

# Basic Detail Report

---



## Burren Nights (A Special Place)

### Date

1989

### Primary Maker

Cooke, Barrie

### Medium

Oil on canvas

### Description

"Nearly all people have special, unshakeable places in their lives. They are often places where something important happened to change their lives, though they didn't know it then. For this reason the small list of important places grows as one grows older. At present I have three: the rainforest in Malaysia where, fifteen years ago, I discovered what growth actually entails; the bogs of Ireland where growth has gone into hibernation; and the Burren in Co. Clare where ... I still don't know. I lived in the Burren, on the edge of it where bare rocks join rich pasture, for nearly ten years when I was young. Its age and its womanly combination of barrenness and richness nurtured me and still does. No year has passed without at least two return visits there and many times I have tried to paint my feelings about it. I've walked in it and lived in it in lovely and filthy weather, day and night. This painting is a memory of the Burren at night when I used to walk across the crag to the neighbour's house sometimes wondering at its beauty, often frightened by it. Painting is very many things: a way of retaining memory; a way of understanding experience by re-living it; occasionally it is just a way of simply delighting in what is beautiful. You do it to explain this world to yourself and in that sense it is utterly selfish. But, just as everyone has a wish to convince one friend of something wonderful or important, so, if a total stranger can share your excitement that's a deep pleasure too; not something that can be sought, but certainly something for which to hope." Barrie Cooke

### Dimensions

Object: 52 × 73 cm