

## Artist's Statement

My newest work in the **“away with the faeries”** series investigates the sacred symbol of the spiral, not only as it is reflected in Celtic history but within various cultures throughout history, as the oldest existing symbol of human spirituality. Spirals exist widely in nature, and have been used symbolically within many cultures since the beginning of mankind, combining mathematics and beauty in the formation of this shape based in the natural world. The spiral phenomenon within natural forms can be explained through mathematics, as a pattern resulting from complex sequences and algorithms utilized by nature. The spiral is one of nature's most fundamental forms. Symbols which exist across cultures reflect a collective unconscious shared by humanity, and as such, are shared by differing peoples across time and space. The spiral is such a symbol, representing becoming, life, journey, search, birth and cyclical movement and energy.

The area of The Burren is well known for its rich and diverse landscape of wildflowers, rocky terrain and cliffs going down to the sea. This unique landscape also embraces ancient monuments of Celtic culture, which provide a rich source of material for artists' works throughout history. I have used various ancient monuments in the works as diagrams and images overlaid on the landscape forms. The mountain known as An Mullach Mor in the Burren actually comprises porous limestone rock that is worn and shaped by both water and wind to rise upward into a spiral apex. This mountain form has become iconic for me, and is used within the works as an emblematic symbol.

My works, generally narrative and symbolic in nature, here incorporate landscape as symbol, cultural images and other Irish symbols, as well as Gaelic text and contemporary poetry into works that integrate text, metaphor and image.