

MEGAN HANLON

ART HISTORIAN & CURATOR

Early-career curator and art historian specialising in nineteenth and twentieth century Irish art, with over four years' experience in curatorial research, interpretation and public engagement. Experienced in provenance research, collection documentation and artist and estate liaison. Recent curatorial work includes the *Extraordinary Lives Timeline* at Experience Glasnevin, a permanent digital exhibition recognised in national press coverage by RTÉ News.

Skills

- Curatorial Research & Interpretation
- Artist, Estate & Stakeholder Liaison
- Public Programming & Engagement
- Budget Management & Negotiation
- Collection Documentation
- Cataloguing & Digitisation
- Budget Management & Negotiation
- Digital Content Creation
- Copyright & Image Rights
- Event Planning & Logistics
- Newsletter Production
- Email Marketing

Selected Professional Experience

Art Historian and Curator, Self-Employed

June 2026 - Present, Freelance

- Independent research, writing and curatorial practice focused on Irish art history, with particular research interests in the history of independent art galleries in twentieth-century Dublin, the work and legacies of underrepresented female artists, and the memorialisation of artists in Ireland

Gallery Assistant, The Gorry Gallery

May 2026 - Present, Part Time

- Contributing to provenance research, attribution and verification of artworks for clients of the gallery
- Coordinating artwork viewings, transport and restoration logistics with clients and artists
- Assisting the gallery director with scheduling, correspondence, invoicing, client communications and other administrative duties while working as front of house

Dublin Cemeteries Trust: Experience Glasnevin

June 2022 - July 2026

Project Curator: *The Extraordinary Lives Timeline* (Visitor Services)

Jan 2024 - Apr 2026, Full Time

- Collaborated with families and estates of notable figures buried at Glasnevin Cemetery, ensuring ethical and sensitive curation of new permanent exhibition and accompanying tours
- Managed project budgets, securing a 20% reduction in image fees and renegotiating licensing terms to secure long term usage agreements for permanent exhibitions

Visitor Services

June 2022 - July 2026, Full Time

- Planned and delivered multiple temporary exhibitions including *Bea Orpen: A Life in Landscape* (May 2025) and *Dublin: Through the Lens* (September 2025)
- Designed and delivered community events for National Drawing Day, Phizzfest and Culture Night, including workshops, talks, exhibitions, concerts and guided tours
- Co-developed interpretative materials, including way-finding maps and specialist guided tours such as the Queer History, Photography and Literary tours
- Established and produced the Experience Glasnevin quarterly newsletter, featuring upcoming events and spotlight profiles, distributed to over 10,000 readers via MailChimp
- Facilitated genealogical research for visitors using Glasnevin's digitised records, archives and grid-referencing systems and supported transcription and digitisation of historical archival material
- Managed front-of-house and visitor services operations within a high-volume cultural institution, coordinating team, mentoring interns and delivering structured training

Gallery Assistant, Olivier Cornet Gallery

Feb 2026 - June 2026, Part Time (Voluntary)

- Contributed written exhibition reviews and digital content for the gallery website and social media accounts
- Supported front-of-house operations, visitor engagement and handling of client enquiries
- Assisted with catalogue administration, artwork inventories and filing

Auctions Assistant, Adam's Auctioneers

Sept 2023 - Sept 2024, Part Time (As Required)

- Advised clients on provenance, condition and bidding procedures
- Supported regular auction viewings ensuring smooth client experience
- Conducted inventory checks and maintained showroom presentation

Sales Assistant and Researcher, Needful Things Antiques

Jan 2020 - Jun 2022, Part Time (break Mar 2020 - Sept 2021)

- Identified, researched and catalogued artefacts and artworks for sale
- Supported bidding at major auctions across Ireland and online
- Managed the store's social media accounts, contributing to online presence and customer engagement

Recent Curatorial Projects

The Extraordinary Lives Timeline, Permanent

- Researched, curated and project-managed the redevelopment of the *Extraordinary Lives Timeline*, a permanent digital exhibition at Experience Glasnevin, featuring over 250 biographical profiles of artists, photographers, writers and filmmakers buried or cremated at the cemetery.

Bea Orpen: A Life in Landscape, 2025

- Curated temporary exhibition exploring the life and practice of Irish landscape painter Bea Orpen as part of Glasnevin's National Drawing Day programming. Managed all aspects of development including research, interpretation, writing, design, budgeting and engagement.

Dublin: Through the Lens, 2025

- Developed temporary photography exhibition examining mid-twentieth-century Dublin through the work of Arthur Fields and Pat Maxwell. Designed and launched an accompanying photography tutorial walking tour.

Education

MA Art History, Collections and Curating, 2025 - Present

University College Dublin, NFQ Level 9

- Currently writing my thesis on the work of Ann Griffin Bernstorff, focusing on her work as a painter within the context of her wider legacy as conservator, collector and historian

Postgraduate Diploma Art History, 2023 - 2024

Trinity College Dublin, NFQ Level 7

- Completed my research project on Isobel Gloag's *Woman With The Puppets*, focusing on the sociopolitical and feminist implications of this work, and the prevalence of the femme fatale archetype in twentieth century visual culture.

BA (Joint Hons) Fine Art and Visual Culture, 2019 - 2023

National College of Art and Design, NFQ Level 8

- Primarily focusing on works made during the revolutionary period in Ireland, my dissertation explores the work and legacies of female artists buried at Glasnevin Cemetery. Commended as one of the best in my year group, it is kept on file at the NCAD library.