
MEN OF THE SOUTH

SEÁN KEATING

- Seán Keating was born on the 28th of September 1889 and is the artist who made the 'Men of the South' painting in 1921. He studied art at the Limerick Technical School earlier in his life before earning himself a deserved scholarship arranged by William Orpen which allowed him to study at the Metropolitan School of Art in the heart of Dublin at the age of 20.
- Seán married political campaigner, May Walsh. She was a frequent model for his paintings until her death in 1965.
- Seán later died on the 21st of December 1977, aged 88, at the Adelaide Hospital and was soon buried at Cruagh Cemetery, Dublin.

THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

- The Irish War of Independence was a guerrilla war fought in Ireland from 1919 to 1921 between the Irish Republican Army and British Forces.

- The War of Independence started in January 1919 when a small number of IRA soldiers shot two Royal Irish Constabulary members at Soloheadbeg in Tipperary. This event was the beginning of a 2-year battle between the Irish and the British causing the deaths of 2,300 people including 900 civilians. The war ended with a truce on the 11th of June 1921.

Men Of the South

- In the Summer of 1921 during the ceasefire that followed Michael Collins' Anglo Irish treaty negotiations in London, a group of IRA men in uniform knocked on the door of the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art looking for painter Seán Keating. "We're here to see Keating" one of the men said to the worried porter, which Keating casually responded to with "alright bring them up".
- The men were to sit for Keating for a painting he called the 'Men of the South'. The men who appeared in Keating's painting were Jim Riordan, Denis O'Mullane, Jim Cashman, John Jones, Roger Kiely and Dan Browne, all men were members of the North Cork Brigade.
- Although their commander Seán Moylan was present at the time it was painted, he opted not to be in the painting.
- He later explained that he feared the truce was temporary, that hospitalities might resume, and he was hesitant of

giving the British authorities any opportunity to identify him. 'Men of the South' was first shown at the Munster Arts Club exhibition in 1922 in Cork

- Nearly three years later, it was purchased by the Crawford Art Gallery for £200. "When we first purchased it in 1924, one of the advisors to the board, the artist George Atkinson, said it was a "good painting, possibly even a great one;" Crawford curator Michael Waldron says. The 'Men of the South' painting is still hanging in the Crawford Gallery today in 2022.



WHY I CHOSE 'MEN OF THE SOUTH':

- Hello, my name is Ryan O'Sullivan, I'm 15 years old and I go to the North Monastery Secondary School. For my TY project I decided to do the "Men of the South' because I have a big interest in history and art, specifically Irish

history and wars so I thought this would be a perfect piece for me to do my project on.

RYAN O'SULLIVAN