Old Master Prints:

The Madden/Arnholz Collection

Curated by Janet & John Banville
Cover image:

**Samuel Palmer**

*The Early Ploughman*, 1861

Etching

25 x 35 cm

Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art

Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
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23rd March - 12th June 2011
Fritz Arnholz was born in Berlin in 1897, into a wealthy merchant family. He studied medicine, graduating in 1924, and worked as a doctor in his native city until 1939 when, as a Jew, he was forced to flee Germany for Britain—his parents were already dead, but his brother was murdered by the Nazis in Auschwitz. He worked as house physician in a number of London hospitals, and then in the Royal Army Medical Corps, which he left after the war in the rank of captain. He joined a general medical practice in Fulham, where he was to work for the rest of his life. He was a very popular doctor, known for his humour as much as for his medical expertise and his care and compassion for his patients. He met his future wife, Etain Madden, in the early 1960s. Although she was appreciably younger than he, they were an obvious match from the start. Etain, born in Ireland to politically active parents, was brought up in England but never lost her strong sense of herself as an Irish patriot; she was also a left-wing activist and a committed feminist.

The Madden-Arnholz marriage was blissful if brief—Dr Arnholz had been diagnosed with cancer shortly before they were married. The couple shared deep intellectual interests, especially literature and music, as well as a wickedly subversive sense of humour. Etain was a student of philosophy, while Fritz, who had studied in Berlin under Artur Schnabel, was a pianist of concert standard, with a special affinity for the keyboard music of Bach and Mozart. When the postwar German government paid him reparation for the losses the Nazis had inflicted on him, he used the money to buy a Bechstein grand piano, the installation of which caused much wonder among the neighbours when it had to be delivered by a hoist through the first-floor window of the surgery in Lilley Road.

Dr Arnholz had always disliked his given name—Fritz, he said, made him think of a camp guard dog—so Etain called him Colm, the name by which we always knew him, and which was peculiarly suited to this gentle, kindly man. He was a lifelong collector of books—how I envied his first editions of Rilke and Thomas Mann!—but his first love was for prints, especially those of Hogarth and Dürer. However, he was no slave to reputation, and some of the finest things among his collection are works by unknown hands, and it is from these that we have mainly made our choices for the present exhibition.

Etain Madden Arnholz died in 1982, at the age of forty-three. Her husband’s extensive collection of prints went to her mother, Claire Madden, who in 1989 donated them to the nascent Irish Museum of Modern Art. This trove of European art, and craft—Dr Arnholz was as much a connoisseur of engraving skills as he was of artistic inspiration—is a testament to a remarkable man and his equally remarkable wife. The names of the thugs who murdered Dr Arnholz’s brother and drove him out of Germany are either execrated or forgotten, while his name and that of his wife live on in this splendid collection.

John Banville
Rembrandt van Rijn
The Great Jewish Bride, 1635
Etching
21.3 x 6.2 cm
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
Jacques Callot
*Man in Rags on Crutches from Les Gueux*, 1620
Etching
13.6 x 8.8 cm
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
Pieter van der Heyden (after Pieter Bruegel)

*Land of Cockaigne*, 1567

Engraving

20.1 x 26.6 cm

Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art

Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
Albrecht Dürer

*The Great Horse*, 1505

Engraving

15.9 x 11.3 cm

Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art

Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
Francisco de Goya

Aquello Polbos (plate 23) from Los Caprichos, 1797-98
Etching and aquatint
21.7 x 14.8 cm
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
List of works included in the exhibition

Heinrich Aldegrever
The Power of Death: Allegory of Original Sin and Death Plate 7, 1544

After Hans Holbein the Younger
Engraving
7.7 x 9 cm
Ref: New Hollstein 141, Bartsch VIII 406.141
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2258

Dive in Hell: The Rich Man is in Deregatory Plate 4 from The Paradise of Dives & Lataxor series, 1554
Engraving
7.6 x 10.7 cm
Ref: New Hollstein 47, Bartsch VIII 377.47
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2555

Nativity & Eve Home from The Fall and Riddles of Man series, 1515
Woodcut
10.5 x 14.5 cm
Ref: Dodgson 11.224.9, Bartsch VIII 74.25, New Hollstein W3
Dodgson 11.225.25, Bartsch VIII 74.25, New Hollstein W3, G Batten 192x
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2230

Cornelis Bega
Man Seated at Table Lighting His Pipe, c. 1650
Etching
9.2 x 8.1 cm
Ref: New Hollstein 20, Bartsch V123.20
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2245

Hans Schuld Beham
Head of Christ, c. 1520
Engraving
6.8 x 7.1 cm
Ref: Pauli 183, Bartsch 216
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2299

Immanuel Bruegel the Elder
Two Gentlemen Riding on a Wave, c. 1654
Engraving
3.3 x 10 cm
Ref: Pauli 241, Bartsch 236
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2270

The Passion Festival or Twelve Months, 1546
Engraving
6.8 x 7.1 cm
Ref: Pauli 183, Bartsch 160
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2257

The Rape of Jole plate from The Passion of the Virgin, c. 1650
Engraving
5.7 x 8.2 cm
Ref: Englmann 37
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2676

Circle of Israel van Meckenen
Lamentation
Engraving
9.8 x 6.7 cm
Ref: Collotype Facsimile Edition as issued by Josef Meder-Alberina Vienna
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2448

George Cruikshank
The Great Horse, 1805
Engraving
15.9 x 11.3 cm
Ref: Meder 94,Dodgson 46, Bartsch 97
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2558

Prague fine art plate no 32 from Las Caprichos, 1797-98
Engraving
25 x 17 cm
Ref: New Hollstein 6.II
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2560

Antike Freuden
Portfolio of Roman Prunt - 7, 1922
46 x 22 cm
Ref: Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2572

W.H. Freeman
Musicalian
25 x 17 cm
Ref: Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2819

Philippe Galle (after Brueghel)
The Paradise of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, c. 1560-63
Engraving
21.5 x 28.8 cm
Ref: Bartels 123, Hollstein 197 (after Brueghel), New Hollstein 114.
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2508

Hendrik Goltzius
Mergenthe Jandachower Thory, 1580
Engraving
4.1 x 3 cm
Ref: Stearns 133, Hirschmann 197, Hollstein III 61.91
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2554

Hendrik Gould (after Adam Elsheimer)
Rest on Flight into Egypt, 1613
Engraving
Unframed: 25.5 x 39.9 cm
Ref: Elsheimer 3
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2508

Jacques Callot
The Wire Drawing Mill
Engraving
28 x 38 cm
Ref: Engelmann 191
Collection Irish Museum of Modern Art
Donation, Madden / Arnholz Collection, 1989
IMMA.2320
The Irish Museum of Modern Art wishes to sincerely thank Janet & John Banville for their generous commitment to the exhibition and their instrumental role in securing the Madden/ Arnholz Collection for the National Collection.

Exhibition team: Enrique Juncosa, Director; Christina Kennedy, Senior Curator: Head of Collections; Johanne Mullan, National Programmer: Collections; Hilary Murray, Curatorial Assistant: Collections; Felicia Tan, Registrar: Collections; Nuria Carballeira, Assistant Registrar; Cillian Hayes, Technical Crew Supervisor; Shane Power and the IMMA Technical team. IMMA also wishes to thank Ciaran Murphy, Conservation Framing; Patrick Mc Bride, Conservator; Ronan Teevan, Caxton Antique Prints, Dublin; Noreen Qureshi, Conservator.

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