



### **Media Contact**

Gina Costa  
Phone: 574-631-4720  
Fax: 574-631-8501  
PO Box 368  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, IN 46556  
gcosta@nd.edu

**University of NOTRE DAME**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Keough family's gift expands Snite Museum's Irish art collection**

The Snite Museum of Art announces a gift of 19 modern and contemporary paintings by Irish artists from the Donald and Marilyn Keough family. Combined with earlier acquisitions of 18th-century prints by James Barry and Thomas Frye and photographs by Alen MacWeeney, the gift lays the foundation for a significant collection of Irish art spanning three centuries at the University of Notre Dame.

"This gift of paintings does not only represent an aesthetic contribution to Notre Dame," said Patrick Griffin director of the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. "It also helps build a bridge between Ireland and the University. For these reasons, we are thrilled to have these paintings here. It is especially gratifying for me that the gift comes from one of our most generous benefactors, the Keough family."

Included in the gift are prime examples of modern art by Jack B. Yeats, Roderic O'Connor and Paul Henry, among others. Yeats is probably the best-known and most beloved Irish artist, notable for his expressionistic treatment of Irish subjects plucked from common life – horse races, fairs, the countryside and coastlines of Ireland. A participant of the Armory Show in New York in 1913, he developed a strong following in the United States and sold many of his best paintings to collectors on this side of the Atlantic.



Other artists represented in the collection are Nathaniel Hone, who introduced Barbizon naturalism into Irish landscape painting, Mary Swanzy, Grace Henry, Maurice Canning Wilks,

Markey Robinson and James O'Halloran. "These paintings are welcome additions to our holdings of modern European art; they provide a heretofore lacking visual component to the rich resources offered in the University of Notre Dame's esteemed Irish Studies program," said Chuck Loving, director of the Snite Museum. "They will strengthen our ability to partner with the Irish Studies program, Hesburgh Libraries Special Collections and the University's Dublin Global Gateway."

Before their passing, Donald and Marilyn Keough were generous benefactors of the University of Notre Dame. In addition to founding the Keough-Naughton Program for Irish Studies in 1993, the couple made several other significant contributions to Notre Dame for a variety of educational and residential initiatives, including two endowed chairs in Irish studies; a summer internship program for Notre Dame students in Ireland; the restoration of O'Connell House in Dublin; the Keough-Hesburgh Professorships for leading scholars who demonstrate a commitment to Notre Dame's Catholic mission; and a men's residence hall named in Marilyn Keough's honor. Most recently, they funded the Donald R. Keough School of Global Affairs, the first college or school established at the University in nearly a century.

Donald Keough was chairman of the board of Allen & Company Inc., a New York investment banking firm. He retired as president and chief operating officer of The Coca-Cola Company in 1993. He was a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 1978 until 2015, serving as chair from 1986 to 1991. Marilyn Keough was an educator at Good Shepherd Convent School in Omaha, Nebraska, before marrying Donald in 1949. The couple settled with their six children in Atlanta where they supported area arts institutions, colleges and schools. All but one of their children are Notre Dame graduates, with several of them serving on either the University's Board of Trustees or advisory councils.

### **Photo Captions**

Jack B. Yeats (Irish, 1871–1957), "Driftwood in a Cave," 1948, oil on canvas, 14x21 inches (canvas). On loan from the Donald and Marilyn Keough Family, L2017.052.013.

For additional images, visit the Snite Museum News Room on its website. To arrange interviews or tours with curators, contact Gina Costa at [gcosta@nd.edu](mailto:gcosta@nd.edu) or 574-631-4720.

### **The Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame**

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday; and Saturday and Sunday noon–5p.m. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574-631-5466 or at the museum's website: [sniteartmuseum.nd.edu](http://sniteartmuseum.nd.edu). Driving directions and parking information are available at <http://nd.edu/visitors/directions>. Find us at [inthebend.com](http://inthebend.com) and [facebook.com](http://facebook.com).

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As a department of the University of Notre Dame, the museum supports teaching and research, creates and shares knowledge, celebrates diversity through the visual arts, serves the local community and explores spiritual dimensions of art.

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