

# Introduction

The current issue opens with essays on James Joyce in celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the publication of *Ulysses*. Guest speakers invited by the W. B. Yeats Chair of Irish Studies at the University of São Paulo, including Bruce Stewart and Teresa Casal, kindly authorised us to publish their lectures here. Munira Mutran adds her notes on the famous Brazilian writer Mário de Andrade's marginalia to *Ulysses*, and Francisco Ivan da Silva draws a comparison between Joyce's use of language and that of another canonical Brazilian author, Guimarães Rosa. Joyce's short story "The Dead" is examined by Teresa Casal and Vitor Alevato do Amaral from different perspectives.

Our cover illustration also dialogues with Joyce's work. Brazilian artist Erasmo Andrade's painting, "Cabeça de Paixão" (A passionate head), was part of an exhibition at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte during the Seventh Symposium of Irish Studies in South America. Brazilian artists are always invited to interact with the theme of the Conference, which in this case was "Representations of Women in Irish Culture." The painting is an imaginative response to the female perspective, so well represented in *Ulysses*. The artist explains that the composition of his oil on canvas is "a dynamic between colours and lines, which meet to form a visual, tactile and sensual energy... Within this head, ornamented with its flowing hair and wild flowers, there is an angel who infuses with passion the complex feelings of the figure in the painting..."

Nuala Ní Conchúir was also at the Symposium and here talks about her work. In our "Fiction and Autobiography" section, Laura Izarra analyses Colum McCann's acclaimed novel *Let the Great World Spin*, while Tom F. Shea looks at Peig Sayers' autobiography within the context of Blasket Island literature. Paul Durcan's poetry is discussed by Kathleen McCracken, and the relationship between fiction and film is discussed by Robert Savage with a particular focus on Elizabeth Bowen's Ireland.

In "Voices from Brazil", Telê Ancona Lopez discusses the beginnings of modernism, comparing the works of Mário de Andrade and Brecheret.

The *Journal* concludes with reviews of Nuala Ní Chonchúir's *Mother America* and Tony Murray's *London Irish Fictions*, written by Viviane Carvalho da Anunciação and Whitney Standlee, respectively.

*The Editors*

