

# James May



**Review from Elizabeth Baird.**

**Belfast Telegraph**

Back again, this week to Belfast's Lisburn Road, this time to Gormley's Fine Art at number 251 and an exhibition by James May entitled *Distillations Donegal*.

Now, I am aware that art is a very subjective thing but, that said, I absolutely love this show. For me May's paintings have it all- colour, humour, pattern, design, balance. I find them totally bewitching and, as well as that, they make me smile.

All landscape-based 'refined and simplified creations', they are reflections of the artist's own personal visions of Donegal and express his fascination with texture and colour.

Some are more literal than others; a number clearly depict green fields, hedges, rows and trees, while the rest reflect the landscape in a much more abstract way. Fields are like a vivid patchwork quilt, perhaps bright red or orange, objects become simple shapes and the whole thing is held together by the dark 'stitches' of fences or poles.

The finished product is no random statement but a carefully considered reflection of a landscape. The colours aren't just random shades but true 'distillations' of what the artist has seen.

Everything is so very graphic, so well balanced, so expertly-executed and nothing is out of place. They are, quite simply, wonderful, joyous and an absolute pleasure to look at.