

# Basic Detail Report

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## **Bystander**

### **Date**

1977

### **Primary Maker**

Rita Donagh

### **Medium**

Oil and collage on canvas

### **Dimensions**

152 x 152 cm

### **Description**

Born in England into a family with strong Irish connections, Rita Donagh studied Fine Art at the University of Durham with Victor Pasmore and Richard Hamilton. Her early work reflects the influence of the American pop artist Andy Warhol, but from the 1970s onwards, she explored the impact of the Troubles in her work. *Bystander* is part of a body of work inspired by a photograph published in the *Sunday Times* in 1974. It depicted a victim of a Dublin car bombing whose body had been covered with newspapers by a newspaper seller. Donagh incorporated this poignant image into a number of paintings and drawings. The combination of pencil, oil paint and collage elements seen in this work is characteristic of Donagh's working method. Her work is distinctive for its combination of abstract and diagrammatic elements such as maps with figurative imagery.