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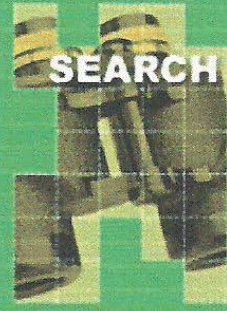
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Artist saw the light and changed her life

By [Peter McDermott](#)

April 29, 2009 Now that's she been close to death, Roisin Fitzpatrick no longer fears it. A near-fatal brain hemorrhage two years ago changed her life in other ways, too. Fitzpatrick once worked on development programs for bodies like the United Nations and the European Commission. Now she's devotes her life to her own distinctive art.

Fitzpatrick has quickly established herself with exhibitions of her work on both sides of the Atlantic. Her latest will show at the Ward-Nasse Gallery on Prince Street in Soho through the month of May.

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While preparing for the exhibition in New York recently, she recalled the day she fell ill at the Bray, Co. Wicklow.

"It was in the middle of the day. I got this horrendous pain in my head," she said. "It came out of nowhere."

Fitzpatrick was taken to a local ER and then transferred later in the day to Beaumont Hospital on Dublin's North side. Aware she was experiencing a serious threat to her health, she employed the meditative practices she'd learnt during an illness in her 20s. "I knew how to go to that calm place," she said. Her younger self, Fitzpatrick said, would have panicked.

She loves to dance and that was her motivation in wanting to prevent debilitating brain damage. In fact, she was told later her course of action probably prevented her death.

She experienced something beyond the usual meditation. "I connected with the most blissful energy," she said. "The senses were extremely heightened.

"It's hard to put into words," said Fitzpatrick, who was born in Dublin in 1969. Instead, she expresses it through art.

"It took me about a year to fully recover, but I knew I wanted to do something to share that experience," she recalled.

Fitzpatrick's style is a "fusion of light, crystal and silk," which

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aims to recreate the sense of "deep inner peace, serenity, harmony and soul connection" she'd felt.

She has U.S. copyright and EU registration for more than 400 designs. And she's won plaudits from people such as the American activist and spiritual author Marianne Williamson.

"Roisin Fitzpatrick's art has blessed my life, reminding me always of the light inherent in everything," Williamson has written.

Fitzpatrick doesn't talk about her near-death experience in explicitly religious terms, but she adheres to ideas that are common to all religious traditions. She has no doubt that there is life after death. People change form when they die, she believes. If they understood that, they'd concentrate on "living life rather than fearing death."

The artist said her experience has stayed with her. Life used to be at 40 watts. "Now it's at 250 watts," she said.

The exhibition at Ward-Nasse Gallery, at 178 Prince St. will be officially opened by Niall Burgess, the Irish consul general, from 6-10 p.m. on this Saturday, May 2, 2009. Members of the general public are welcome. For more details email info@roisinfitzpatrick.com or visit <http://www.roisinfitzpatrick.com>.

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