



## No Real Horizon – *Donald Teskey*



Oliver Sears Gallery, Dublin



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*No Real Horizon* draws its title from Derek Mahon's poem *The Lady from the Sea*, in turn taken from Ibsen's dramatisation of a Scandinavian ballad. Mahon follows Ibsen's version quite closely. In it, the title character, "born in a lighthouse" but now married and landlocked 10 miles inland, rebuffs the advances of a seafarer from her past, a personification of the open sea and endless possibility. The contained inland world offers "no real horizon", he tells her.

In his paintings of Mayo and Sligo, Teskey alternates between inland and coastal locations. The larger works are generally devoted to the latter and given over to the slow, rhythmic battering of rocky shore by turbulent sea. The spare palettes and scoured surfaces of these paintings, with their scraped bands of pigment, echo the remorseless, elemental nature of the struggle.

An exception is *Claggan Island*, which goes for what Teskey calls "the ethereal" – the enchanted, inviting, Hy-Brasil quality of sunlight dancing on sand and water.

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As it happens, he is more free and fluent in the smaller, mostly inland works on paper, especially the four outstanding *Carrowkeel* studies. Where *Claggan* expresses an affinity with the work of Mary Lohan, the *Carrowkeel* pieces engage in a lively dialogue with the landscapes of Barrie Cooke and Nick Miller.

- *Until November 19th, [oliversearsgallery.com](http://oliversearsgallery.com)*