Nancy Wynne Jones
Pond and Tree, 1997
Acrylic on canvas 76 x 102 cm

The pond and surrounding trees in front of her Wicklow home have appeared in many of Nancy Wynne-Jones' paintings, a recurring theme indicative of her close relationship with nature from an early age and the consistent role played by landscape as a source of inspiration for the artist. Wynne-Jones' primary interests are in capturing the spirit of a particular place and conveying an impression of being in the space, rather than in making a descriptive painting. The pond in her Wicklow garden where she has lived with her husband, the sculptor, Conor Fallon, since the late 1980s, offers her the challenge of communicating a sense of the hidden depths beneath the flat surface of the water. Wynne-Jones' time in the artists' colony of St Ives in Cornwall, England, had a profound impact on her art practice. In 1957, she travelled to St Ives to attend a two-week painting course given by the artist, Peter Lanyon (1918-64), and there she remained for the next 15 years. Lanyon, she explained, wished 'to make us aware that we tended to see the world through unquestioned visual conventions, and, on the whole, painted it by equally unquestioned artistic rules.' Lanyon's articulation of space greatly inspired her. 'Wide space and the air in-between is something which interests me very much. I have attempted in some of my paintings to animate the space between my eye and the further reaches of my landscape with a variety of metaphors for the air in-between. I feel that you do not see the air as empty. It seems alive and full of incident, it is coloured in itself, and also your eyes pick up and transfer colours from the land and sky.' (Both quotations from Nancy Wynne-Jones, Brian Fallon, Gandon, 1992)

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