

Eithne Jordan

Night in a City

A hauntingly atmospheric picture of night time Vienna emerges from Eithne Jordan's most recent paintings, as she continues to explore some of the hidden and forgotten spaces in Europe's great cities.

Venue: Rubicon Gallery, 10 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2

Preview: 10 February 2010, 6-8pm

Dates: 11 February – 20 March 2010

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 12.00 - 18.00

Contact: Cate Kelliher

Phone: +353.1.6708055

Email: press@rubicongallery.ie



Bare of people, and eschewing the well known tours of architectural highlights, Eithne Jordan's *Night in a City* series focuses our attention on Vienna. Resonating with a sense of emptiness, these beautifully executed paintings are pregnant with action that is either to come, or else is taking place just out of view. Jordan's delicate handling of paint prevents the heaviness of blank concrete walls, or the façades of nighttime's sleeping buildings from becoming overbearing and oppressive, instead what is revealed is a more intimate portrait of a city left for a moment to be simply itself.

These images are the result of two working trips to Vienna, the second of which was in the dead of winter. "Stark and cold, I found it interested me more than my previous summer visit," the artist says. Jordan's eye is that of "a brief passer-by, and an outsider looking in", and it is a vision that may be expressed as a contemporary partner to the Vienna made famous in Carol Reed's 1949 film *The Third Man*.

As with the artist's previous scenes from Rotterdam, Berlin and Paris, the light is often from a single source: a street lamp, shop sign or illuminated window. In the Vienna paintings, there is an additional thread, the "strange street furniture" observed by Jordan. Kiosks, huts, box-like structures, "some of which I have no idea what the function is". In telling this alternative story of Vienna, each image is loaded with the potential of action, and a tension is created that is increased by the absence of people. Jordan narrates a city at once familiar, and yet hauntingly strange.

Eithne Jordan was born in Dublin in 1954. She studied at Dun Laoghaire School of Art from 1972-76 and at Hochschule der Kunste, Berlin, 1984-85. A member of *Áosdana*, she is one of Ireland's leading figurative painters. She has exhibited widely in Europe, and her work is in major public and private collections in Ireland, Europe and the U.S. Recent solo exhibitions include Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast (2004), Rubicon Gallery Dublin (2004 & 2007), and Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris (2007).