



46th
Gala
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FINE ART AUCTION

Stacey McGrath

Moments that capture the imagination fuel my love of oil painting. I love how a bit of paint and a brush allows one to see everyday things very differently, resulting in ideas and compositions that are always fresh and completely original.

I spend a lot of time painting in a breathtaking location, on the Dingle Peninsula overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Hiking in Ireland is never lonely, as there is no shortage of sheep or cows along the trails. These provided inspiration for a collection of paintings, "Celtic Cows and Gaelic Sheep", which is the first collection I put online. I love the personalities that come through so clearly in the expressions we encounter in the fields of west Ireland, and they're a delight to capture on canvas.

"Views of County Ciarraí", a series of paintings of the profoundly beautiful Irish landscape in and around County Kerry. As you may have guessed, Ciarraí is Gaelic for County Kerry. The Dingle Peninsula has been described by National Geographic as the "most beautiful place in the world", and there are an endless number of scenes and landscapes I can't wait to paint.

The "Botanicals" series is inspired by the long and lush Spring we experience every year in Atlanta, Georgia. From January through July there's a constant procession of beautiful blooms. From forsythia to magnolia I love getting "up close and personal", painting these lovely blooms as they emerge each spring.

I make my own canvases with heavyweight stretcher bars and canvas duck or linen, and three coats of sanded gesso. This gives me control over the exact size and depth of the canvas, and also provides a much higher quality painting surface than store-bought canvasses. I love the "grip" of a heavily gesso'ed painting surface, and work only in oils.