

Mary Perrin (Irish fl.)



The Flamingo Fan

Reference: 10822

Dimensions:

Height: 22.50 cm / 8⁷/₈ in

Width: 22 cm / 8⁵/₈ in

Signed twice l.r.: Mary and M.Perrin, watercolour over traces of pencil with bodycolour and gum arabic, inscribed verso:
The Flamingo Fan/by/Miss Mary Perrin,/Fortfield House/Terenure/Co Dublin/From Professor McHardy F.R.C.S./March 1911/
Exhibition picture Royal Academy, further inscribed on fragments of original label attached to backboard: Miss Mary

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

P....n/Fortfield House/Terenure Co. Dublin/No:2/The Flamingo Fan/...Dubli/...House/.../ure/Dublin

Circular, 21 cm diam.; 8 ¼ inches, on artist's board measuring 22.5 x 22 cm.; 8 ¾ x 8 5/8 inches

Frame size 35.5 x 35.5 cm.; 14 x 14 inches

Exhibited

Royal Academy, London, 1905, no. 929

Mary Perrin specialised in intense watercolour portraits of female subjects, often drawing them with elaborate hats or coiffures. She also painted landscapes.

Her work is recorded frequently in Irish exhibitions. Perrin exhibited at the Water Colour Society of Ireland (WCSI) which was founded in 1870 as the Amateur Drawing Society by an informal group of six well-connected women from Co. Waterford, Baroness Pauline Prochazka, Miss Harriet Keane, Miss Frances Keane, Miss Henrietta Phipps, Miss Fanny Currey and Miss Fanny Musgrave. Eight years after its founding, the organisation briefly became the "Irish Fine Art Society" before settling to its current name in 1888. It held (and still holds) an Annual Exhibition of the work of its members.

Perrin started to exhibit at the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour in London in 1896 at their galleries at 195 Piccadilly. Perrin also showed regularly at the Royal Academy, the Society of Women Artists and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

Perrin's work was frequently praised by contemporary critics who remarked on the 'richness and power' of her watercolour (Freeman's Journal, 8 March 1886, in a review of The Irish Fine Art Society exhibition) and she won many prizes at various Irish societies.

The backboard labels on this work records her Irish address Fortfield House, Terenure, Co. Dublin. Another work by her has a partial address in London, ...s (Hans?) Crescent, London SW., suggesting that she moved between the two cities.

Perrin took an active part in the social life of Dublin and is often mentioned in contemporary newspapers as attending charitable and major social events such as the Viceregal Drawing Room in Belfast and costume balls.

The artist's family home, Fortfield House in Dublin, was bought by the Rt. Hon. John Hatchell (1788-1870) in 1858. He was an Irish lawyer and politician and his daughter Penelope married John Perrin. The house remained in the Perrin-Hatchell family until the death of Mary Perrin in 1929. In her will she left her estate to George Hatchell of Tanganyika. The house was demolished in 1834.

This work may have belonged to Professor Malcolm McHardy, FRCSE (d.1912) who was Professor of Ophthalmology at King's College and Ophthalmic Surgeon to King's College Hospital. He published extensively on ophthalmic surgery.