



## INIS MEÁIN AUGUST 1973 - AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS RODMELL

**Ruairí Ó Concheanainn islander :- On Getting the cows onto the ferry**  
***“There’s a keg of stout on the head of each cow and everyone who helps  
get the cow onto the boat shares the keg .”***

Chris Rodmell has been a professional film maker and photographer for nearly 40 years. He began his career with the BBC and has worked for most major UK broadcasters. His photographs have been published and exhibited worldwide. The never before exhibited colour photographs taken by Chris in 1973 on Inis Meáin will be exhibited on the the island at the Inis Meáin knitting company this summer from May 25th 2012 until 15th August 2012. The pictures have been described as “exceptional in terms of their attitude and realisation”; when the majority of documentary photographers were shooting black & white, Chris used colour - now 39 years later the colour gives a contemporary relevance to the photographs.

The photographs illustrate the work, life and culture of Inis Meáin in the 1970’s, providing a strong theme with powerful quiet emotion. The Island is the most isolated of the three Aran islands and was the last to move into the 20th century. The islands were in decline throughout the twentieth century, but the 1970s were arguably the most significant period of change for the islands, Inis Meáin included, because of a combination of development, Gaeltacht recognition, continuing emigration and population decline.. This was the last decade that Inis Meáin was still “isolated “ from cultural developments that were at the same time radically changing other parts of Ireland and Western Europe, isolated from mainstream print and electronic media. Rarely visited or understood by outsiders; strongly influenced in its traditions and attitudes by the unusually savage weather; characterized by near-subsistence, farming and fishing; adapted to the absence of luxuries that many parts of the Western world had enjoyed for decades - no electricity or running water, with a need to be self sufficient. This provides the strong theme of the photographs. Inis Meáin is one of the most important strongholds of traditional Irish culture which is currently enjoying a huge resurgence which underpins the current relevance of this exhibition.

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Technical Info: The original 6X6 transparencies were taken on Kodak Ektachrome professional film: