

Brian Keane (b. 1973, USA)

Saint Xavier University, Master of Education, 2002

University of Illinois, Bachelor of Fine Arts, 1995

Group Shows

2026 Beverly Art Walk

2025 Bridgeport Art Center Group Show

2023 57w57arts Small Paintings Show

2015 Beverly Art Walk, Chicago, IL

2015 More Figures from Life, Lillstreet Loft, Chicago, IL

2015 Pancakes and Booze Art Show, Reggies, Chicago, IL

2014 Beverly Art Walk, Chicago, IL

2014 Reality Loop, Aarhus, Denmark

2014 Figures from Life, Lillstreet Loft, Chicago, IL

2013 In Progress, Spudnik Press, Chicago, IL

2012 Triangulation, Co-Prosperity Sphere, Chicago, IL

2012 MDW Fair, Chicago, IL

1997-present Studio art instructor, Marist High School

Brian Keane: Artist Biography

I am a Chicago-based artist of Irish descent, living in the city with my wife and two young daughters. My grandparents emigrated from Kilkee, Kilrush (Co. Clare), Ballybunion, and Listowel (Co. Kerry) in their late teens, eventually meeting at county dances here in Chicago. My Irish Catholic upbringing and inquisitive nature, left me seeking to have a deeper understanding of perennial questions. I enjoy learning about history and spirituality especially when connected to my Irish heritage. I feel a deep connection to the megalithic art of Ireland and Celtic designs illustrated by early Christian monks. Today, my worldview is influenced by mystical thinkers within and outside the Christian tradition, Irish history and Irish identity. Meister Eckhart said “the outer man is the swinging door, the inner man is the still hinge.” I have sought this stillness as a way to be more measured and balanced. Reading and reflecting on ideas that possess depth generates inspiration for new projects. I love the word inspiration, thinking of its literal meaning: to breathe in spirit. Making art with this in mind I combine intuitive, automatic methods with reason and reflection attempting to act as a conduit for what the unconscious or maybe the universe seeks to express. We seem to be in an analytical and utilitarian era. I believe the pendulum needs to swing back toward the spiritual, beauty, the poetic, human potential, dignity and civic virtue. Classical wisdom can be relied on again, just as it was during the Northern Renaissance, to revitalize and address cultural and the potential ecological challenges we face today. I have encountered several thinkers who view this moment as ripe for a new cultural Renaissance. It’s been expressed that we live in an Aristotelian moment and there is a Platonic shift on the horizon. I hope to contribute to that shift.

And on a local level, I maintain a mini-gallery on a post in my front lawn and one at my wife's business, built on the belief that grassroots support for art and beauty can help seed a burgeoning movement. May we all work toward reawakening beauty, intuition and human dignity inspired by admiration for our position within the expansive cosmos, the creative and awesome unfolding of reality.

*Sources of Influence/Further reading on a possible Renaissance; Adam Walker, YouTube: Close Reading Poetry. David Fideler: *Restoring the Soul of the World Man*. Manchan Magan, Inside Irish Music YouTube: There's a Folk Revival happening and I think it's going to be the biggest we've ever seen.