



VINCENT DEVINE (Irish, b.1986)

"CRANN COMHAIR"

Acrylic on canvas

150 x 100 cms.

Signed and dated verso

Created in Ireland 2024



Commissioned by The All Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) www.aicri.org

The central tree represents AICRI, growing on an Ireland-shaped landmass. Its branches shelter wildflowers symbolizing cancer patients and protect them from carcinogens. The triple helix trunk reflects collaboration among stakeholders, while varied branches represent diverse cancer types and knowledge sharing.

White flowers along the Ireland-Northern Ireland border symbolize peace under the Good Friday Agreement, vital to AICRI's growth. Flora and fauna highlight the complexity of cancer research. To the left, lung-shaped trees commemorate Ireland's 2004 public smoking ban and emphasize the need for ongoing lung cancer research and molecular-level precision treatments. To the right, face-shaped trees symbolize AICRI's origins from a 2018 UCD conversation between a cancer researcher and patient advocate, highlighting cancer care inequities influenced by social and geographical factors. One face honors Dr. Denis Burkitt's work on Burkitt's lymphoma and links between fiber intake and colorectal cancer.

The moon symbolizes the US-led Cancer Moonshot initiative. The 25 stars mark the 25th anniversary of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium, with three stars forming a triangle for the tripartite partnership that improved cancer care and research. Professor Patrick Johnston, a key figure in the consortium, is symbolized as a lighthouse guiding future efforts.

An American bald eagle with an egg in its talons represents the ongoing US-Ireland collaboration, with a red egg in a nest signifying established partnerships. The landmasses of Ireland, Britain, and Europe are drawn together, symbolizing unified cancer research efforts with Ireland as a bridge between America and Europe.

A European flag star shines on Ireland, symbolizing the Groundshot initiative's emphasis on research-active hospitals. A butterfly on a coin highlights financial inequalities in cancer care, referencing the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights. A hummingbird represents European observers spreading AICRI's collaborative ideas. Stars in the sky symbolize the legacy of cancer research, echoing Paddy Johnston's call to "dream no small dreams."

VINCENT DEVINE

Artist Profile

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Vincent Devine is an Irish artist based in Co. Offaly, Ireland. He learned to draw at the age of 4 and paint at the age of 9. He studied at The Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest and holds an Honours Degree in Visual Communications. Devine’s work is in public and private collections internationally, and he has exhibited in Hong Kong, Toronto, Miami, and extensively in the UK and Ireland. His work has featured in many publications, including The Irish Times, The Sunday Business Post, and the Irish Independent. His record-breaking portrait of female health campaigner Vicky Phelan garnered national coverage, including features on RTÉ News and Nationwide. His oeuvre focuses on reconstructing tree forms, while his portraiture reflects his love of the human anatomy and the unseen.

In 2023, his work expanded into cancer research when he was invited to work with University College Dublin to depict the intricate layers of cancer. While working closely with cancer researchers and patient advocates, Devine has developed groundbreaking paintings that, through public engagement events, help communicate complex subjects to increase awareness and improve public engagement with the sciences. His work serves as a visual medium that dismantles barriers, inviting viewers to contemplate and explore profound subjects beyond traditional methods.

Patient Advocacy Collaborations

Vincent Devine’s journey into cancer research began with The Triptych Portrait of Vicky Phelan, a profound artwork capturing Phelan’s courageous advocacy in exposing systemic failures within Ireland’s healthcare system. Diagnosed with cervical cancer after a missed diagnosis in 2011, Phelan’s refusal to sign a non-disclosure agreement during her 2018 legal battle brought national attention to the CervicalCheck scandal, prompting significant reforms in women’s healthcare. Collaborating closely with Phelan, Devine crafted a triptych that symbolizes her past, present, and future, set against the backdrop of Doonbeg Beach, her cherished sanctuary. Through a blend of Realism, Surrealism, and Expressionism, the triptych conveys Phelan’s resilience, advocacy, and unwavering commitment to women’s health rights. This seminal piece not only honors Phelan’s legacy but also laid the foundation for Devine’s ongoing collaborations with cancer researchers, patient advocates, and institutions like AICRI, using art to bridge the gap between science and the public.



“The Vicky Phelan Portrait” (2021)



“The Vitruvian” (2023)

Patient Advocacy Collaborations

In 2023, Vincent Devine’s work expanded profoundly within cancer research through a collaboration with University College Dublin (UCD), inspired in part by the impact and legacy of Vicky Phelan, a celebrated advocate for cancer awareness and patient rights in Ireland. Invited to visually interpret cancer’s complexity, Devine worked closely with researchers and patient advocates to create powerful paintings that depict the layered realities of cancer.

His artwork, notably The Vitruvian: Uncovering the Layers of Cancer, builds on Phelan’s legacy, connecting deeply with the public through the exploration of science and empathy. These public engagement pieces foster greater awareness and understanding of cancer, serving as visual platforms that break down scientific barriers and invite the viewer to engage with the science and humanity behind the disease.

Vincent Devine’s collaboration with the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) exemplifies the intersection of art and science, using visual storytelling to communicate complex scientific ideas to the public. His work with AICRI underscores a multidisciplinary approach, blending artistic creativity with cutting-edge cancer research. Through his paintings, Devine brings to life the intricate layers of cancer biology, patient experiences, and scientific advancements, making them accessible to a broader audience. His projects, such as Crann Comhair, are emblematic of this collaboration, incorporating symbolic representations of cancer research, patient care, and key historical milestones in healthcare.

Working alongside cancer researchers, patient advocates, and institutions across Ireland and internationally, Devine fosters a unique dialogue between science and art. AICRI’s partnerships, including those with the Cancer Moonshot initiative in the US and the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium, have allowed Devine’s work to resonate globally. His art serves as a bridge between researchers, patients, and the wider public, highlighting the importance of international cooperation in cancer research. This multidisciplinary synergy not only enhances public engagement with scientific endeavors but also emphasizes the human aspects of cancer care and research, reflecting AICRI’s ethos: “With the patient; around the patient; for the patient.” Devine’s ability to visually interpret complex concepts ensures that the collaborative efforts under AICRI are not only recognized but also deeply felt, promoting awareness, empathy, and hope in the fight against cancer.



“The Blossoming” (2024)