Patrick Collins HRHA (1910 – 1994)
*Pool on the Mountain, 1972*
Oil on canvas, 93cm x 72cm

'Patrick Collins was mainly self-taught as an artist, like Tony O’Malley. Collins’ work is noted for its evocative painterly qualities. Here is a painting that, like many of Collins’, seems almost abstract, he has painted a tranquil image of a wet field. Layers of thin paint give a soft tonal effect, culminating in an almost central vortex. His work was rarely based on direct observation; instead, he usually condensed images from memory, leaving out many details, including in this case the horizon. He had a life of great hardship, suffering from T.B. and poverty, and his imaginative attachment to his homeplace, Sligo, sustained him emotionally and creatively. Years spent in France did not diminish this.'

*Vera Ryan*

This text, written by Vera Ryan, lecturer in the Crawford College of Art and Design, features in the UCC Art Collection catalogue of 1998, and highlights a work by one of Ireland’s most significant landscape painters, noted for his emotional evocations of the Irish landscape. This painting was completed while Collins lived in France, during which time his palette brightened significantly from brooding blues and greys to warmer greens and yellows.

*Nora Hickey  
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