

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

PATRICK JOSEPH KIRWIN

1992-1993 Artist-in-Residence
Arlington, Virginia, USA



"Small Pond"

Date Acquired: 6/9/1993, Date Created: 1993
Framed Dimensions: Unframed, Picture Dimensions: 30 x 40"
Medium: Acrylic, Grass on Canvas

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1992-1993 Griffis Art Center's International Artist-in-Residence
from Arlington, Virginia, USA



An early reviewer of Kirwin's work wrote: "Lost in the outer limits of modern existence, Patrick Kirwin's paintings walk like John the Baptist through the wilderness with tin cans tied to their legs. Beseeking the viewer for self-reflection and compassion, they impart a presence of optimism in the face of Sisyphean tasks and frustrations. Like modern fairy tales, they are allegories focusing on the importance of the individual on their quest for higher meaning."

But when asked to describe his work at the Griffis Art Center, Patrick wrote; "I am painting landscape pictures of grass, plants, and their reflection in water. I am then using those same grasses and plants as brushes to apply paint to the canvas. Invariably, some of the plant material works free - sticking to the canvas surface and becoming embedded within the paint. This `debris` is left as a part of the painting - as a `relic` of the process used to create the picture. This combination of the actual and visual material is the embodiment of my simultaneously sophisticated, yet hopefully naive vision.

"The pictures themselves are dependent upon varying contrasts to depict a scene. However, through the `kitsch` technique of using an object as a brush to depict itself, the pictures theoretically become shallow landscapes about the technique. They work well beyond a technical virtuosity, being a scene embodying the plants, water and skies, and the allied feelings of the site."

Kirwin is a master Trompe L'oeil and mural artist who has taught at the Smithsonian, the Corcoran and the Art League of Alexandria. He has conducted painting classes and workshops across the United States and in Europe and is one of the founding members of the International Salon, an invitation-only gathering of decorative painters from around the world.