



EAMONN CEANNT
CHOREO

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Gormleys is proud to present Choreo, a semi-retrospective exhibition by acclaimed Irish sculptor Eamonn Ceannt. Showcased are a series of bronze sculptures inspired by the elegance and dynamism of dance, opera, and ballet.

Renowned for his tactile and expressive bronze works, Ceannt draws inspiration from the fluidity and grace of dancers and performers. His sculptures capture moments of movement, emphasising form and the juxtaposition of soft curves and planes. Each piece invites viewers to experience the vitality and elegance of dance through the medium of bronze.

Ceannt's work features sculptures inspired by iconic figures and characters from the world of dance, ballet and opera, including Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, Marius Petipa's *La Bayadère*, Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Each sculpture is crafted using the traditional lost-wax casting method, a technique that allows Ceannt to achieve intricate details and dynamic forms. The tactile quality of the bronze invites viewers to engage with the works, allowing them to experience the texture and movement encapsulated in each piece.

Arabian Dancer

A piece inspired by the Arabian Dance sequence from Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*, evoking the sensual elegance and mystery of the East.



Arabian Dancer
Bronze
Edition of 7
65 x 48 x 30 cm

Arabian Dancer (opposite)
Bronze
Edition of 3
160 x 130 x 65 cm



Ngoma

In Swahili and other Bantu languages, "Ngoma" refers to music and dance, and describes a dynamic, participatory performance.



Ngoma
Bronze
Edition of 9
56 x 31 x 16 cm

Ngoma (opposite)
Bronze
Edition of 5
215 x 110 x 85 cm



Isadora

A tribute to the pioneering American dancer, Isadora Duncan, known for her expressive and free-spirited approach to dance.



Isadora
Bronze
Edition of 8
76 x 44 x 30 cm

Blowing in the Wind
Bronze
Edition of 8
55 x 40 x 18 cm



Nikiya (La Bayadère)

A delicate sculpture inspired by the temple dancer from Marius Petipa's *La Bayadère*, reflecting the character's purity and tragic fate.



Nikiya (La Bayadere)
Bronze
Edition of 7
57 x 24 x 12 cm

Odette

A graceful representation of Odette, the swan princess from Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, embodies the ethereal beauty and sorrow of the character, as she transforms from a swan into a maiden.



Odette
Bronze
Edition of 9
59 x 44 x 20 cm

Happy Face

Happy Face was heavily influenced by the funereal art of the early bronze age from the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. Cycladic culture is best known for its schematic flat female idols carved out of the islands' pure white marble. Happy Face is blue, male and has been given some facial features.



Happy Face
Bronze
Edition of 8
44 x 23 x 15 cm

Happy Face III
(opposite)
Bronze
Edition of 3
220 x 100 x 80 cm



Liberty

This is an energetic expression of dance, where the movement is amplified through the use of 'ribbons'. These golden ribbons catch the light, exuding energy as the figure rises-up on its toes to display physical and emotional release.



Liberty
Bronze
Edition of 5
62 x 45 x 20 cm

Karenina

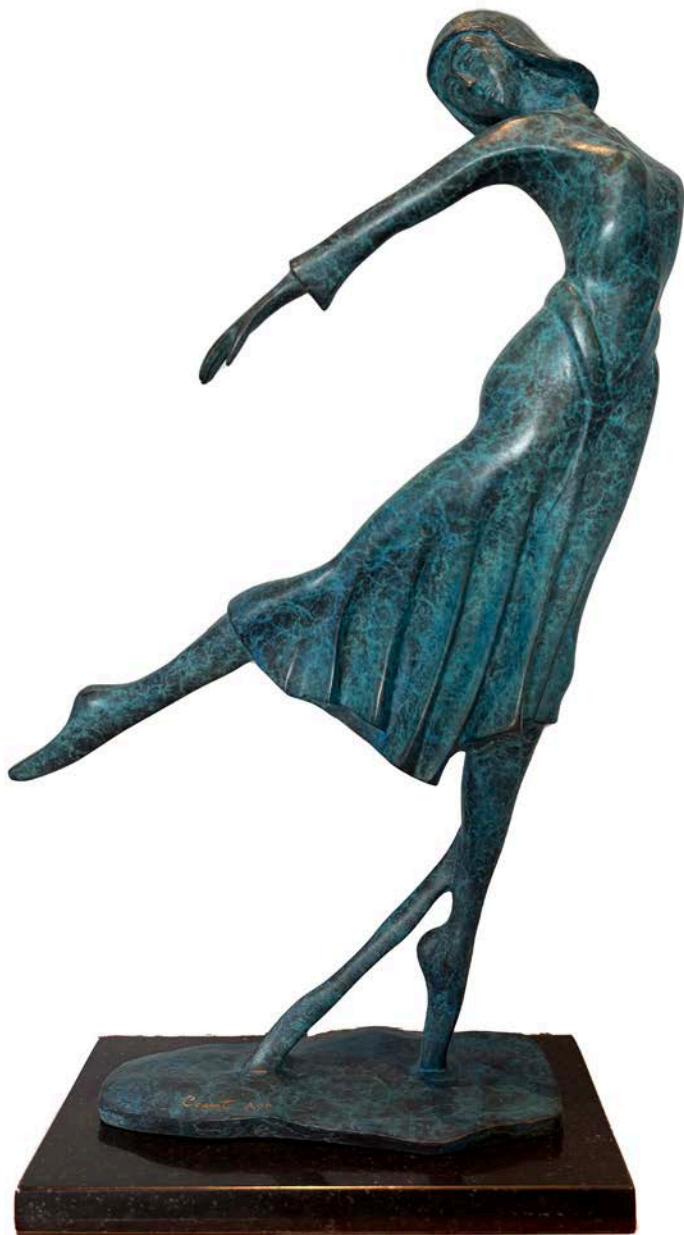
The tragic heroine of Anna Karenina, inspired by Tolstoy's novel and its ballet adaptation. Her story embodies passion, despair, and the cost of love.



Karenina
Bronze
Edition of 8
65 x 38 x 30 cm

Swanhilda

A lively depiction of the protagonist from Coppélia, capturing her playful and inquisitive nature.



Swanhilda
Bronze
Edition of 8
51 x 28 x 14 cm

Rhinemaidens at Play

The Rhinemaidens - three Rhine Daughters from Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen - are depicted in a circular, dance-like pose. Their formation recalls the fateful ring itself, which lies embedded within the base of the piece.



Rhinemaidens at Play
Bronze
Edition of 9
85 x 39 x 20 cm



Equilibre

A highly stylised dance form that captures the delicate poise of the dancer with the minimum of detail.



Equilibre
Bronze
Edition of 8
88 x 30 x 30 cm

Forbidden Fruit

This work portrays Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, as the hand of temptation reaches for the apple. A winding ribbon leads to the cave at the base — the passage through which they are ultimately cast out of paradise.



Forbidden Fruit
Bronze
Edition of 9
98 x 28 x 28 cm

Butterfly

Based on Cio-Cio-San, the central character in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, captured dignified and composed as she turns her face away to hide her grief.



Butterfly
Bronze
Edition of 5
55 x 20 x 20 cm



Be at Peace
Bronze
Edition of 3
127 x 92 x 86 cm

Manon

A poignant portrayal of the tragic heroine from Jules Massenet's opera, capturing her youthful exuberance and the complexities of her character.



Manon
Bronze
Edition of 9
96 x 33 x 33 cm

Dance Dance Dance
Bronze
Edition of 8
80 x 30 x 30 cm



Odile

The Black Swan from Swan Lake — a symbol of deception, seduction, and tragic beauty.



Odile
Bronze
Edition of 8
58 x 35 x 19 cm

War Dancer

This piece was made in early 2022 as an emotional response to the return of war to Europe.



War Dancer
Bronze
Edition of 9
82 x 30 x 30 cm

Struggle

The vitality of dance portrayed through the dynamic form of a highly stylised male dancer.



Struggle
Bronze
Edition of 8
72 x 50 x 26 cm

Aspire II

This piece could also have been called 'The Kiss'. A female head is lifted to be kissed thus showing off the sculptural form of the clavicle and neck tendons. It juxtaposes soft curves with flat planes.



Aspire II
Bronze
Edition of 8
37 x 34 x 19 cm

You Set Me Free, Never Let Me Go

A tribute to those that have found liberation, peace and happiness in a same sex relationship.



You Set Me Free, Never Let Me Go
Bronze
Edition of 8
54 x 76 x 14 cm

Spirit Dancer

A hooded dancer leaps and is caught in mid-air, supported in flight by the folds of his costume.



Spirit Dancer
Bronze
Edition of 5
33 x 33 x 7 cm

Tango

Tango is a dance that has influences from African, Native American and European culture. It originated in the 1880s along the River Plate, the natural border between Argentina and Uruguay.



Tango
Bronze
Edition of 9
54 x 50 x 26 cm

Icarus

The mythic figure who dared to fly too close to the sun on wings of wax and feathers. In this interpretation, he is voiceless — only his father, Daedalus, could hear his cries.



Icarus
Bronze
Edition of 7
85 x 54 x 32 cm

The Dancer

The Dancer is a modified and simplified version of the stunningly intricate Hellenic bronze statuette of a veiled and masked dancer from the 2nd century BC now at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

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The Dancer
Bronze
Edition of 9
46 x 28 cm

Born in Dublin in 1962, Eamonn Ceannt is an acclaimed Irish sculptor who works exclusively in bronze.

His sculptures are tactile with a strong commitment to form and the juxtaposition of soft curves and planes, inviting the viewer to feel and touch the surface.

Ceannt is primarily a figurative sculptor, motivated by the challenge of encapsulating movement into his pieces. He draws inspiration from the dynamic form of dancers and performers, and is captivated by the athleticism, elegance and vitality of the dance.

He draws inspiration from opera, ballet, and contemporary dance, searching for a pose, a gesture, or a stance that captures a moment of movement; finding the right posture, and then simplifying it to emphasise the form. Clothes accentuate the movement while allowing the structure of the piece to be minimised and simplified. The pieces are lyrical, the poses controlled, the limbs are languid, the clothes subtly demonstrate and emphasise the dancer's flexibility. Some of his work depicts exuberant stylised dance, with ribbons accentuating the posture.

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