

**Majella O'Neill Collins**  
***Allegory of the MV Alta***  
**13 January to 24 February 2024**

Majella O'Neill Collins lives and works on the island of Sherkin, just off the West Cork coast. Her work relates directly to her experience of living on an island, surrounded by water, and defined by the ever-changing weather and light. Majella makes paintings which try to make sense of what it means to live in this remote, rural and beautiful part of the world. Her approach is based on intuition and experimentation where painting is a means of reshaping the experience of the world, of examining, formalising and giving shape to perception.

Majella's current body of work imagines the journey of the MV Alta, a merchant vessel which was abandoned at sea, 1,400 miles south-east of Bermuda in October 2018 after suffering main engine failure, and washed ashore at Ballycotton, Co. Cork during Storm Dennis in February 2020, where her wreckage remains.

The mysterious vessel is a modern-day ghost ship having been abandoned by its 10 person crew while en route from Greece to Haiti. The Alta drifted for 496 days over a distance of 2,300 nautical miles before running aground in Ballyandreen Bay. The vessel's exact position and distance travelled during this time is unknown and unrecorded and can only be estimated. Despite exhaustive enquiries by Irish authorities, the MV Alta's owners have never been found. The vessel, unclaimed, un-salvaged, is slowly being broken apart off the cliffs through the action of the wind and waves. Majella's paintings capture the plight of the ship, evoking moments of that time adrift at the mercy of the sea, before being washed ashore to be broken on the rocky Irish coast.

A limited edition illustrated book with an essay by Dr. Glenn Loughran accompanies the exhibition and is available at Reception. €20

Majella O'Neill Collins will give a **Gallery Talk** on Saturday **17 February at 12 noon**. All welcome.

<https://www.monc.ie/>

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An Roinn Coimíre Sóisialaí  
Department of Social Protection



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## Ground Floor

### The James O'Driscoll Gallery

1. <i>Unnamed 1</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
2. <i>Unnamed 14</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
3. <i>Unnamed 6</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
4. <i>Unnamed 5</i> , oil on canvas, 100 x 150 cm, 2023	€4,850
5. <i>Unnamed 30</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 180 cm, 2023	€7,450
6. <i>Unnamed 4</i> , oil on canvas, 80 x 120 cm, 2022	€2,850
7. <i>Unnamed 34</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
8. <i>Unnamed 12</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2023	€2,300
9. <i>Unnamed 10</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2023	€2,650

## Level 1

### Corridor

10. <i>Unnamed 2</i> , oil on canvas, 70 x 100 cm, 2023	€2,750
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### Gallery II

11. <i>Unnamed 3</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
12. <i>Unnamed 9</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2023	€2,650
13. <i>Unnamed 31</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 180 cm, 2023	€6,950
14. <i>Unnamed 24</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
15. <i>Unnamed 7</i> , oil on canvas, 120 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,450
16. <i>Unnamed 8</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2023	€2,650

### Gallery III

17. <i>Unnamed 20</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2022	€2,650
18. <i>Unnamed 29</i> , oil on canvas, 100 x 150 cm, 2023	€4,500
19. <i>Unnamed 23</i> , oil on canvas, 90 x 90 cm, 2023	€2,650
20. <i>Unnamed 22</i> , oil on canvas, 80 x 120 cm, 2023	€3,250
21. <i>Unnamed 19</i> , oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm, 2022	€995
22. <i>Unnamed 26</i> , oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm, 2022	€995
23. <i>Unnamed 17</i> , oil on canvas, 40 x 40 cm, 2022	€995