

The Book

For over fifty years, this poet/artist has written but never published his poetry. After much hesitation, he now brings forth this first selection, a fifth of the corpus. It reflects a multicultural heritage, and the richness that diversity of experience across the globe brings. There is frequently a close relationship between writings, especially particular resonance between this poetry, and his occasional art. Certain themes in poetry or prose are picked up, cited or visualized in the paintings. Allusions to scripture or spiritual references also occur.

The Author

Francis M. O'Donnell, born in Dublin in 1954, graduated in Economics and Philosophy from the National University of Ireland in 1975 and later read International Law and Diplomacy in Geneva. The author was briefly schooled in the mid-1960s in Collège des Frères, whose walls were the Old City walls overlooking *No Man's Land* in Jerusalem, at the heart of a fragmented Holy Land. The former Irish-Arab Society, proposed by him in 1968, played a key role in promoting trade, cultural, and diplomatic links with twelve countries in the Middle East and North Africa in the early 1970s. Joining the United Nations in 1976, he spent twelve years in African development. Later, he pioneered rapid humanitarian deployment of UN volunteer expertise to forty war-torn countries across the globe. In the 1990s, he managed support to post-conflict countries and promoted economic and governance reforms. He retired from the UN after thirty-two years of service, latterly as senior UN representative in Yugoslavia/Serbia-Montenegro (2000-2004) and Ukraine (2004-2009). From 2009 to 2013, he was Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Slovak Republic.

For several years recently, he has participated in or moderated policy panels mainly of current/former presidents, prime ministers, and other international leaders around Europe, under the auspices of several policy networks. He has lectured at the Sorbonne in Paris and also as guest speaker in Berlin, Brussels, Helsinki, Kyiv, Madrid, Riga, Segovia and Vienna. He also serves as a director of the School of Civic Education under the auspices of the Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe. He is chairman of an investment company in Ireland. He is a member of the Institute of International and European Affairs and the Military History Society of Ireland, and of county historical societies for Donegal and Kerry. For several years he also served as delegate of the O'Donnell Clan to, and as director of, an association of Irish Clans. His mammoth history "*The O'Donnells of Tyrconnell – A Hidden Legacy*" was published by Academica Press LLC, Washington D.C. in 2018. He is also published in scholarly journals.

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