

BEATRICE
O'CONNELL

Beatrice O'Connell is one of the finest young portraitists this country has produced in the past decade. Her paintings, by turns visceral and sensual, are a three-dimensional feast, best experienced up close and in (the painted) person. Viewing O'Connell's recent triumphant show at Dublin's Talbot Gallery, motherhood appears to have informed her newest creations, while inspiring the artist to new heights; the work on display is described as "meditations and contemplations on our presents, futures, and the anxieties associated with growing up". Creating her self-termed "visual love songs to life and living", this singular and ever-evolving talent has truly found her voice; www.beatriceoconnell.blogspot.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER EVERS



THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT *RIVERDANCE* HAS GONE ABOUT AS WELL AS THE SEARCH FOR THE NEW U2, THROWING UP (YES, WE'RE AWARE OF THE ANALOGY) ONE DODGY DANCE "SPECTACULAR" AFTER ANOTHER. THEN YOU SEE *THE RISING STEP* AND WONDER: HOW COULD IT ALL HAVE GONE SO RIGHT? CREATED.

CHOREOGRAPHED AND PRODUCED BY A PAIR OF *RIVERDANCE* VETERANS, CAROL LEAVY-JOYCE AND MICHAEL GALLAGHER - A PRINCIPAL RIVERDANCER SINCE 1997, HE'S PERFORMED OVER 1,800 SHOWS - *THE RISING STEP* IS A HISTORY OF IRISH DANCING, OFFERED STRAIGHT UP BY SOME OF THE MOST TALENTED HOME-GROWN HOOFERS IN THE GAME. AND IT'S A VERITABLE WONDER. THE SHOW WAS PREMIERED AT DONEGAL'S SPLENDID AN GRIANAN THEATRE LAST YEAR, AND HAS BEEN PLAYING, ON AND OFF, TO FULL HOUSES EVER SINCE. THE NEXT BATCH OF SHOWS HAPPENS IN AUGUST - ENJOY THE SENSE OF SMUG SATISFACTION THAT COMES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT YOU GOT THERE FIRST;
WWW.ANGRIANAN.COM

Attention, art lovers: Dr Sketchy's Anti-Art School has finally arrived on our emerald shores. The twisted brainchild of New York artist Molly Crabapple, Dr Sketchy's aims to bring the worlds of art and cabaret colliding together, resulting in a rather unique hybrid of life drawing, wanton boozing and good old fashioned burlesque. Now, with more than 50 branches worldwide, Dr Sketchy's Dublin edition, featuring Emma Pearson, pictured above, is to be hosted at Smithfield's Market Studios. Dr Sketchy's Dublin promises to be (in no particular order) hilarious,

Whichever way you choose to view it, the Flatlake Festival is an arts event – call it a happening – like no other. Founded by author Pat McCabe and filmmaker Kevin Allen, Flatlake is a righteous weekend. Just so you know, this year's dress code is

