

**Artist Tour of Western Ireland Led by  
Instructor Kathleen Jacobs**



**ConcordArt**  
Concord Center  
for the Visual Arts

© Kathleen Jacobs

**May 26-June 4, 2017**

**Sponsored by Concord Center for the Visual Arts**

***Tour Highlights ~ An Artistic and Cultural Adventure***

- The focus will be the art and culture of Western Ireland.
- 9 days with Kathleen Jacobs your artistic instructor and a Local Irish guide.
- Tour limited to 12 passengers.
- Experience Ireland with majority of evenings in one home.
- Relaxed & flexible itinerary.
- Impromptu visits with local artists.

For more information or to register contact  
the Strabo International Tour Co.:

607-756-8676

[www.phototc.com](http://www.phototc.com)



# Concord Center for the Visual Arts presents

Tour Leader Kathleen Jacobs

## *Arts and Crafts of Ireland*

### **Plein Air Small Format Landscape Drawing And Painting**

Come paint the inspiring Irish landscape and embrace the exciting challenge of painting and drawing outdoors. Simple hikes will take class members to the countryside and coastline of beautiful Ireland. There will be an emphasis on drawing the form and structure of the

landscape, seeking a certain grace and order

from the natural landscape. There will be an added emphasis on seeking visual unity when composing a pencil sketch that will eventually become a painting.

Working small, participants will work to create work with a spirit of place.

Students of intermediate to advanced levels are welcome, open to all painters using oil, watercolor, acrylic or gouache.



This tour is specially designed for members of the **Concord Center for the Visual Arts**. The tour will involve the artists, their studios and visiting some of the most majestic land and seascapes that have inspired Irish artists and crafts people for centuries. Among the artists we hope to visit, **Beth Saari Moran**, a famous weaver and native of Worcester. Beth has been raising her own sheep, shearing, washing, dying, spinning and producing the most exquisite woven fabric in all of Ireland. She has been at her craft for twenty-five years and her work is now selling all over Europe.



There will be opportunities to visit bookshops, art galleries, and music stores. We will also have many wonderful evenings listening to Irish musicians play traditional music in the local pubs. Western Ireland affords us a unique opportunity in that there are so many wonderful hidden places to explore. There are spectacular monastic and megalithic ruins to seek out in our daily adventures. Ireland Photo's Ron Rosenstock

Join accomplished artist and instructor **Kathleen Jacobs**, and your own local Irish guide in Westport, Ireland. Kathleen Jacobs teaches painting around the United States, from the Northeastern Coast to Philadelphia, across to the Southwest region of New Mexico. She is the

founder of the *Blueway Art Alliance*, a non-profit arts organization that collaborates with other arts organizations to promote, curate shows and lectures for emerging and established artists. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a BFA in painting and art history and received her MFA in Painting and Visual Studies at Lesley College of Art and Design, in Cambridge. She has shown her work in art exhibitions alongside some of the greatest landscape painters of our time; including Wolf Kahn, March Avery, Lois Dodd, Stuart Shils, Rick Fox, John Walker, Robert Sweeney and others. Her work has been collected nationally and internationally for the last twenty years. She is represented by the Oxbow Gallery, the Conservation Gallery and is currently showing in a two-woman exhibition called "elemental landscapes" at the Stockman Gallery in central Connecticut. Website: [www.kdjprogress.blogspot.com](http://www.kdjprogress.blogspot.com)



**Testimonial:**

*Thank you for sharing your love for Ireland and for the Irish people. Thank you especially for helping me see the beauty of clouds, of reflections of reeds in water, of silvery halos illuminating foxgloves in the forest, and of sunshine-patterned abbey windows on wet gravestones. Thanks to you, I leave Ireland with a new appreciation for the wonder and beauty of the world. ~ Judy Mitchell-Miller*



*I took a workshop from Kathleen Jacobs this past summer in Gloucester, MA and am still thanking her for the invaluable painting tools I took away from the week. Kathleen is very knowledgeable about painting and drawing. The days flew by as she made painting a fun adventure at some beautiful, interesting spots in the area. We worked with a view finder every day to*

*produce many thumbnail sketches, keeping in mind the form and structure of the landscape. We then worked with a selected thumbnail to produce a small painting. Working small placed an emphasis on simplicity and finding the structure of the landscape. This process, thumbnails and working*

*small, allowed us to produce several paintings each day. It really helped me make better decisions about my paintings.*

*People in the workshop came from all skill levels and Kathleen successfully worked with each and every one of them. The group was very giving and if someone needed some paint or forgot something we all pitched in. Landscape painting is a tough endeavor and Kathleen made it a fun and accessible process and brought the group together.*

*I highly recommend her as an instructor and cannot wait to take another workshop with her. ~ Kathy Rubado, Boston, MA*

***We hope you can join Strabo Tours & Concord Art for this very special experience.***

## ITINERARY

### **May 26 U.S. – Shannon**

Your journey to Ireland begins with an overnight flight from the U.S. to **Shannon, Ireland**.



### **May 27 Shannon – Westport**

You will be met early this morning at Ireland's Shannon International Airport and driven north to Westport, on the shores of Clew Bay. The first afternoon you can relax, perhaps enjoy conversation in the library or terrace. If you are feeling a bit energetic we can capture the sunset by exploring the nearby countryside.

Your home away from home, is a lovely 7 bedroom house just a 5 minute walk to the town of Westport. There are 2 ensuite bedrooms downstairs, with another two bedrooms sharing a bath, and 3 bedrooms upstairs sharing 1.5 baths. Its homelike quality adds to the relaxed atmosphere of the trip.

You'll enjoy traditional Irish breakfasts and dinners during your stay. Lunch will be at various restaurants and pubs, or you can stop in town and have a picnic lunch wrapped for your daily excursions in the field. Transportation is provided in a roomy tour van.

### **May 28-June 2 Western Ireland**

Crafts were a major part of life in Ireland, people needed to produce their own tools for farming and household items necessary for daily life. From the kitchen, to the bedroom, to the farmyard, everything was hand made. Irish communities have always been proud of their traditions, and you'll see a re-birth in some of these time-honored customs. Each day visit some of these typical locations from your home base. There's no possible way to visit all of them so your guides will plan each day considering the interests of the group.

The City of **Westport** and the Village of **Newport**, both capture the flavor of true Irish towns with their tree-lined canals and colorful shops. **Paul Taylor** is the owner of **Westport Pottery**.

Paul will demonstrate his techniques and perhaps someone can have a hand at the wheel. **Linda Timms**, has a stained glass studio we can tour and perhaps take some time at the **Custom House Art Gallery** also in Westport.



Every Thursday morning Westport holds their 'Country Market' where local Irish arts and crafts are sold. Perhaps we'll see **Madeline Jordan**, a blanket maker. Not far from Westport is **Nick Harmon**, who will tell you stories of growing up in Ireland as you walk amongst the flowers and fields of his old mill.

One of your historical stops will include the inspirational archeological site of **Ceide Fields**, where stonewalls were discovered dating back to 3000 BC. There is a terrific print making studio and gallery in **Ballycastle**, near this amazing site. Living in the **Partry Mountains** is a traditional basket maker, weaving old style baskets out of reeds.

**Ballintubber Abbey**, or Baile Tobair Pdraig, named for the natural spring nearby, where St. Patrick baptized his first Irish converts. There are other places to see given time, such as **Moore Hall**, **Barnabawn** and **Murrisk Abbey**.

The picturesque village of **Cong** was the setting for John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara's film *The Quiet Man*. The ruins of **Cong Abbey** are here, founded in the 12th century by the King of Connacht. Many of the finest examples of cut stone can be found in the cloisters where you will marvel at the ancient stonework of 13th century masons. In 1198 the last High King of Ireland died in the abbey. You may catch a glimpse of **Ashford Castle** built in 1228 or take a walk through the woods to see a child's play tower built by B.L. Guinness in 1864.



Round towers were designed as bell towers to call worshippers to prayer, and later used to protect Irish monks and their libraries from the Norman invaders. Next to one of these towers, the **Turlough Round Tower**, is the award winning **Museum of Country Life**, which is part of Ireland's National Museum. It encompasses an old homestead and ancient crafts come to light with hands on demonstrations and three floors of exhibits. The location offers wonderful views and setting for a picnic lunch. In

the afternoon we can stop at **Foxford Woolen Mills**, where they have an optional historical and factory tour.

**Achill Island** is the largest island off the Irish coast. To get there, drive over the bridge at Achill Sound. The island wrought by wind and water — an arrangement of rock, cloud, and cliffs falling off to the sea.

### **June 3 Westport – Burren - Ennis**

Leave Westport early this morning, and drive to the Burren, a remote region near the town of Ennis. Your last full day of exploring will be spent in this beautiful area for the wild landscapes, megalithic sites, culminating in the mighty Cliffs of Moher. Tonight stay at the Temple Gate Hotel (or similar) in Ennis and enjoy dinner on your own. The hotel rests on the site of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Convent.

### **June 4 Ennis – Shannon – U.S.**

We depart from Shannon International Airport for your flight back home.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Land cost: \$2895\***, based upon minimum of 8 paying passengers, maximum of 12. There is a small group surcharge of \$400 if 5-7 passengers. All program prices are based on double occupancy.

**Single room supplement: \$395\***, Single rooms are subject to availability and are not guaranteed. We try to accommodate single travelers who request single accommodations, as well as single travelers who are looking for a roommate. If a single room is requested, we are unable to find a suitable roommate, or you are in a single for another reason, you will need to pay the single supplement.

*Westport B&B consists of First Floor: 2 ensuite bedrooms, with another two bedrooms sharing a bath; Second Floor: 3 bedrooms sharing 1.5 baths. All bedrooms are quite large having two beds.*

*\*Note:* The trip cost is based upon the current exchange rate between the Euro and U.S. Dollar. Although the rate has been relatively stable, should it change, there may need to be an adjustment in the trip price.

#### **The land cost includes:**

- Group transportation for tour events in the tour van.
- Accommodations based on two people sharing a room.
- Services of driver guide during the tour.
- Breakfasts and dinners served at your B&B in Westport.
- Extensive pre-departure information and services.

**The land cost does not include:** International air fare; air fare tax; airport transfers; additional transfers or accommodations that may be required by those not traveling with the

group; lunches; dinner in Ennis; activities listed as optional, or those taken on your own; passport expenses; personal medical or travel insurance; any expenses of a personal nature or those not listed in what is included; tips to guides and service staff.

Please contact Strabo Tours if you would like assistance with your **International Airfare**.

## Deposits, Cancellations AND Refunds

A deposit of \$750 (\$500 on domestic tours) per person is required. Specific tours may require an additional deposit due to accommodation bookings or transportation requirements. If applicable these will be noted on your invoice. Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 120 days before the departure date. Space is subject to cancellation by Strabo if payment is not received when due.

If a passenger wishes to cancel they must send notification in writing to: Strabo International Tour, Co., P.O. Box 580, Dryden, NY 13053; fax 208-545-4119. At the time we receive your notification, the following per person charges apply:

- 91 days or more before departure: \$300 cancellation fee (\$150 fee on domestic tours), plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation.
- 61-90 days before departure: \$500 (\$250 on domestic tours) minimum cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation. Fees may range from 25% to 100% of tour costs.
- 60 days or less before departure or anytime after departure: NO REFUND.

Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used by you cannot be made.

## FITNESS AND HEALTH

The trip is not strenuous and anyone who is reasonably fit should be able to take part in most of the activities. You may experience general fatigue due to the long flights and the change in time zones. You will need to be sufficiently agile to climb in and out of the tour van and should be able to carry and manage your own equipment. You may need to walk some distance to get to premier viewing range, which can be from easy to moderate. Some hotels do not have elevators.

If you have any special needs or any physical condition that you feel might prevent you from fully participating, please contact Strabo Tours with your concerns (607-756-8676).

## INSURANCE

Each participant must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas.

***We strongly urge you to evaluate your risk and to take out insurance on your trip.*** It is vital for you to realize that if you experience a delay or find it necessary to cancel or cut short your trip for any reason, you will lose part or the entire sum you've invested in it (see the section "Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds" in the trip brochure).

Travel insurance helps to minimize the risk of monetary losses you would incur in the event of a delay of your departure due to weather, airline strike, missed connection, etc., your inability to travel for reasons such as illness, injury, unforeseen financial complications and other personal circumstances, or if you were required to cut your trip short for medical or any other reasons.

**There are restrictions and limitations on any insurance program.** For this reason, please read carefully the enclosed pamphlet, which outlines their program of trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance. Trained agents are available to answer your questions, so don't hesitate to call the toll free number in their brochure. It is to your advantage to apply for insurance at the earliest possible time, so don't delay in making a decision.