



90

Edward Delaney RHA (1930-2009)

RESURRECTION, c.1960-1961

copper; (unique)

103 by 45 by 12in. (262 by 114 by 30cm)

Provenance:

Commissioned for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital,
Drogheda

This 8½ ft long Christ figure, entitled Resurrection, is part of a major commission done by Edward Delaney for Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda, commissioned by the Medical Missionaries of Mary and specifically their pioneering superior, Mother Mary Martin, who wanted a modern artistic display for the new hospital. Delaney always gave great credit to the Catholic Church for its support for art, design and sculpture and for the artistic leeway that he was given.

For the Drogheda project, Delaney created a dome for the mortuary chapel, with 90 square feet of bronze reliefs, depicting the life of Christ as well as this figure. The work was completed in 1961 and is very fine representation of Delaney's early stark style, influenced by post war German Expressionist sculpture (Delaney studied sculpture in Germany from 1954 to 1958) as well the work of the Italian master Giacomo Manzù, who specialised in the virtually two dimensional paneled figure, similar to this.

In a June 1963 interview with the *Sunday Review* (an *Irish Times* title), Delaney spoke about the Drogheda project and described how he believed '...a spiritual figure to be an abstract form of harmony', and that 'the spiritual quality of such a figure should come from the way the artist shapes the material; moulds and forms'. However, he said he couldn't 'explain the figure' as he didn't think 'an artist should ever explain a piece of sculpture. It is simply a statement made in bronze, or another material. If anyone doesn't understand a statement by an artist, I don't think it could be explained to them.'

€8,000-€10,000 (£6,610-£8,260 approx.)