



## ♥ ART THAT MAKES YOU QUIVER

For his debut solo exhibition at The Molesworth Gallery, Tom Phelan combines his two great passions - art and surfing. The exhibition title, Quiver is surfing slang for a collection of boards of different sizes, shapes and vintages. The exhibition is currently showing until the 7th August. Preview some of the work online at [www.molesworthgallery.com](http://www.molesworthgallery.com) Lipsticks series 11 ~ oil on birch panel ~ 20 x 16cm. Price: €395





### **ART EXHIBITION QUIVER**

Tom Phelan's two great passions are art and surfing, and his solo show *Quiver* combines them. *Quiver* "is surfing slang for a collection of boards of different sizes, shapes and vintages." In a series of perfectly poised abstract paintings on birch panels, he uses the form of the surfboard, the texture of the wood and intense colour to convey the setting, tensions and excitement of surfing. The Molesworth Gallery, Molesworth St, 10am-5.30pm, Sat 11am-2pm. Until Aug 7 [molesworthgallery.com](http://molesworthgallery.com)

**AIDAN DUNNE**

## WHAT LIES BENEATH Niall MacMonagle

### Lipsticks [series 19]

By Tom Phelan

oil on birch panel  
courtesy of Molesworth Gallery

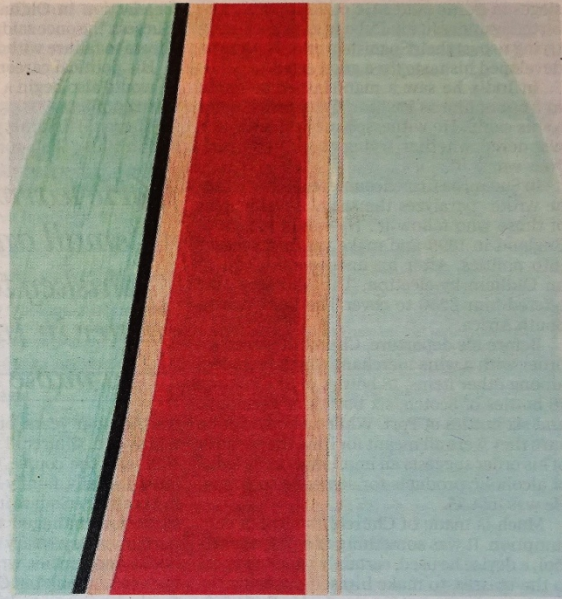
THE Wild Atlantic Way is now all the rage but the 3,000 miles of Atlantic has been raging for millions of years, beating against Ireland in great, perfect waves. Surfing once meant Hawaii, California, Australia, but wetsuits changed all that and every surfer's wish list now includes Bundoran, Falcarragh, Magheroarty and Rosstown.

Tom Phelan was born in Dublin but everyone knows that the Irish Sea just doesn't make waves, that the Irish Sea is rubbish on that front. In the north west, Phelan found expression for his two passions: surfing and art.

His oil on canvas seascapes are wild and free, their pulsing waves filled with energy. By contrast, these surfboard paintings are calm, ordered, pristine. They have yet to meet the adventure of the surf.

This recent work on Casani birch panels incorporates the grain of the wood into the image even though wooden surfboards are no more; since World War II, fibreglass rides the waves. Being bright and clean and shapely they were nicknamed Lipsticks.

Phelan's colours reflect the Pacific blues and greens and the more familiar salty-grey Irish Atlantic. In this particular one the curved tip is cropped and the grey background gives the seagreen, turquoise a vibrant glow, striated on the left, smooth on the right. The central design features a bold black curved line, a narrowing red one and a thin line to the left picks up on the grained wood on either side. Cool and beautiful it tells of Phelan's twenty years as master printmaker at Dublin Graphic Studio. Ironically, Tom Phelan now lives in landlocked Vienna, far from those



magnificent waves. We've heard how the earth moves under your feet. Grab your lipstick boys. On your surfboard and feel the sea move beneath you.

*Quiver, Tom Phelan's new show is running at the Molesworth Gallery, 16 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2, until August 7.*





## ♥ SURFS UP

For his debut solo exhibition at The Molesworth Gallery, Tom Phelan combines his two great passions - art and surfing. The exhibition title, Quiver is surfing slang for a collection of boards of different sizes, shapes and vintages. The word also conjures the shimmering presence of his latest work - poised between the abstract and the real.

The exhibition is currently showing until the 7th August. Preview some of the work online at [www.molesworthgallery.com](http://www.molesworthgallery.com)

Lipsticks series 11 - oil on birch panel - 20 x 16cm.

Fins III, 30 x 50 cm.

Price: €975.