

Basic Detail Report



Along the Shore (A Special Place)

Date

1989

Primary Maker

O'dowd, Gwen

Medium

Oil on hardboard

Description

"I have called this painting "Along the Shore" as this is a theme I have been preoccupied with for the last while. I can't say that it refers to a specific location, it is more a culmination of many visits to Dublin's shoreline. The painting was made over a period of six months, during which time I was working on a series of "Sea Paintings" 7ft x 5ft. It was there in the studio being added to gradually over this time. Scale being an important feature of my work, at times I found it a lot more problematic than the larger paintings. Large scale can, at times, create more of a human context involving the viewer instantly by absorbing them into the image. As a consequence it went through many changes and perhaps the build-up of the surface is evidence of this, revealing fragments of the underlying layers. This surface quality is something common in most of my work attempting to describe the feeling and "tactile" quality inherent in a particular place, rather than dealing with a more literal interpretation. Dealing with nature or landscape themes it seems important not just to reveal the immediate but more the total endless activity that occurs. The painting is on hardboard with oil paint worked on a gesso ground."

Gwen O'Dowd

Dimensions

Object: 51 × 61 cm