JACK B. YEATS

Biography

1871  August 29, Jack Butler Yeats born at 23 Fitzroy Road, London, son of John Butler Yeats, artist, and Susan Pollexfen of Sligo

1879  Went to Sligo to live with his grandparents, William and Elizabeth Pollexfen. He went to school there, and stayed with them until 1887

1887  Rejoined his family in London in order to attend art school. His grandmother was strongly in favour of him following a career as an artist. Attended classes at South Kensington School of Art, Chiswick School of Art, Westminster School of Art. Season ticket for the American Exhibition at Earls Court, starring Buffalo Bill

1888  First black and white illustrations accepted for publication in The Vegetarian in April

1891  Illustrating for Ariel and Paddock Life. First book illustrations

1892  Designing posters for David Allen & Sons in Manchester. Illustrated Irish Fairy Tales by his brother W.B.Yeats

1894  Staff Artist on Lika Joko. In August he married Mary Cottenham White, who had been a student with him in Chiswick, and was eight years older than Jack. They rented a house called 'The Chestnuts' on the River Thames, at Chertsey

1895  First exhibited at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin, a watercolour called Strand Races, West of Ireland

1897  Moved to Strete, Devon to live at 'Snail's Castle' (Cashlauna Shelmiddy). Began to concentrate on watercolour painting. Painted his first oil. First one-man show of watercolours in November, at the Clifford Gallery, Haymarket

1898  Jack and Cottie visited Northern Italy, on what seems to have been a belated honeymoon, combined with a celebration of the success of his first solo exhibition the previous year. They took a first-floor suite in a hotel on Lake Como, and then travelled to Milan, Venice and elsewhere. Present in Sligo and Carricknagat for the centenary celebrations of the 1798 rising

1899  Held the first exhibition of Irish works, in Dublin and London, and used the title Paintings of Life in the West of Ireland, which was to distinguish his solo exhibitions for the next three decades. Visited Coole at the invitation of the playwright, Lady Gregory, and the Aran Islands. Visited Paris in June
1900
Returned to the West of Ireland with Cottie. He travelled regularly in the West throughout the next ten years, while still living in Devon

1901
Publication of a miniature play, *James Flaunty*

1902-3
Edited *A Broadsheet*, at first with Pamela Colman Smith, then alone, until the final number in December 1903

1903
First visit of the poet, John Masefield, to Strete

1904
Visited New York on the occasion of his exhibition of watercolours, organised by John Quinn, at the Clausen Galleries. Contributed to Hugh Lane’s *Selection of Work by Irish Painters* at The Guildhall, London

1905
Visited the Whistler exhibition in London. C.P. Scott commissioned John Synge to write about the Congested Districts in the West of Ireland. Masefield suggested Yeats as illustrator, and Synge welcomed this collaboration. It was successful, and led to a friendship between the two men

1906
Painted his first landscape in oil, in Clifden, Co. Galway, and before long painting regularly in oil

1908
Yeats' father, John Butler Yeats, visited New York, to settle there permanently. First issue of *A Broadside* published at Dun Emer Press by Elizabeth Yeats, who left Dun Emer to found the Cuala Press, and published *A Broadside* there until 1915

1909
Publication of *A Little Fleet*. Yeats stayed at Ballycastle, Co. Mayo, in the summer, painting landscapes in oil. Showed with the Allied Artists in London, and continued to exhibit with them for some years

1910
Moved permanently to Ireland, and took a lease on Red Ford House on the outskirts of Greystones, in County Wicklow

1912
Exhibited at the *Salon des Independants* in Paris. Published *Life in the West of Ireland*

1913
Began to learn Irish. Contributed five oil paintings to the Armory Show in New York (*International Exhibition of Modern Art*)

1915
Beginnings of illness and depression. Elected ARHA

1916
The Easter Rising. Elected RHA. Yeats’ pictures among those destroyed in the burning of the Royal Hibernian Academy. Breakdown of health. First ‘half-memory' sketches

1917
Moved from Greystones to Donnybrook, renting a house at 61 Marlborough Road

1920
Closed his Dublin exhibition in sympathy with the national strike protesting against the refusal of the British authorities to recognise the status of political prisoners
1921  
Member of the Glasgow Society of Painters and Sculptors. Exhibited for the first time with the Society of Independent Artists in New York, and continued to show at their annual exhibitions.

1922  
Contributed to the *Exposition d'Art Irlandais* in Paris, and lectured there to the Irish Race congress on modern Irish painting. Aonach Tailteann medal for *Approaching Rosses Point Early Morning*. Death of his father in America.

1924  
Ville Olympiade, Paris; silver and bronze medals for *The Liffey Swim*.

1925  
Dissociated himself from the Cuala Press and the making of prints, and devoted himself to painting.

1929  
Moved to 18 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin. This was his last residence. James Joyce purchased two Liffey paintings.

1930  
Published his first important prose work, *Sligo*. Exhibited in Toronto. Visit from Samuel Beckett, who later bought his paintings.

1933  
Published *Apparitions* and *Sailing, Sailing Swiftly*.

1939  
Appointed a governor of the National Gallery of Ireland. *Harlequin’s Position* produced by the Abbey Experimental Theatre. Death of W.B. Yeats.

1940  
Elected a member of the London Group, and contributed to *British Painting since Whistler*. Death of his sister, Elizabeth Yeats.

1942  
Joint exhibition with William Nicholson at the National Gallery, London.

1943  
First exhibition at Victor Waddington’s gallery in Dublin.

1945  

1946  
D. Litt Dublin University.

1947  
Death of his wife, Mary Cottenham Yeats. Painted *The Green Tent has Collapsed*, and published his last novel, *The Careless Flower*.

1948  

1949  
*In Sand* produced at the Abbey Theatre. Diploma of the Accademia Culturale Adriatica, Milan. Death of Lily Yeats.

1950  
Invested an Officer of the Legion of Honour at the French Embassy in Dublin.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>American touring retrospective exhibition, opened in Washington D.C.; began to spend winters in the Portobello Nursing Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Exhibition at the Galerie des Beaux Arts in Paris</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Last paintings. Went to live permanently at Portobello House</td>
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<td>1956</td>
<td>Loan exhibition of later paintings in Belfast. Letter from Oskar Kokoschka in November</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>Died on 28 March. Buried at Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin. Loan collection exhibited by the Society of Scottish Artists at the Mound Gallery in Edinburgh</td>
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Exhibitions of Oil Paintings

1902  Wells Central Hall, Dublin, *Sketches of Life in the West of Ireland* (2 oils shown)
1906  Leinster Hall, Dublin, *Sketches of Life in the West of Ireland* (1 oil shown)
1909  Leinster Hall, Dublin, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland* (1 oil shown)
1910  Leinster Hall, Dublin, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland* (oils and watercolours shown)
1912  Walker Art Gallery, London, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1914  Mills Hall, Dublin, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
      Walker Art Gallery, London, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1918  Mills Hall, Dublin, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1919  Mills Hall, Dublin, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
      Little Art Rooms, London, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1920  Mills Hall, Dublin, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1921  Stephen’s Green Gallery, Dublin, *Drawings and Paintings of Life in the West of Ireland*
1922  Stephen’s Green Gallery, Dublin, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1923  Stephen’s Green Gallery, Dublin, *Drawings and Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1924  Gieves Art Gallery, London, *Paintings of Irish Life*
      Engineers’ Hall, Dublin, *Pictures of Life in the West of Ireland*
1925  Tooth, London, *Pictures of Irish Life*
      Engineers’ Hall, Dublin, *Paintings*
1926  Tooth, London, *Paintings of Irish Life*
1927  Engineers’ Hall, Dublin, *Paintings*
      Ruskin Gallery, Birmingham, *Paintings of Ireland*
1928  Tooth, London, *Paintings*
1929  Alpine Club Gallery, London, *Paintings*
      Engineers’ Hall, Dublin, *Paintings*
1930  Alpine Club Gallery, London, *Paintings*
1931  Engineers’ Hall, Dublin, *Paintings*
1932  Ferragil Galleries, New York, *Exhibition of Paintings*
Barbizon Museum of Irish Art, New York, *Exhibition of Paintings*
Leger, London, *Ireland and Irish Life in Paintings*

1936  Dunthorne, London, *Recent Paintings*

1939  5 South Leinster Street, Dublin, *Exhibition of 11 Paintings*

1940  Contemporary Picture Galleries, Dublin, *Paintings*

1941  Contemporary Picture Galleries, Dublin, *Later Work*


1943  Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Later Paintings*

1945  Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Paintings*
National College of Art, Dublin, *National Loan Exhibition*
Goodwin Galleries, Limerick, *Paintings*

1946  Wildenstein, London, *Oil Paintings*
Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Oil Paintings*

1947  Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Paintings*

1948  Temple Newsam House, Leeds, *Loan Exhibition*
Tate Gallery, London, *Loan Exhibition*; touring to Aberdeen Art Gallery; Edinburgh Royal Scottish Academy (organised by the Arts Council of Great Britain)

1949  Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Oil Paintings*

1951  Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, *A First Retrospective American Exhibition*; touring to Phillips Gallery, Washington D.C.; De Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco; Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center; Toronto Art Gallery; Detroit Institute of Arts; New York National Academy
Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Paintings*

1953  Saidenberg Gallery, New York, *Paintings*
Wildenstein, London, *Recent Paintings*
Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Oil Paintings*

1954  Galerie Beaux Arts, Paris, *Peintures*

1955  Victor Waddington Galleries, Dublin, *Oil Paintings*

1956  Museum and Art Gallery, Belfast, *Paintings* (organised by CEMA, the Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts)
1957  Mound Galleries, Edinburgh, *Loan Collection* (compiled by the Society of Scottish Artists)


1960  City Art Gallery, York, *Paintings* (presented for the York Festival)  
County Library and Museum, Sligo, *Selection of Paintings*  

Waddington Galleries, London, *Paintings*  
Waddington Galleries, Montreal, *Paintings*  

1962  Willard Gallery, New York, *Oil Paintings*  
Felix Landau Gallery, Los Angeles, *Paintings*  
Irish Section of the XXI Esposizione Biennale Internazionale d’Arte, Venice, *Paintings*  
Municipal Gallery, Dublin, *Paintings from the Biennale Exhibition* (presented by An Chomharm Cultúra Éireann)  

1963  Waddington Galleries, London, *Paintings*  
County Library and Museum, Sligo, *Joint Exhibition of Paintings from the Collections of the late Ernie O’Malley and the Yeats Museum, Sligo* 

1964  Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Derry, *North West Arts Festival*  
Arts Council of Northern Ireland, Belfast, *May Festival*  

1965  Institute of Technology, Hayden Gallery, Massachusetts, *Loan Exhibition*  
Waddington Galleries, London, *Paintings*  
New Gallery, Belfast, *Loan Exhibition*  
Municipal Gallery, Waterford, *Loan Exhibition*  

1966  Dawson Gallery, Dublin, *Oil Paintings*  

1967  Victor Waddington, London, *Oil Paintings*  
Trinity College, Dublin, *Paintings from the Collection of Howard Robinson* (to June 1968)  

1969  Waddington Fine Arts, Montreal, *Jack B. Yeats Retrospective Exhibition*  

Kenny Gallery, Galway, *Paintings, Broadside and 7 Studies for a Self-Portrait*  
Victor Waddington, London, *Paintings*  
National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, *Jack B. Yeats: A Centenary Exhibition*; touring to Ulster Museum, Belfast (in part); Cultural Center, New York  
County Library and Museum, Sligo, *Jack B. Yeats and his Family* (in association with Rosc 71); touring to Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin  
Coe Kerr Gallery, New York, *Centennial Exhibition*  
Peacock Theatre, Dublin, *Theatrical Pictures* (mounted to coincide with *That Gift of the Gab: a Selection from the Writings of Jack B. Yeats*, a rehearsed reading compiled...
by Hilary Pyle and directed by Edward Golden, 22 November 1971, at the Peacock Theatre)

      Waddington Galleries, Montreal, *Paintings*
1976  Kenny Art Gallery, Galway, *Paintings and Drawings*
1986  National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, *Jack B. Yeats in the National Gallery of Ireland*
1988  Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin, *Yeats at the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art*
1989  County Library and Museum and Sligo Art Gallery, Sligo, *Jack B. Yeats, 1871-1957, and Contemporaries*
1990  Centre de Congrès, Monaco, *Images in Yeats*
      National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin, *Images in Yeats* (the Monaco Exhibition with the National Gallery Collection of Watercolours and Drawings)
      Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, *Ivon Hitchens, Jack B. Yeats*
      Taylor, de Vere White, Dublin, exhibition to mark the publication of *Jack B. Yeats: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Oil Paintings* (organised by Theo Waddington)
1994  Solomon Gallery, Dublin, *Jack B. Yeats and Other Important Irish Artists*
1996  City Art Galleries, Manchester, *Jack B. Yeats: A Celtic Visionary*; touring to Leeds City Art Galleries; Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast

2004  Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Jack B. Yeats; Amongst Friends (curated by Bruce Arnold, Yvonne Scott and Theo Waddington)


2008  Compton Verney, Warwickshire, Jack B. Yeats: Masquerade and Spectacle (organised in collaboration with the National Gallery of Ireland)

2009  Theo Waddington’s Irish Art Project, London, Father and Son; John B. Yeats and Jack B. Yeats: Paintings, watercolours and drawings
Public Collections

Aberdeen Art Gallery
Birmingham Art Gallery
Boston Museum of Fine Arts
Bristol Museum and Art Gallery
Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio
Colby College, Maine
Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork
Cyfarthfa Castle Museum, Merthyr Tydfil
Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Huddersfield Art Gallery
Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin
Leeds City Art Gallery
Limerick Municipal Art Gallery
Musée d’Art Moderne, Paris
Museum Tel Aviv, Israel
National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa
National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin
Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
Princess Grace Irish Library, Monaco
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh
Seattle Art Museum
St. Columb’s and Glebe Gallery, Co. Donegal
Sligo County Library and Museum
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
Tate Gallery, London
Toledo Museum of Art
Ulster Museum, Belfast
University of Wisconsin
Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore
Waterford Municipal Art Gallery
York City Art Gallery
Books and publications by Jack B. Yeats

1901  
*James Flaunty or the Terror of the Western Seas.* London, Elkin Mathews

1903  


*The Treasure of the Garden.* London, Elkin Mathews

1904  
*The Bosun and the Bob-tailed Comet.* London, Elkin Mathews

1908-1915  

1909  
*A Little Fleet.* London, Elkin Mathews

1912  
*Life in the West of Ireland.* Dublin, Maunsel

1922  
*Modern Aspects of Irish Art.* Dublin, Cumann Leigheacht an Phobail

1930  
*Sligo.* London, Wishart

1933  
*Apparitions.* London, Jonathan Cape

*Sailing, Sailing Swiftly.* London, Putnam

1936  
*The Amaranthers.* London, Heinemann

1938  

1942  
*Ah Well.* London, Routledge; republished with *And To You Also* by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1974

1943  
*La La Noo.* Dublin, Cuala Press; Reprint, Irish University Press, 1971

1944  
*And To You Also.* London, Routledge; republished with *Ah Well* by Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1974

1947  
*The Careless Flower.* London, Pilot Press

1964  
*In Sand.* Dublin, Dolmen Press

1971  
*Collected Plays.* Ed. R. Skelton. London, Secker & Warburg

*Broadside Characters.* Dublin, Cuala Press

1979  
*A Little Book of Bookplates.* Dalkey, Cuala Press

1991  
*The Selected Writings of Jack B. Yeats.* Ed. R. Skelton. London, Andre Deutsch