

# THE

Tuesday, August 16, 2016  
€2.00 (incl. VAT)  
£1.30 Northern Ireland.

# IRISH TIMES

## Damien Flood is like a Miró in Dún Laoghaire



Bottom, *Tilly and Kish*, Damien Flood



### Aidan Dunne Visual Art

*Terra Incognita* – Damien Flood  
Municipal Gallery, Dún Laoghaire  
★★★★★

The spare, formal grammar of the paintings in Damien Flood's *Terra Incognita*, with linear flourishes and enigmatic, sometimes tear-shaped motifs against background expanses, has echoes of the great Joan Miró, though with a quite different palette. Where Miró delights in bold primary colours, Flood's palette tends to be more muted, toned-down and earthy, even though he certainly does use colour, and lots of it. Like Miró, he is dealing in this exhibition with memory. And like Miró, he approaches it in terms of personalised, stylised details, linked to specific images and things, though for the most part not obvi-

ously so.

In his work to date he has shown an interest in conceptual bids to understand the world, both orthodox and unorthodox, from philosophical theories to alchemical dreams. His paintings suggest that he is drawn to the essential strangeness that links all such enterprises.

He embarked on this project by asking a question suitably in tune with his previous concerns: What is it to know a place? To find out, he looked to straightforward historical research and one-to-one interviews with residents of the Dún Laoghaire area. The upshot is a sense of a place in terms of the individual, usually unseen and largely unstated histories of those who live there. Flood focuses on precise details culled from the stories he has heard.

**“Where Miró delights in bold primary colours, Flood’s palette tends to be more muted, toned-down and earthy”**

Just as important is a sense of the ground of each painting as a context, a generative layer that can incorporate both the physical, topographical precinct and the psychological landscape – the mixture of outer and inner worlds that we each inhabit. The outer gains primacy in *Cinder*, a reference to a fire that destroyed a church. *Captain* looks to the harbour and is a contemplation of experience and retirement. *Playground* indicates the commonality of experience in a lifelong friendship. Once you enter into the spirit of things, it is an engaging show. Until August 27th, [dlrcoco.ie/arts](http://dlrcoco.ie/arts)