



Artwork of the Month

The Quad

Keith Kennedy

2004, Etching, Edition of 100

Commissioned by UCC Visual Arts Committee

Keith Kennedy's etching is a unique and complex image that maps a view of University College Cork's main quadrangle onto a background plate of the original architectural plans of the building. Queen's College Cork, as it was known originally, was designed by Sir Thomas Deane and Benjamin Woodward. The Deane architectural firm designed some important buildings in 19th century Cork including the Cork Savings Bank and St Mary's Church. In designing QCC, they were influenced by the design of Oxford colleges, particularly Magdalen College, and they incorporated some aspects of medieval buildings, such as stone carvings that were a feature of the Victorian Gothic Revival.

In this etching, Kennedy has sought to connect the contemporary aspect of the campus with its rich, historical past. Viewing the quadrangle as a composite of shared past experiences, events and activities, the artist draws from a number of items that lie deep within the University's history. On the left hand side, Kennedy has included an original etched plate sourced from the University archives that illustrates the stained glass Boole window located in the Aula Maxima, a window erected in memory of George Boole in 1864. Boole became the first Professor of Mathematics in Queen's College Cork in 1849 and held the post for the rest of his

life. On the right hand side, the artwork is overlaid by the University's coat of arms, granted to the college in 1889 by John Burke, the Ulster King of Arms. The letter patent detailing the arms is held in the University Archives.

Viewing this etching, I am impressed by the marriage of the old and the new. It is often difficult to promote the importance and the unique qualities of archives, but here the artist has proved that archival sources are relevant and can be utilised using modern technology to create a new piece of work. The original plans of the college by Deane and Woodward used in this work are held in the University Archives. Recently, a digital copy of the plans was made which will help to ensure the preservation of the originals while at the same time making the plans available for research and study.

Keith Kennedy works in Cork Printmakers. In 2000, he had a solo show in UCC with an exhibition of works titled *The Glee of the Lee*. Some 10 of these prints are on display in the Bank of Ireland in Cork city. Kennedy does extensive research on his chosen subject, often exploring and incorporating archival material and historical elements in his work. He then combines these investigations with contemporary topographic views and a personal experience of the environment.

Catriona Mulcahy
University Archivist

This limited edition artwork is available for sale in the Glucksman shop. For further information contact info@glucksman.org