

# FEATURE

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# A collage of masterpieces

BY FIONA AUDLEY

**SEAN HILLEN'S collages have an enduring popular and intellectual appeal.**

The Newry-born artist is deemed one of the most significant of his generation, with his early work - photographs and collages from the Troubles era in the North of Ireland - garnering him instant notoriety and popularity across Britain and Ireland.

Those works are currently on display in an online exhibition entitled *The Easter Uprising 1916* in 2016 which is open until May 21.

This week the artist told *The Irish Post* a little about the works on show.

"In the case of the earlier work, I suppose I was very lucky, in that I had the motivation to make the montages, the material in the photographs I'd been taking, and that the medium lends itself perfectly to dialectic and political satire, which is what they are at

first sight," he explained.

"Most all of my works have been traditional scalpel-and-glue photomontages. The oldest ones were made between 1983 and '93, were always based on one of my own documentary photographs made in Northern Ireland, and were somehow related to, and to an extent engaged in, the Northern conflict."

He added: "I was born and grew up in Newry; a small but sometimes busy town just on the northern side of the Irish Border. Situated just at the head of the picturesque lough in the Gt. Pyramids picture, it has experienced more than enough of the Troubles. In 1982 I went to study and live in London, irregularly traveling backwards and forwards and taking the photographs for the works. I studied at the London College of Printing, a 'media' school, and then at the Slade School of Fine Art."

To view the full collection visit [www.nickyakehurst.com](http://www.nickyakehurst.com)



A stonethrower checks from an alleyway for Army or Police vehicles, Bogside, Derry 1981

A still-working bar on Falls Road, Belfast, c.1980, which turned out to have been the family home of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese.

An older woman walks down the Falls Road past the burnt-out remains of the once-ornate Clonard cinema, Belfast, 1980

ARTIST: Sean Hillen  
Picture by Conor Horgan

Two old men and a Marine Commando, Sugar Island, Newry, Co. Down c. 1985

What's wrong with The New Post Office, Sackville St, Dublin, 1818-2016

Frontier Times #4

Londonewry, A Mythical Town #11

Mourners at Hunger-Striker Patsy O'Hara's funeral, Derry, 1981