

WE UNVEIL OUR INDEFATIGABLE “MORIARTY”

If you are a gallery curator or someone else interested in showing our work you need to watch out for MORIARTY. He will appear out of nowhere to put you off ... if he can. This article has been written by us to enlighten you.

When we carp on about our being “suppressed” as a result of politicians promoting the “walled city” nonsense into which millions have been poured in marketing it is likely you the reader do not know what form this oppression against us actually takes. First of all, there is the fact that none of the funding bodies are sympathetic to us to the extent that we no longer apply to them. They may have encountered *Moriarty* and, like many others who should have known better, believed him without question. When *Moriarty* speaks all bow. Truly, the Pope himself is less likely to be believed when speaking ex-cathedra than our *Moriarty*. There is nothing more disgusting on earth than watching someone speak or act upon the word of *Moriarty* as if they were privy to some private communication from this fool that we did not know. Confidences make fools of us all, even German Parliamentary Presidents. What *Moriarty* does is lie. Pure and simple.

Who is Moriarty?

Let us introduce you to our *Moriarty*. Let us assume for the argument that he is one and male whereas in reality he is several and mixed. However, ‘he’ is active rep for a group of like-minded buddies who have taken it upon themselves to stifle us as creative people and to make sure we gain no admittance to the art world where we might be given the respect we are due. *Moriarty* is a coward who does not have courage to do what he does without significant support from his peers. He may believe he is acting on his own, but the fact is, he works for others who have a vested interest in denigrating the Bogside and The Bogside Artists in particular. *Moriarty* is into politics. *Moriarty* is having a major problem at present from our lighting up of our murals. We expect soon to hear from ‘him’, although *Moriarty* himself will be nowhere to be seen.

Moriarty can be relied upon to do his dirty work as there are few people with even a shred of humanity or conscience left who would stoop so low as Moriarty. If you are thinking of giving us a show in your gallery you may be contacted by him

His agenda has been handed to him. *Moriarty* is a gofer, a servant. His unwarranted hostility towards us is being used by others a lot shrewder than him. They sing from a very different song sheet wherein *Moriarty*’s personal jealousies and gripes have no real place. They have a different agenda from the one *Moriarty* thinks he is following.

We can tell you this agenda has its roots not so much in local politics or the policy of appeasement pursued by Republicans, but goes all the way to Westminster itself and to known individuals there who are devoted to preventing any scrutiny of J.K.Rowling or her accomplices in the Harry Potter phenomenon. This truth when it gets an outing is destined to become one of the biggest scandals in modern times. That is who Moriarty is working for. He may know this or he may not, but that is the truth of the matter.

Time and again over the years just when we thought we had a show lined up in this gallery or that the show has been cancelled and no explanation proffered. On the other hand, if we plan for an Irish fair or festival *Moriarty* and his buddies leave off. His agenda is to keep us out of the art world proper; so, he is not bothered what connections we make with Irish-America. The thought that we might gain respectability in the art world itself is more than *Moriarty* can live with. He has been on our backs for years. If you have at

any stage been approached by him and had his poison about us poured into your ear perhaps you will get in touch with us. The thought that we might gain a reputation that would enable us to be taken seriously and hence what we have to say about Rowling and company taken at face value is more than Moriarty's overseers are prepared to live with.

It is clear to us that Moriarty's and his buddies are well tuned in to the art world and what is going on in it.

Two of them actually work in it. For our part, we have only to mention to anyone that we have a show scheduled for a gallery at home or abroad and, lo and behold, Moriarty swings into action. What we get then is a phone-call from our prospective host to tell us the show has been cancelled.

What motivates this damaged soul is anybody's guess. Hatred? Envy? Jealousy? All of them we suspect. Does he believe he is on a righteous crusade that empowers him to stop three individuals from making a living? Does he believe in freedom of speech? He will likely say so while he devotes his time and energy to gagging us at every turn. And who on earth would stand to gain by this perfidious activity?

The mystery for us was, until now, how and why Moriarty managed to swear his targets to absolute silence. Now we know. We know who he is. He uses the power of his office and the legal clout and respectability that attends it to bind gallery curators and others to legally intimidating CONFIDENTIALITY. And he does so in perfect intimacy, in the manner of a shyster lying to his neighbour that his wife is having an affair behind his back. The target may even feel grateful that he has been blessed with insight: He would likely say;

"Thank you very much kind Sir. You have saved me from a terrible mistake in showing the work of The Bogside Artists here in our prestigious gallery. Thank you so much! Of course I will not breathe a word of this to another soul. I am so grateful and would never dream of compromising you by admitting that you ever contacted me. Yes, I am fully aware of what the consequences might be. Thank you again!"

This is what has been happening. Moriarty has destroyed almost a dozen shows scheduled for us over the years that would have given us entry into the art world proper and helped us to make a decent living. Moriarty has no problems on that score. He is a salaried government official. From the US, Scotland, Australia and the UK to the Berlin Houses of Parliament Moriarty has been a busy boy indeed. How he can sleep at night knowing he is actively engaged in ruining, by slander and defamation, the careers of three men who have done him no personal wrong *whatever* was, once upon a time, a mystery to us. Now we know.

And what does Moriarty actually say about us? This is what he says. Our answers to his defamatory nonsense are in red.

(1) The Bogside Artists have neither the support nor the mandate of the people.

Lie. We would not exist without it. The public were involved from the start in the creation of our murals. We went around pubs, offices, shops etc to gather up the money for materials. Everybody in town knows us and approved of the grand vision we were engaged upon.

(2) The house dwellers whose gables we painted on were intimidated and threatened by us.

Lie: We grew up with them in the Bogside and they knew who we were and that we were engaged then as now in cross community workshops in a bid to bring Protestant and Catholic together. And it was very dangerous at that time to be doing so. Tom was then as now a Christian pastor. William his brother was then as now a writer and artist. He currently teaches creative writing in Australia where

he lives. Kevin's family is one of the most popular in the city and has been involved in the arts and music for many, many years. Not the people to threaten anybody about anything. On the contrary The Bogside Artists have been living under intimidation for years like many other people in the Bogside from people like Moriarty and his buddies.

(3) *The Bogside Artists are not real artists at all and have merely copied photographs.*

Lie: This does not pass muster as a criticism of our work. Using photos was the only way to bring real authenticity to the story we had to tell. Were we supposed to invent the features of Bernadette Devlin or John Hume? Moriarty is a total Philistine in this regard. If we are to be condemned because of this then Warhol, Picasso, Lautrec, Rivera and countless others are all guilty. It is not a just criticism at all but the spawn of a twisted mind. Added to the other slurs issued by Moriarty however makes us look like shysters etc which is exactly what Moriarty intends . What a guy!

(4) *The Bogside Artists' murals are the result of bigotry and nationalist Republican fervor and tell the story of the Troubles for a one-sided point of view.*

Lie: The very opposite is the truth. Our work is humanitarian and socialist. Our mural **Operation Motorman** was a call to young people to avoid getting into trouble combating the British forces and **Annette McGavigan's** portrait is a clear call to local paramilitaries for a cessation to the conflict. But **Herr Momper**, President of the Berlin Parliament bought into this lie in particular without any difficulty whatever and banned our exhibition from the parliament gallery. Where are the parliamentary insignia on our work? There isn't any... nothing on a single mural, because our work was envisioned from the start to be a human document first and foremost that would be easily understood in its universality by all people. Moriarty has clout.

So now you know what kind of reprobate Moriarty is and if you hear from him or one of his associates... listen to your own common sense. Better still; get yourself a copy of our book. Unless, of course, you need to believe Moriarty rather than us. Our story is in our book. It is all true, and if you have a question about any of it do get back to us. If you want to believe something about us...? Ask us.