mm x 300mm

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Painting



The Mathematical Equation Hidden in The Contours of The Skellig Defining Ireland Not Found,
Oil, Oil Stick on Linen on Panel, on Linen on 3 Panels, Timber, Oil Drums, 2660mm x 4790mm x 660mm, 2015-2023

Outhere completes a large history triptych, (created in golden ratio), left unfinished and abandoned in 2016. The original work, commissioned by Siamsa Tíre and Centre Culturel Irlandais for the centenary of the Easter Rising, was left incomplete following a study of doubt & desire in the mind of an ideologue.

The painting was completed in Kerry during July 2023 and mounted upright on a support with recycled oil drum as ballast. Panels reworked based on studio drawing & watercolours. Free standing support breaks an exhibition space to show film and drawing together within the same space.

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Moving Image Work



The Mathematical Equation Hidden in The Contours of The Skellig Defining Ireland Not Found, (Reverse/Screen)
Timber, Oil Drums, Canvas Sailcloth, Rope, 2660mm x 4790mm x 660mm, 2015-2023

A Mariner rows out into the Atlantic to uncover the mathematical equation hidden in the contours of the Great Skellig. He must go sufficiently beyond the Rock to be able to see the numbers, he believes, hidden. In his eagerness to find answers he gets lost at sea. The film is his telling of the journey.

As well as Herzog's film, other project influences include, John Huston's, *Moby Dick*, and Coleridge's epic poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*.

Outhere extends experimentation on *Progress* 2022, adding a more confident central performance, so much so that the expressive recording of the rhythmical Hiberno-English text, delivered live to camera by the artist, intercuts the film. As well as live performance documentation, gimbal footage shot on location in Kerry, there is also studio matte paintings of the famous contour lit from behind with a variety of light sources.

The film is 30mins and has two iterations, one a screening alone, one with live performance given along screening by the artist.

Outhere Excerpt 2023 <https://vimeo.com/855663285>

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Exhibition



The *Mathematical Equation Hidden in The Contours of The Skellig Defining Ireland Not found, 2015-2023, (Side/Reverse).*



Visual imagining By Alex Jackson.

The painting, *The Mathematical Equation Hidden in The Contours of The Skellig Defining Ireland Not Found*, cuts the exhibition in two. The front of the painting is well lit, as is the surrounding half, which also contains drawings and watercolours. The back of the object, by contrast, is unlit and dark, illuminated only by the projection of the film *Outhere* onto a sailcloth fixed by rope to the structure.

The painting/structure combine is almost 4.8 metres wide. Height almost 3m metres. The oil drums are partially filled with water. When full, each 200 L drum will have an individual weight of 200kg. Half filled 3 drums will give a combined ballast weight of 300kg, well above requirement for a similar size and weight of even exterior timber shuttering.

As document of a live to camera performance, the film work can have two iterations. One is the complete moving image work with performance edited in. Other version has a camera feed of the performance live mixed into film projected onto sailcloth. Both versions are same duration.