

# FINE SILVER: *Personal Reflections*

CONTEMPORARY SILVERWARE BY KEVIN O'DWYER

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JAMES FRAHER

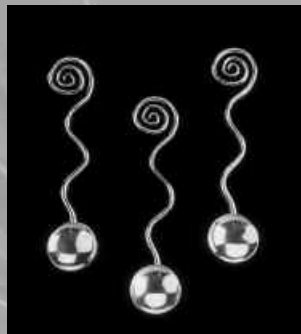


*The luminous quality of silver imbues the artistic expression of Kevin O'Dwyer and James Fraher. Like the metaphysics of silver, the work of these two artists captures light and reflects light. Rooted in tradition and exploring the subtleties of ritual and imagination, their work awakens a patina of vision and sensitivity.*

*Fine Silver: Personal Reflections* combines contemporary silverware with black and white photography, inspired by the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Ireland.

Kevin O'Dwyer's silverware is inspired by Irish prehistoric art, 20th century design and contemporary architecture. Textural surfaces, flowing lines, lyrical decorations and twists of Celtic imagery blend into his own unique style. Contemporary, timeless and simply elegant can best describe his work.

The strong black and white images of James Fraher document a personal view of Ireland, from ancient standing stones, Irish landscapes and details of place, to images of traditional musicians and intimate portrait studies.





*“ . . . powerful images which combine the purity of O'Dwyer's designs in silver with the stark beauty of Fraher's black and white Irish landscapes.”*

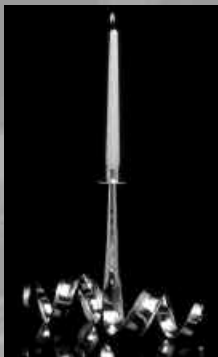
—Elise Taylor, Curator, Ulster Museum, Belfast





*"Magnificent!"*

—Colette Barbier, curator, Espace Paul Ricard, Paris





Kevin O'Dwyer is an artist who creates in silver. O'Dwyer manipulates this seductive material by using the traditional metalsmithing techniques of forging, raising and planishing to create a diversity of forms from the playful curling of teapot handles to the austere rigidity of a formal coffee service.

O'Dwyer's diverse apprenticeship and the dual experience of his American and Irish upbringing has profoundly influenced his outlook and the scope of his creative influences. His interest in Irish prehistoric art, Celtic metalwork and 20th century design and architecture blends into his own unique style. Textural surfaces, flowing lines, lyrical decorations and the twists of Celtic imagery combine in the typical informality of his tableware. Bringing silver into the modern arena, O'Dwyer has changed the preconceptions of the silversmith and brought elegant artistry into the life of design.

Kevin O'Dwyer's work is internationally renowned and represented in the private collections of Nelson Mandela, King Karl Gustas of Sweden and the Japanese Imperial Family. Public collections include: the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin, Ireland; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the High Museum, Atlanta; and, the Ulster Museum, Belfast.

Several books feature O'Dwyer's work including *Ireland's Treasures: 5000 years of Artistic Expression* by Dr. Peter Harbison, *Silversmithing* published by Lark Books, *The Eyes of Ireland* by Dani O'Riley, and *Teapots Transformed* by Leslie Ferrin.

*For booking details and further information please contact:*

**Kevin O'Dwyer**  
Silver River Studios  
Acontha , Durrrow, Tullamore  
Co. Offaly, Ireland  
Tel./Fax: 0506-24044  
E-mail: kodwyerdesign@eircom.net  
See more examples of Kevin's work at  
[www.millennium2000silver.com](http://www.millennium2000silver.com)

As a creative artist, James Fraher uses the medium of photography to document cultural aspects of people and places. He began photographing in Ireland in 1977, while living in County Sligo, and returns often to photograph with his unique sensitivity to the country of his ancestors, friends and relations. Whether documenting the disappearing skill of cutting turf by hand or an intimate portrait of an Irish fiddle player, Fraher's work evokes a passion for tradition.

James Fraher is the author of *The Blues is a Feeling: Voices and Visions of African-American Blues musicians*, Face to Face Books, 1998. In 1991, James Fraher was one of 82 photographers photographing for *A Day In The Life of Ireland*, a book by Collins Publishers, 1991. He is the photographer of *Down in Houston: Bayou City Blues*, written by Roger Wood, published by the University of Texas Press in 2003.

Photographs by James Fraher have been exhibited in museums and galleries in the United States, Ireland, France, Italy and Scotland. In addition to many private collections, his photographs and posters are in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution, The Chicago Blues Archive at the Harold Washington Library Center and at The University of Mississippi. In 1996 he was the recipient of a *Keeping the Blues Alive Award* presented by the Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN.

**James Fraher**  
Bogfire Inc.  
Doonflin Upper  
Skreen, County Sligo, Ireland  
Ireland: 071-917-6398 USA: 847-380-9122  
e-mail: [James@bogfire.com](mailto:James@bogfire.com)  
See more examples of James' work at [www.bogfire.com](http://www.bogfire.com)



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**Fine Silver exhibited:**

- L'Espace Paul Ricard  
Paris, France, 1999
- Ulster Museum, Belfast,  
Northern Ireland,  
1999/2000
- Slidell Cultural Center,  
Slidell, Louisiana, 2004