

Liam Ó Maonlaí Solo Exhibition “Prayer”

■Period	November 28th (Friday), 2025 - December 27th (Saturday), 2025 <i>*temporary closure: Dec 11 (Thu) - 13 (Sat)</i>
■Hours	Wednesdays through Saturdays, 13:00 - 18:00 (closed on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, and National Holidays)
■Venue	KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY 4-7-6 Shirakawa, Koto-ku, Tokyo 135-0021 JAPAN <i>*car parking available in front of the gallery</i>
■Organizer	Kana Kawanishi Art Office LLC.
■Support	Embassy of Ireland, Japan
■Coordination	Plankton Co., Ltd.



▼OPENING RECEPTION

November 28th (Friday), 2025 | 18:00-19:00
The artist will be present at the gallery



Prayer

2025 | watercolor and pencil on paper | 248 × 210 mm
© Liam Ó Maonlaí, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY

KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY is delighted to present the solo exhibition “Prayer” by Liam Ó Maonlaí, opening Friday, November 28, 2025.

Liam Ó Maonlaí, born in Dublin in 1964, is a visionary artist whose creative journey flows as freely as the wind. Renowned as a transcultural musician with an Irish root and tradition, he has embraced diverse cultures worldwide—connecting deeply with musicians and communities across Ireland, Mali, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tibet, India, Australia, Spain, France, and Japan, among others.

Celebrated by Bono of U2 as “the world’s greatest white soul singer,” Ó Maonlaí has graced stages such as Fuji Rock Festival numerous times, including 2019 and 2025. A multi-instrumentalist, he masterfully plays the piano, guitar, Irish bodhrán, and Irish harp. Yet, long before he encountered the piano, he first discovered his artistic voice through painting—an impulse rooted in childhood memories of exploring color and form.

“I recall my earliest artistic memories during nursery school, when my mother was acting. A woman would appear suddenly, sketching on the blackboard—“This is how you draw a dog,” ‘a cowboy,’ ‘an elephant’—then disappear.

■Please contact below for any image enquiries■

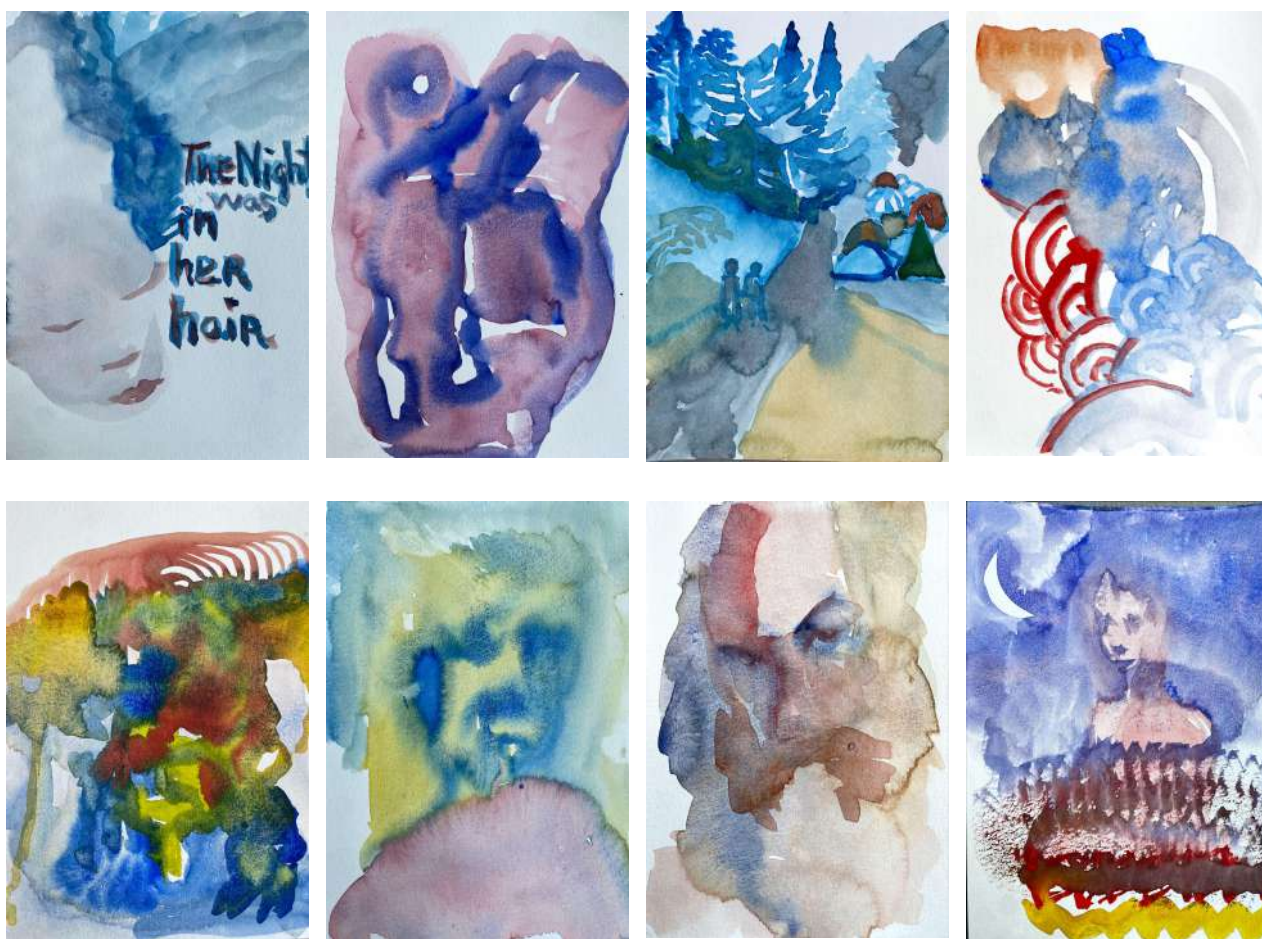
One day, I drew a swimming dog and water, and felt an undeniable spark: ‘I can do this. This is my expression.’ I’ve been drawing ever since.”

Alongside his musical expression, Ó Maonlaí has always carried art supplies and sketchbooks, continuing his painting in parallel. In his music, he deeply embraces his Irish identity, centering the Gaelic language—his ancestral roots—as a vital core, and plays while liberating his soul, resonating with cultures worldwide.

In his visual practice, it is as though he draws colors from a primordial, abstract world. This exhibition will feature paintings created over decades in his Dublin studio, alongside self-portraits from his 2025 Japan visit, as well as evocative abstract landscapes and inner-worldscapes. During his residency at the gallery, he will also produce new pieces, expanding this vivid dialogue between the inner and outer.

“I have been enjoying visual expression for as long as I can remember. It is a source of great peace and pleasure for me. It is rare that I exhibit my work. It is for my peace and pleasure that I do it. It is a prayerful feeling.”

Coinciding with his first solo album in 17 years, PRAYER/URNAÍ, this exhibition marks Liam Ó Maonlaí’s first solo show at a prominent white-cube gallery—an intimate universe of color, spirit, and profound expression. We warmly invite all to experience “Prayer”—a celebration of creative prayer, universal connection, and the enduring power of art.



2025 | watercolor on paper | 210 × 148 mm
© Liam Ó Maonlaí, courtesy KANA KAWANISHI GALLERY

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Artist Statement

Everything can be prayer.

I see prayer as a place of being creation,
beyond time open to the impulse of the great mystery from the furthest star to the sun to the earth and within.

It can be dance, song or stillness.

As I listen, I find I can do what I need to do align myself with all that is. We are family.

Everything done with love and an earnest heart keeps us in touch.

From Ethiopia, West Papua, Kenya, Mali, Qua Paw nation, Palestine, Japan, Moravia, Spain,
every people and place has culture and stories our tapestry is being woven everyday by the ancient and by the new.

Walk in prayer.

Nil teora le mo bluiochas.

—Liam Ó Maonlaí

*quoted from the liner notes of the album “PRAYER (URNAÍ)”

Biography

Liam Ó Maonlaí was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1964, and is one of Ireland's most charismatic singers. He made his major debut in 1988 as the lead vocalist, pianist, guitarist, and songwriter for the Hothouse Flowers. After a hiatus from 1994 to 1998, he pursued solo work while continuing with his band. He has collaborated with musicians from Mali, India, Tibet, China, Japan, Spain, Australia (Aboriginal), and the United States (Native American). In 2008, he appeared in the documentary film ‘Dambé: The Mali Project,’ which covered his participation in the Festival au désert (Desert Music Festival) in Mali, West Africa, where he interacted with local musicians. To date, he has released nine band albums and two solo albums. His latest album, “PRAYER/URNAÍ” (Plankton Label), released in late October 2025, is his first solo album in 17 years, recorded and produced over six years in Japan.

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