

Brian O'Doherty will give two public lectures at UCSD for opening of Mandeville Auditorium

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Brian O'Doherty, artist, lecturer and current director of the visual arts program for the National Endowment for the Arts, will give two public lectures at the University of California, San Diego as part of the 11-day festival marking the opening of UCSD's Mandeville Center for the Arts.

O'Doherty, a sculptor who creates his art work under the name of Patrick Ireland, will lecture at 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 11, in the Mandeville Recital Hall on the topic, "Words Without Pictures." His second lecture, titled "The Definition of a Modernist Space: The Art Gallery," is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 12, in the Mandeville auditorium. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

As O'Doherty, the artist is something of a free spirit who has been described as "a gentleman of indeterminate age" since he has given several ages and birth dates during recent interviews. His biographies list Ballaghaderrin, Ireland, as his birth place and 1920 to 1940 as his birth date.

He is the author of three books dealing with art and has contributed chapters or served as editor of several others. He has written essays and articles for such publications as the New York Times Book Review, the Yale Review, Evergreen Review, Life, Newsweek, the London Times, Dublin Magazine, and Irish Monthly. He served as art critic for the New York Times from 1961 to 1964.

O'Doherty has lectured at art galleries and art museums throughout the United States and has served as a visiting professor at UC Berkeley and as an adjunct professor at Barnard College. He served as a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution from 1966 to 1968 and is currently a member of the acquisitions committee of the Mirshorn Museum in Washington. He was awarded the Eire Society of Boston Gold Medal in 1963 and the Mather Award of the College Art Association for "excellence in art criticism" in 1969.

As Ireland, the artist has had eight one-man shows including a showing of large rope drawings at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art during February. His work has been included in numerous group shows and in reviews and catalogs.

His dual identity can be related to what has been described as a kind of ongoing performance piece, based on the belief that each of us is inhabited by more than one persona, and that it is basically anti-humanistic to expect oneself or others to conform to a single mode of behavior or personality set.

According to the artist, the Patrick Ireland persona represents a moral stance with regard to the Irish struggle and will be maintained until such time as British military forces have left Ireland and liberty and freedom have been restored to the Irish people.

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