

AICA JAPAN CONGRESS 1998

Symposium "TRANSITION : Changing Society and Art "

■ Colloquium I *Memories and Visions : From Tradition to a New Identity*

Session 4 : *Western Identity*

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'New Territories : Contemporary Art from Out of Ireland

This paper addresses the work of three Irish artists: Elizabeth Magill, Kathy Prendergast and Siobhán Hapaska. All three are women in their thirties who have come to prominence over the past decade, during which time they have lived and worked in London, at a small but crucial remove from the country of their birth. (Magill was included in the seminal *British Art Show* of 1990, Prendergast won the *Premio Duemila* at the 1995 Venice Biennale, and Hapaska was included in *Documenta X*.)

Over the past few years Magill's distressed, hybrid landscapes, Prendergast's obsessive cartographies and Hapaska's mutant sculptures, with their overtones of a hyperactive nomadism, all suggest an indeterminacy of position, a preoccupation with territoriality and travel, with transience and transition, which invite closer scrutiny.