

Blue and green strokes from the south west

ART
CIARA
FERGUSON

IT WAS a call from Father Jack, well, the actor Frank Kelly, that propelled me towards Rod Coyne's exhibition at the Origin Gallery.

When it comes to appreciation of paintings, simple enthusiasm is more compelling than all the rhetoric in

the world. Already established as someone who paints Rockwellesque paintings of old battered vintage cars, in this show Rod Coyne has added stunning land and seascapes.

Mountains and Sea is inspired not only by the artist's south-west Kerry retreat but also views of the Wicklow mountains and the Dun Laoghaire and Killiney coastline painted with a palette of greens and blues.

Rod was born in Dun Laoghaire in 1967. He attended the local art college and later the Cork College of Art. Completing his studies in 1990 the painter emigrated to Germany, "I felt the last thing Ireland needed at the time was another painter with a diploma," he says.

Based in Dusseldorf, Rod did various jobs to support his work in the studio and exhibited in German galler-



ROD COYNE: Compelling art

ies. In 1999 he was the winner of the prestigious London South Bank Banner competition. In the same year he and his wife Anja moved back to Ireland, "I was astonished to see how

much the Irish art world had developed in ten years" explains Rod.

"Mountains and Sea" by Rod Coyne, Origin Gallery, 83 Harcourt St, D2. Tel: 01-4785159 until Sept 12.