

Ed Miliano  
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# An idea that blossomed into an exhibition

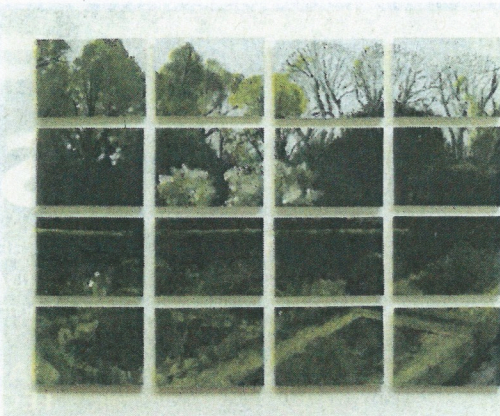
**F**our daffodils in a row would have left Wordsworth cold, what inspired one of the world's favourite poems was the 'host' he beheld.

Whether arrived at by Mother Nature or the canny garden designer, mass planting makes for a compelling visual as Ed Miliano demonstrates with his latest exhibition. What you see on the gallery walls is, in effect, a mass planting of oil paintings.

Dún Laoghaire-based New Yorker Miliano is a long way from home. A case of *cherchez la femme* – it was during a stint with the UN Peace Corp in 1979 that he met his Irish wife. Before becoming a full-time artist he spent 25 years as a designer and illustrator for publications such as the *New York Times* and *Sports Illustrated*. He is also a very accomplished gardener and he has now married his two passions.

"I had long wanted to do something in multiples, and having just returned from a trip to Tanzania the idea of working at home appealed," he says. The answer lay right outside his studio window.

Miliano set about the project with military precision. "I'm a bit of a rule freak," he says. "I decided to paint a view of my garden from the same window in my studio every morning, come what may, for a whole year. I never discarded anything, or repainted. It was a leap year so I ended up with



Early spring landscape by Ed Miliano

366." The result is a riveting pictorial diary – a stunning array of 1,000 shades of green.

The Diary was exhibited as

an epic tableau in the Royal Hibernian Academy exhibition of emerging artists in 2012. At the time, it struck

Oliver Searns as the most compelling work of art he had seen in a long time.

"The scale allows the viewer to observe the shape, colour, mood and form of a single day, week, month, season, year," he said.

The success of the piece is that it changes depending on how it is hung. Highlighting this, the new exhibition

showcases the Diary in smaller panels hung in two ground floor rooms so that the viewer is enveloped by beautiful garden images.

For the past several years the 'outdoor room' has been endlessly touted as a way of extending the home's interior. Miliano stands the idea on its head by triumphantly bringing the garden inside.