



DANCING GIRL
1938



**WOMAN & DOG
SWIMMING**
2004



MAUKE MOTEL
1990



**LIFE OF COCKS & HENS
AUBUSSON TAPESTRY**

BACKGROUND:

The ‘Seven Ages’ collection, one of Kerry’s most exciting cultural treasures, is a permanent art exhibition and is internationally unique – no other artist has the range and depth of works which explore seven decades of an artist’s and a woman’s life.

On turning 70 in 2005, Pauline Bewick decided to donate a 500-piece master collection to the State, which President Mary McAleese described as ‘one of the loveliest acts of generosity ever given to our nation’. Two vast collections, representing the first seven decades of her life, are permanently exhibited in Killorglin and in the South East Technological University in Waterford. Pauline Bewick drew much inspiration from her Kerry surroundings and from Irish life and mythology. This work is thought-provoking, humorous, and reflective, and is an invaluable social and cultural record of twentieth-century Ireland. It is perpetually available for the enjoyment of the Irish public and international audiences.

HOW TO BEST EXPERIENCE THIS EXHIBITION:

Take the lift/stairs to the 2nd floor where the earliest works from 1938 to the 1960s begin. Proceed to the first floor to see works from the 1970s to the 1990s. Finally, on the ground floor you will view contemporary works from the 2000s.

Pauline Bewick’s donation to the State is catalogued in *Pauline Bewick’s Seven Ages* edited by Alan Hayes (Arlen House 2006) ISBN 978-1-903631-87-4; €35

PAULINE BEWICK ‘SEVEN AGES’

PERMANENT ART EXHIBITION

Library Place, Killorglin, County Kerry. V93 E221

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm

Free car parking is available

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www.paulinebewick.ie



PAULINE
Bewick



PAULINE BEWICK ‘SEVEN AGES’

PERMANENT ART EXHIBITION

Library Place, Killorglin, County Kerry. V93 E221



PAULINE BEWICK
1935-2022

Pauline Bewick was born in Northumbria on 4 September 1935. The formative influence on Pauline's early life was her mother, Alice 'Harry' Graham Bewick, who, after her husband died of alcoholism in 1938, left Northumbria to start a new life in Ireland, bringing Pauline and her older sister Hazel to Kenmare, a small town in County Kerry. There, she fostered two orphaned children, Lucy and Michael. They lived together for six years on an isolated farm - a story beautifully told in Harry's book "A Wild Taste".

Harry always encouraged the children to paint and draw, and at the age of 2½, Pauline did her first pencil sketches, progressing within a few years to oils and other media. Those early works survive - Harry kept them in a battered suitcase throughout their travels, and the works are now part of Pauline's 'Seven Ages' Collections. These collections, comprising 500 pieces of her life's work which she donated to the Irish State in 2006, represent each decade and facet of a woman's life. They are on permanent display in Kerry and Waterford.

When the family moved from Kerry, they lived briefly in Northern Ireland, before enrolling Pauline for progressive schooling in England, then in Wales. Later, while living in a houseboat on the Kennet and Avon Canal, Pauline painted prolifically instead of doing her homework, which she found difficult due to her dyslexia.

They returned to Ireland in 1949, living first in Cork, then returning to Kerry. In 1950 Pauline went to study at the National College of Art in Dublin. While there, she met Pat Melia, a young medical student, with whom she formed a lifelong relationship. They enjoyed a vibrant, creative and cultural life. Pauline was commissioned to illustrate books and magazines, she sang in a nightclub, and became a set designer and actress with the famous Pike Theatre.

She had her first exhibition in 1957 in the Clog Gallery, Dublin. After moving to London, she successfully exhibited her paintings at the Leicester Galleries and the Piccadilly Galleries. BBC Television commissioned Pauline to write and illustrate a series of ten-minute children's programs called "Little Jimmy". Following her successes, Pauline spent time travelling through Greece and around the Mediterranean, sketching and painting.



In 1963, Pauline moved back to Dublin, where she married Pat. Daughters Poppy and Holly were born in 1966 and 1970 - both are acclaimed artists. Pauline yearned for a country upbringing for the girls, so in 1973 the family moved to Kerry. They built their home in a beautiful remote valley in Glenbeigh, overlooking Caragh Lake.

From her tranquil home, Pauline travelled to many corners of the world to explore people, places, and cultures; she didn't believe in flying visits - instead immersing herself in the local culture so that her eyes and mind were in tune with her surroundings. In the late 1980s she spent two years living and painting on the Cook Islands in the South Seas. It was widely known that no matter what country or culture she portrayed, the local people were always impressed with how 'she got it right' - through Pauline's eyes she had the gift to see life through their eyes.



During almost 50 years living in Kerry, Pauline continued to gain inspiration from Glenbeigh, its people, flora, and fauna. The rare Natterjack Toad appeared in numerous works; the geese that roamed Pauline's garden occasionally flew onto the canvas, as did the graceful Bewick Swan. The wonderful Silver Birch and Montbretia, growing beside her studio, regularly appeared. The oak trees near Blackstones Bridge at Lickeen, blooming rhododendrons, a pair of magpies on a magnolia tree in her garden, a wild mountain goat, a horse eating furze - common everyday things to the fleeting eye, were often the centrepiece of some of her finest works.

For anyone lucky enough to have spent time in Pauline's studio, it was truly a special and unique place to experience creativity and life. There was always work in progress - a watercolour on handmade paper on the easel; a sketch for her next piece of glasswork on the table; on the couch next to the wood stove - the latest draft of her next book.



Pauline's artistic work was central to her life. She remained rooted in the present, was always open to new artistic challenges, and most importantly - continued throughout her life to create unique artwork for all to enjoy.