



Annual Report

2008

stimulating **quality**
design *innovation*

VISION

That Irish craft is recognised and valued worldwide for its excellence and innovation in design and production.

MISSION

That the Crafts Council of Ireland is the main champion of the craft industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality, design, innovation and competitiveness.



Helena Malone
Jeweller

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Chairman's Report

For all of us 2008 was a year of unprecedented change and one which saw shock waves travel across the World economy and the Irish economy. We are still experiencing the impact of this economic turmoil and this is expected to continue for some time.

This change has been of such a scale that there is now a new emphasis on the need for creativity, innovation and ingenuity in finding solutions and in restoring our economy to a level of growth and stability. The Government's Plan *'Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal'* highlights the role of innovation and creativity in our future growth and the craft sector is key in delivering this ambition.

Of course, the craft industry plays a role in its own right in contributing to the national and local economies. While the craft sector did not grow significantly during the years of the Celtic Tiger, the recession has brought opportunities for the growth of craft as consumers seek out products which they perceive to be original and authentic. At Showcase 2008, buyers from 52 countries worldwide visited the show of which 4312 were home buyers and 1328 from overseas, resulting in some excellent orders being placed for craft product.

A major report for the European Commission in 2006 entitled *'Economy of Culture in Europe'* which counts crafts as part of the cultural sector shows how culture drives economic and social development, as well as innovation and cohesion. The cultural and creative sector's growth in terms of jobs out-performs the rest of the economy.

Cultural Tourism is estimated to be growing three times faster than other parts of the tourism sector and craft has a key role to play in that. The Crafts Council of Ireland anticipates that this interest in craft will continue. While some enterprises and companies will undoubtedly face particular challenges and unfortunately for some, closure, due to the current economic recession, we are seeing a renewed interest in craft amongst consumers and collectors.

We recognise that craft needs to play a greater role at primary, secondary and third level in order to bring new people into the industry and pave the way for a pipeline of craft enterprises for the future, and to develop a recognition and love of craft throughout our society. After all, craft is very much part of our heritage and what it means to be

Irish. To this end we have commissioned a country wide major study on the provision of craft education and training which will guide the direction of future policies. We plan to launch this study in 2009.

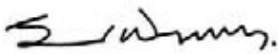
The Crafts Council of Ireland has introduced a number of new initiatives to support industry in 2008, with a particular emphasis on raising consumer awareness, promoting craft at a retail level and developing craft enterprises. Significant changes have taken place for all of us during 2008. The Crafts Council of Ireland recognises the challenges faced by its members and the industry and has worked to create a new awareness of craft and to grow the industry throughout the year. 2009 will see renewed challenges and plans are already in place to meet these and to support craftmakers. In 2011 the Crafts Council of Ireland will celebrate its 40th anniversary. Coinciding with this anniversary is the planned visit by the World Crafts Council to Ireland the same year. This will be a significant event for craft and for Ireland.

Much has happened in 2008 at all levels and 2009 will require innovation and creativity in meeting the challenges to come. The Crafts Council of Ireland will work closely with members, partner organizations and representative bodies in developing and growing the craft industry and in ensuring that as an industry it is best placed to deliver on and support the need nationally for ingenuity, creativity and knowledge in defining the new economic realities.

Úna Parsons, our Chief Executive, is now in her second year and has initiated significant changes in how the Crafts Council of Ireland delivers its mandate to support craft makers throughout the country. These changes will continue to be implemented during 2009.

I would like to thank An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, for her support to the Crafts Council of Ireland and the craft industry. I would also like to acknowledge, on behalf of the craft industry, the excellent support provided by the officials in Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment throughout the year.

Finally, I would also like to extend my thanks to my fellow Board members and to the staff of the Crafts Council of Ireland for the work completed during 2008. In particular I would like to thank retiring Board members Laura O'Hagan and David Shaw-Smith for their commitment and contribution to the Crafts Council of Ireland and welcome Tina Byrne and Alison Ospina who joined the Board during 2008.



Gerry Wycherley
Chairman



Mia Mullen
Silversmith & Jeweller



Tuarascáil an Chathaoirligh

Ba bhliain í 2008 dúinn go léir inar tharla a leithéid d'athrú nach bhfacthas riamh roimhe sin agus inar tharla rudaí a bhain geit as daoine trasna an gheilleagair domhanda agus geilleagar na hÉireann. Táimid fós faoi thiochar an suaite eacnamaíochta seo agus meastar go leanfaidh sé seo ar aghaidh go ceann roinnt ama.

Bhí an t-athrú seo chomh mór sin go bhfuil béim nua anois ar an ngá atá le cruthaitheacht, nuálaíocht agus seiftiúlacht agus muid ag teacht ar réitigh agus ag tabhairt ár ngeilleagar ar ais go leibhéal fáis agus inbhuanaitheachta. Leagann Plean an Rialtais *"Building Ireland's Smart Economy: A Framework for Sustainable Economic Renewal"* béim ar ról na nuálaíochta agus na cruthaitheachta inár bhfás sa todhchaí agus tá áit lárnach ag an earnáil cheardaíochta maidir leis an uaillmhian seo a bhaint amach.

Ar ndóigh, tá ról ag an tionscadal ceardaíochta féin chun cur leis na geilleagair náisiúnta agus áitiúla. Cé nár fhás an earnáil cheardaíochta go suntasach i rith blianta an Tíogair Cheiltigh, tá cúlú tar éis deiseanna a thabhairt d'fhás na ceardaíochta de réir mar a lorgaíonn tomhaltóirí táirgí, atá bunúil agus barántúil dar leo siúd. Ag Showcase 2008, thug ceannaitheoirí ó 52 tír ar fud an domhain cuairt ar an taispeántas agus ba cheannaitheoirí baile iad 4312 díobh agus tháinig 1328 díobh ón iasacht, agus mar thoradh air seo cuireadh isteach roinnt orduithe iontacha le haghaidh táirge ceardaíochta ag an taispeántas.

Léiríonn tuarascáil mhór don Choimisiún Eorpach i 2006, dar teideal *'Economy of Culture in Europe'*, a bhreathnaíonn ar cheardaíocht mar chuid den earnáil chultúrtha conas a thiomáineann cultúr forbairt eacnamaíoch agus shóisialta, mar aon le nuálaíocht agus comhtháthú. Tá feidhmíocht na hearnála cultúrtha agus cruthaitheachta níos fearr ó thaobh fáis poist de ná an chuid eile den gheilleagar.

Meastar go bhfuil Turasóireacht Chultúrtha ag fás trí huairé níos tapúla ná codanna eile den earnáil turasóireachta agus tá ról lárnach ag ceardaíocht sa mhéid sin. Réamhghabhann an Chomhairle Ceardaíochta go leanfaidh an tsuim seo ar aghaidh. Cé go mbeidh dúshlán áirithe os comhair roinnt fiontar agus cuideachtaí gan amhras agus ar mhí-ámharaí an tsaoil beidh ar chuid acu dúnadh, mar thoradh ar an gcúlú eacnamaíochta reatha, feicimid suim athnuaithe sa cheardaíocht i measc tomhaltóirí agus bailitheoirí araon.

Aithnímid nach mór do cheardaíocht ról níos mó a bheith aici ag bun, meán agus tríú leibhéal ar mhaithe le daoine nua a thabhairt isteach sa tionscal agus chun daoine a stiúradh ar an mbealach chuig píblíne d'fhiontar ceardaíochta don todhchaí, agus d'fhonn aitheantas agus grá do cheardaíocht a fhorbairt ar fud ár sochaí. I ndeireadh

na feide, is cuid shuntasach dár n-oidhreacht agus de bheith Éireannach í an cheardaíocht. Chun na críche seo táimid tar éis staidéar mór ar fud na tíre a choimisiúint ar sholáthar oideachais agus oiliúna ceardaíochta a bheidh mar threoir ar pholasaithe na todhchaí. Tá sé ar intinn againn an staidéar seo a sheoladh i 2009.

Tá líon áirithe tionscnamh tugtha isteach ag Comhairle Ceardaíochta na hÉireann chun tacú le tionscal i 2008, le béim ar leith ar fheasacht na dtomhaltóirí a ardú, ceardaíocht a chur chun cinn ag leibhéal miondíola agus fiontar ceardaíochta a fhorbairt. Tá athruithe suntasacha tar éis tarlú do gach duine againn i rith 2008. Aithníonn Comhairle Ceardaíochta na hÉireann na dúshlán os comhair a ball agus an tionscail agus tá obair déanta aici chun feasacht nua a chruthú ar cheardaíocht agus chun an tionscal a chur ag fás i gcaitheamh na bliana. Beidh dúshlán nua ann i 2009 agus tá pleananna curtha i bhfeidhm cheana féin chun déileáil leo seo agus chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhéantóirí ceardaíochta. I 2011 beidh Comhairle Ceardaíochta na hÉireann ag ceiliúradh a 40ú comóradh. Ag comhtharlú leis an gcomóradh seo beidh an chuairt phleanáilte ón gComhairle Ceardaíochta Domhanda ar Éire sa bhliain chéanna. Beidh sé seo ina imeacht suntasach do cheardaíocht agus d'Éire. Tá pleanáil don imeacht tosaithe cheana féin agus gluaisfidh sí ar aghaidh go tapa i gcaitheamh na bliana 2009.

Tharla a lán i 2008 ag gach leibhéal agus beidh gá le nuálaíocht agus cruthaitheacht i 2009 chun déileáil leis na dúshlán atá le teacht. Oibreoidh Comhairle Ceardaíochta na hÉireann as láimh a chéile le baill, eagraíochtaí comhpháirtí agus comhlachtaí ionadaíochta chun an tionscal ceardaíochta a fhorbairt agus a chur ag fás agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuil sé socraithe chomh maith agus is féidir mar thionscal chun tacú leis an ngá náisiúnta le seiftiúlacht, cruthaitheacht agus faisnéis agus staid nua an gheilleagair á shainmhíniú agus chun réiteach a sheachadadh in leith.

Tá Úna Parsons, ár bPríomhfheidhmeannach ina dara bhliain anois agus tá sí tar éis tús a chur le hathruithe suntasacha sa chaoi ina sheachadann Comhairle Ceardaíochta na hÉireann a sainordú chun tacaíocht a thabhairt do dhéantóirí ceardaíochta ar fud na tíre. Leanfar ar aghaidh ag cur na hathruithe seo i bhfeidhm i rith 2009.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, Aire Fiontair, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, as ucht na tacaíochta a thug sí do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus don tionscal ceardaíochta. Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt freisin, thar ceann an tionscail cheardaíochta, don tacaíocht iontach a thug na hoifigigh i bhFiontraíocht Éireann agus sa Roinn Fiontair, Trádála agus Fostaíochta i rith na bliana.

Faoi dheireadh, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil freisin le mo bhaill chomhalta ar an mBord agus le foireann Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann as ucht an obair a cuireadh i gcrích i rith 2008. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil go háirithe le baill an Bhoird atá ag dul ar scor Laura O'Hagan agus David Shaw-Smith as ucht a dtiomanais agus a ranníocaíochta do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus fáiltímh roimh Tina Byrne agus Alison Ospina a thosaigh leis an mBord i rith 2008.

Gearóid Ó Fuisirle

Gearóid Ó Fuisirle
Cathaoirleach



Liam Flynn
Woodturner



Chief Executive's Report

2008 was a busy year for the Crafts Council of Ireland and I am delighted to outline below some of the activity, programmes and events completed.

At the same time I would like to acknowledge the commitment and enthusiasm of the craft sector and their dedication to their skill and their enterprise in these difficult economic times. More than ever before there is a recognition nationally of the value of creativity and innovation. The dedication I have seen in craftmakers across the country and of those who run their own enterprises, will I believe, benefit Ireland's economy in the longrun.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the staff and the team in the Castle Yard Kilkenny and the Island Mill in Thomastown and the enormous contribution made by so many of our members through the Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS). The range of activities detailed below is the outcome of this work and involvement by many people throughout the country.

Membership

During the year our membership grew from 47 members at the end of 2007 to 55 at the end of 2008 and our register of craft enterprises grew by over 18% from 1441 to 1701. While these modest increases are welcome, it is recognised that more needs to be done to expand the register of members and clients. We will continue to work on this during 2009 through our programme activities and a series of regional networking events around the country.

Craft Education, Training and Development

Education Awareness, Skills Training and Enterprise Development are key activities for the Crafts Council of Ireland. They are critically important in developing and growing craft enterprises and businesses in the longterm. During 2008 a number of new and continuing activities were carried out in this area. This included commencing a strategic review of craft education and training, which will be launched in 2009. This review will assist in defining the strategic direction of education, training and development over coming years and in influencing government policy in this area.

2008 saw a continuation of the Crafts Council of Ireland's education and awareness programmes at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level. *Craft in the Classroom*, saw the development of a

number of new partnerships and paired 31 craftmakers with primary schools in Leitrim and Dublin; A series of childrens' workshops was organised as part of the 2008 Kilkenny Arts Festival; and talks were provided to students in relation to the festival exhibitions. In addition over 450 children visited Sculpture at the Parklands at Lough Boora, Co Offaly to see the work of renowned environmental artist, Patrick Dougherty. The event was a great success and helped further the awareness of the craft process and the importance of craft in education.

We also continued our activities at 2nd level. The FACT Pilot Project reached completion with an exhibition at the Local Authority Arts Office Gallery in Kilkenny and for the first time the Crafts Council of Ireland had a stand at the Higher Options Careers & Jobs Fair. In addition, as part of this Exhibition 'A Guide to Craft Education at 3rd Level' was developed and distributed to students at the Fair.

Continuing our awareness raising at 2nd level, the Crafts Council of Ireland also took an information stand at the Ploughing Championships for the first time. With over 200,000 people attending this provided us with an opportunity to generate significant public awareness of Irish craft and to encourage those considering craft as a career.

The 3rd level programme was also very active during the year with a number of Awards made. Textile Artist & Designer, Logan Mc Lain, National College of Art and Design, (M.A.) and Jeweller Eily O'Connell, National College of Art and Design, (Bdes) were winners of the all-island 3rd Level Awards. I am delighted to say that the standard of entry of these awards was so high that merit awards were also made to ceramicists, Nuala Ní Fhlathúin, GMIT, Galway and to David Withers, University of Ulster.

In cooperation with the Irish Arts Review we launched a new *Emerging Maker Award*. The overall winner in 2008 was Nuala O'Donovan a post-graduate of Ceramics at Cork Institute of Technology and all short-listed applicants were provided with the opportunity of exhibiting in the "Breaking Out" exhibition at the National Craft Gallery in the Autumn. The Crafts Council of Ireland has a long history of association with the RDS in Dublin and in 2008 we became the main partner of the RDS National Crafts Competition, which with

a prize fund of €31,050 has one of the largest prize funds for craft in Europe. The Crafts Council of Ireland Purchase Award was also made to selected participants. Finally, in 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland agreed to sponsor the Student Design Awards in conjunction with House and Home magazine.

As outlined earlier, the development and strengthening of craft enterprises is a critically important role for us. 2008 saw the conclusion of the two-year Ceramic Design and Skills Training Course with a highly successful exhibition in the National Craft Gallery at which over 90% of craft on display was sold. A new group of 12 students was selected for the 2008 - 2010 course, which commenced in September 2008. The Crafts Council of Ireland's Jewellery and Goldsmithing Design and Skills Training Course is also continuing with its current group of students graduating next year.

During 2008, we launched two new programmes *Getting your Product to Market* and *Making it in Business* for emerging craft businesses. In order to further develop this area the Crafts Council of Ireland set up an Enterprise Advisory Panel with the aim of providing value add programmes for members.

Continuous professional development is important in any profession and to this end the Crafts Council of Ireland continues to offer opportunities to craftmakers for further development. In 2008 an active programme of seminars, complimenting various exhibitions was organised and well attended. Sculpture in the Parklands also provided makers with an opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops with Patrick Dougherty.

Market Development

Hand in hand with the development of craft enterprises is the need to raise awareness of craft at a retail, at a buyer and at a collector level. 2008 saw a continuation of our work in this regard.

Our extensive programme of exhibitions at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny continued in 2008 with nine exhibitions including two from overseas and two which toured Ireland, the UK and USA. Throughout the year I am pleased to say our exhibitions received enthusiastic reviews from Irish and International collectors alike.

At home the year kicked off with Showcase 2008, where 162 craft enterprises exhibited at the show. Index 50 and the Source Aisle continued to highlight Irish craft and the standard and quality was much commented on by buyers.

A number of Awards were also made, including the new Crafts Council of Ireland Craftsmanship Award.

Our work at a retail level also gathered pace. In order to explore opportunities for craft products in garden centres, we set up a pilot retail presence at *Arboretum* in Carlow with a broad range of craft at different price points.

At a regional level the Crafts Council of Ireland worked with local groups of makers in Offaly and Westmeath along with their local LEADER companies, UCIT (Ulster Community Investment Trust) and Bord na Móna to develop a retail outlet, *CORE Crafted Design*. In June 2008 *CORE Crafted Design* was opened by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, with over 60 craftspeople from Offaly and Westmeath represented in the outlet. We also undertook a promotional campaign focusing on three outlets promoting craft: *CORE Crafted Design*, *Leitrim Design House* and *Louth Craftmark*.

We took part, for the first time in Bloom in the Park, Ireland's premier consumer show celebrating garden life with over 54,000 people visiting over the five days. This was a success in terms of public awareness and in enabling craftmakers to make contact with a number of garden designers.

Finally, the Dublin Retail Initiative *Craft for Christmas* was launched, aimed at encouraging consumers to buy Irish craft for Christmas. We identified 11 outlets displaying the work of over 64 craftspeople as part of the campaign.

On the international scene, *PORTFOLIO 2008* (a CCOL digital catalogue of 45 of Ireland's leading craftspeople) and *'Irish Craft 2008'* were launched at one of the world's biggest fairs, SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art), Chicago, USA attended by over 40,000 collectors. SOFA is a valuable platform to introduce Irish craft to America's most important galleries and as a result of the 2007 presence at SOFA a tour of US Collectors and tour organisers came to Ireland on a fact finding mission to develop future tours. The Tour, which was organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Fáilte Ireland in conjunction with Craft Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board was an important step in developing Ireland as a desirable 'arts destination' for American collectors of contemporary craft. Collector Tours is a niche growth area and it is hoped that similar tours will take place, providing a major boost to the Irish craft sector.

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued to work with Fáilte Ireland at a number of levels during the year. As part of this cooperation, a new dedicated Irish craft page on the Discover Ireland website was launched.

Public Affairs and Communications

Public Affairs and Communications is an important activity in ensuring the visibility of craft with consumers and in ensuring an awareness of where and how to access craft. In 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland commissioned Lansdowne Market Research to carry out a study on *Public Awareness and Perception of Irish Craft*. The CCol also conducted an online *Client Programme and Performance Survey 2008*. The CCol will be taking the results of these surveys on board in 2009.

In 2008, following a tender process, the Crafts Council of Ireland appointed a PR agency to accelerate public awareness and perception of Irish Craft. While this campaign is just beginning to roll out, we have already seen considerable coverage of craft across a number of national publications and television/radio stations.

The website is increasingly becoming an important vehicle for communicating with craftmakers, journalists and consumers. This year, therefore, we have further upgraded the site to include digital publications, an on-line version of Portfolio 2008 and digital images from all National Craft Gallery exhibitions. This will be continued further in 2009.

A number of events were also organised to highlight craft and its role in the national and local economy. This included a "Business After Hours" event with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, which highlighted the potential for Kilkenny to become the centre of craft, as well as the commencement of a series of regional networking events throughout the country, with the first events taking place in Kilkenny and Donegal.

We value very much the cooperation we have with Craft Northern Ireland and to this end Gerry Wycherley, Chairman and I spent three days at "August Craft Month" a month long event focusing on craft and organised by Craft Northern Ireland. This was very useful in developing further our ongoing relationship.

Summary

2008 has been a year of great activity across all our development strands while at the same time we have been working to expand the range of benefits to our members in order to focus on the supports required during the economic downturn. Our plans for 2009 are equally ambitious. With this in mind a new organisation structure was developed and implementation began in 2008 in order to realign our resources with our future goals. This included the recruitment of a number of key positions necessary to assist and grow craft enterprises throughout the country.

I am delighted to see how much our activity has generated interest, support and enthusiasm with supporting agencies, the retail sector, collectors and consumers, and how many of our clients and member organisations availed of our services during the year. I am confident that this will continue to be sustained in 2009.

A number of organisations have been key in supporting the Crafts Council of Ireland throughout the year. In particular I would like to thank our key funder and supporter, Enterprise Ireland, and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, as well as Fáilte Ireland, local LEADER, County and City Enterprise Boards and FÁS.

I would also like to thank the very committed team at the Crafts Council of Ireland for their many achievements during the year, welcome those that joined us during 2008 and express my gratitude to those who departed after years of dedicated service: Jane Huston, Cornelia McCarthy and Sharon Rollston. In addition, I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers amongst our members and associates who have contributed most generously in terms of their time and expertise. Finally I would like to thank the Chairman and Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland for their unwavering commitment and support as well as all the Committees who work tirelessly on our behalf. There are some significant challenges ahead for all of us in 2009, but I am confident that, with the expertise, enthusiasm and commitment of our staff and membership, we will successfully grow and enhance the Irish Craft Industry.



Úna Parsons
Chief Executive



Tuarascáil an Phríomhfheidhmeannaigh

Ba bhliain ghnóthach í 2008 do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus tá áthas orm breac-chuntas a thabhairt anseo thíos ar chuid de na gníomhaíochtaí, cláir agus imeachtaí a cuireadh i gcrích.

Ag an am céanna ba mhaith liom tiomantas agus díograis na hearnála ceardaíochta a aithint agus a ndílseacht i leith a gcuid scile agus fiontraíochta sa ré eacnamaíochta deacair seo. Níos mó ná riamh roimhe seo tá aitheantas ann go náisiúnta ar an luach ar chruthaitheacht agus nuálaíocht. Rachaidh an tiomantas atá feicthe agam i ndéantóirí ceardaíochta trasna na tíre agus iontu siúd a reáchtálan a gcuid fiontar féin chun tairbhe, creidim, ar gheilleagar na hÉireann san fhadtéarma.

Ba mhaith liom aitheantas a thabhairt freisin do thiomantas agus díograis na foirne i gClós an Chaisleáin Cill Chainnaigh agus Island Mill i mBaile Mhic Andáin agus don ranníocaíocht shuntasach a rinne líon mór dár mbaill trí na Gildeanna, Eagraíochtaí, Líonraí, agus Cumainn (GANS). Is é an réimse gníomhaíochtaí a dtugtar mionsonraí orthu thíos ná toradh na hoibre agus na rannpháirtíochta ó a lán daoine ar fud na tíre seo.

Ballraíocht

D'fhás ár mballraíocht ó 44 eagraíocht ag deireadh 2007 go 55 ag deireadh 2008 agus d'fhás ár gclár fiontair ceardaíochta le níos mó ná 18% ó 1,441 go 1701. Cé go bhfuil fáilte roimh na harduithe seo, tá sé aitheanta go gcaithfear níos mó a dhéanamh chun clár na mball agus na gcliant a fhorleathnú. Leanfaimid ar aghaidh ag obair air seo i rith 2009 tríd ár ngníomhaireachtaí cláir agus sraith d'imeachtaí líonraithe réigiúnacha timpeall na tíre.

Oideachas, Oilíúint agus Forbairt

Is iad Feasacht Oideachais, Oilíúint Scileanna agus Forbairt Fiontair na príomh-ghníomhaíochtaí do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann. Tá tábhacht ar leith ag baint leo maidir le fiontair cheardaíochta agus gnólachtaí a forbairt agus a chur ag fás san fhadtéarma. Le linn 2008 cuireadh roinnt gníomhaíochtaí nua agus leanúnacha i ngníomh sa réimse seo. Áiríodh leis seo tosú an athbhreithnithe straitéiseach ar oideachas agus oilíúint ceardaíochta, a seolfar i 2009. Tabharfaidh an t-athbhreithniú seo cúnaimh maidir le treocht straitéiseach oideachais, oiliúna agus forbartha thar na blianta atá le teacht agus maidir le tionchar a bheith aige ar bheartas rialtais sa réimse seo.

I 2008 leanadh ar aghaidh le cláir oideachais agus feasachta de chuid Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann ag an 1ú, 2ú agus 3ú leibhéal. Le *Ceardaíocht sa Seomra Ranga*, rinneadh líon áirithe comhpháirtíochtaí nua a forbairt agus cuireadh 31 déantóir ceardaíochta i gcomhar le

bunscoileanna i Liatroim agus Baile Átha Cliath: Eagraíodh sraith de cheardlanna do leanaí mar chuid d'Fhéile Ealaíona Chill Chainnigh 2008 agus cuireadh cainteanna ar fáil do dhaltáí an 2ú leibhéal ag baint le taispeántais na féile. Thairis sin thug níos mó ná 450 leanbh cuairt ar Dhealbhoireacht ag Fearann na Páirce ag Loch na Buaráí, Co Uíbh Fhailí chun saothar an ealaíontóra comhshaoil cáiliúil, Patrick Dougherty, a fheiceáil. Bhí an t-imeacht thar a bheith rathúil agus chabhraigh sé chun feasacht a ardú ar phróiseas na ceardaíochta agus tábhacht na ceardaíochta san oideachas.

Leanamar ar aghaidh freisin lenár ngníomhaíochtaí ag an 2ú Leibhéal. Cuireadh críoch leis an treoirthionscadal FACT le taispeántas ag Gailearaí Oifig Ealaíne an Údaráis Áitiúil i gCill Chainnigh agus don chéad uair bhí seastán ag Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann ag Aonach Gairmeacha & Post na Roghanna Níos Airde. Sa bhreis air sin, mar chuid den Taispeántas seo forbraíodh *'A Guide to Craft Education at 3rd Level'* agus dáileadh é ar mhic léinn ag an Aonach.

Ag leanúint ar aghaidh lenár n-ardú feasachta ag an dara leibhéal, thóg Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann seastán faisnéise ag an gComórtas Treabhdóireachta don chéad uair. Le níos mó ná 200,000 duine i láthair thug sé seo deis dúinn feasacht phoiblí suntasach ar cheardaíocht Éireannach a ghiniúint agus iad siúd ag smaoineamh ar cheardaíocht mar ghairm a spreagadh.

Bhí an clár 3ú leibhéal an-ghníomhach freisin i rith na bliana agus bronnadh líon áirithe Dámhachtainí. Bhí an tEalaíontóir & Dearthóir Teicstíle, Logan Mc Lain, Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne agus Deartha, (M.A.) agus an Seodóir Eily O'Connell, Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne agus Deartha, (Bdes) mar bhuaiteoirí sna Dámhachtainí uile-Oileáin 3ú Leibhéal. Tá áthas orm a rá go raibh an caighdeán iontrála ar na dámhachtainí seo chomh hard sin go mbronnadh dámhachtainí tuillteanais freisin ar cheirmeoirí, Nuala Ní Fhlathúin, GMIT, Gaillimh agus ar David Withers, Ollscoil Uladh.

I gcomhar le an Irish Arts Review sheolamar *Emerging Maker Award* nua. Ba í Nuala O'Donovan iar-chéimí Criadóireachta ag Insitiúid Teicneolaíochta Chorcaí an buaiteoir iomlán i 2008 agus tugadh an deis d'iarthóirí gearrliostaithe uile nithe a chur ar taispeántas sa taispeántas *"Breaking Out"* ag an nGailearaí Ceardaíochta Náisiúnta san Fhómhar.

Tá caidreamh idir Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus an RDS i mBaile Átha Cliath le fada an lá agus i 2008 glacadh linn mar phríomh-chomhpháirtí Chomórtas Ceardaíocht Náisiúnta an RDS, a bhfuil ciste duaise de €31,050 aige atá mar cheann de na cistí duaise is mó do cheardaíocht san Eoraip. Bronnadh an Dámhachtain Cheannaigh de chuid Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann freisin ar rannpháirtithe roghnaithe. Faoi dheireadh, i 2008 chomhaontaigh Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann chun urraíocht a thabhairt do Dhámhachtainí Dearaidh do Mhic Léinn i gcomhar leis an irisleabhar House agus Home.

Mar a tugadh breac-chuntas air níos luaithe, is ról rithábhachtach dúinn é forbairt agus treisiú na bhfiontar ceardaíochta. Cuireadh críoch leis an gCúrsa Oiliúna Dearaidh agus Scileanna Criadóireachta dhá bhliain i 2008 le taispeántas a bhí thar a bheith rathúil sa Ghailearaí Ceardaíochta Náisiúnta agus díoladh níos mó ná 90% den cheardaíocht a bhí ar taispeántas ann. Roghnaíodh grúpa nua de 12 mac léinn don chúrsa 2008 - 2010, ar cuireadh tús leis i Meán Fómhair 2008. Tá an Cúrsa Oiliúna Dearaidh agus Scileanna Seodra agus Órcheardaíochta ag leanúint ar aghaidh freisin lena ghrúpa reatha de mhic léinn ag grádú an bhliain seo chugainn.

Le linn 2008, sheolamar dhá chlár nua *Getting your Product to Market* agus *Making it in Business* le haghaidh gnólachtaí ceardaíochta atá ag teacht chun cinn. D'fhonn an réimse seo a fhorbairt níos mó bhunaigh Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann a Painéal Comhairleach Fiontar leis an aidhm aige chun cláir bhreis-luacha a sholáthar do bhaill.

Tá forbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach tábhachtach in aon ghairm agus chun na críche seo leanann Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann ar aghaidh ag tairiscint deiseanna do dhéantóirí ceardaíochta d'fhorbairt bhreise. I 2008 eagraíodh clár gníomhach de sheimineáir, ag comhlánú taispeántas éagsúla agus d'fhreastail slua mór air. Thug Dealbhóireacht ag Fearann na Páirce deis do dhéantóirí freisin chun páirt a ghlacadh i gceardlanna teagmhálacha le Patrick Dougherty.

Forbairt Mhargaidh

I dteannta le forbairt fiontair ceardaíochta tá an gá le feachtas ar cheardaíocht a ardú ag leibhéal miondíola, ceannaitheora agus bailitheora. Chonacthas leanúint dár gcuid oibre sa mhéid seo i 2008.

Leanadh ar aghaidh lenár gclár leathan de thaispeántais ag an nGailearaí Ceardaíochta Náisiúnta i gCill Chainnigh i 2008 le naoi dtaispeántas lena n-áirítear dhá cheann ón iasacht agus dhá cheann a rinne turais mórthimpeall na hÉireann, an Ríocht Aontaithe agus Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá. I rith na bliana ar fad, táim sásta a rá go ndearna bailitheoirí Éireannacha agus Idirnáisiúnta araon athbhreithniúcháin dhíograiseacha ar ár dtaispeántais.

Sa bhaile cuireadh tús leis an mbliain le Showcase 2008, agus chuir 162 fiontar ceardaíochta nithe ar taispeántas ag Showcase 2008. Lean Index 50 agus an Source Aisle orthu

de bhéim a leagan ar cheardaíocht Éireannach agus mhol ceannaitheoirí an caighdeán go hard. Bronnadh roinnt Dámhachtainí freisin, lena n-áirítear an Dámhachtain Cheardaíochta nua de Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann.

Tháinig fuadar faoinár gcuid oibre ag leibhéal miondíola freisin. D'fhonn breathnú ar dheiseanna le haghaidh táirgí ceardaíochta in ionaid gairdín, bhunaíomar láithreach miondíola phiólótach ag Crannlann i gCeatharlach le réimse leathan ceardaíochta ag pointí praghais difriúla.

Ag leibhéal réigiúnach d'oibrigh an Chomhairle Cheardaíochta le grúpaí áitiúla de dhéantóirí in Uíbh Fhailí agus san Iarmhí in éineacht lena gcuideachtaí LEADER áitiúla, UCIT (Iontaobhas Infheistíochta Pobail Uladh) agus Bord na Móna chun asraon miondíola a fhorbairt, *CORE Crafted Design*. I Meitheamh 2008 d'oscail An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, *CORE Crafted Design*, le níos mó ná 60 duine ceardaíochta ó Uíbh Fhailí agus an Iarmhí á n-ionadú san asraon. Thugamar faoi feachtas spreagthachta freisin le fócas ar thrí asraon ag cur na ceardaíochta chun cinn: *CORE Crafted Design*, *Leitrim Design House* agus *Louth Craftmark*.

Ghlacamar páirt, don chéad uair i Bloom in the Park, seó tomhaltóra tosaigh na hÉireann ag ceiliúradh saoil an ghairdín le níos mó ná 54,000 duine ag tabhairt cuairte thar na cúig lá. Bhí sé seo rathúil ó thaobh feachtas poiblí de agus ag cur ar chumas déantóirí ceardaíochta chun dul i dteagmháil le líon áirithe dearthóirí gairdín.

Faoi dheireadh, seoladh an Tionscnamh Miondíola Bhaile Átha Cliath *Craft for Christmas*, leis an aidhm aige chun tomhaltóirí a spreagadh chun ceardaíocht Éireannach a cheannach don Nollaig. D'áimsíomar 11 asraon ag cur an tsaothair de chuid níos mó ná 64 duine ceardaíochta ar taispeántas mar chuid den fheachtas.

Ar leibhéal idirnáisiúnta, seoladh *PORTFOLIO 2008* (catalóg dhigiteach CCol de 45 de dhaoine ceardaíochta na hÉireann) agus *Irish Craft 2008* ag ceann de na haonaigh is mó ar dhroim an domhain, SOFA, (Ábhair Dealbhaithe & Ealaín Fheidhmeach) Chicago, SAM ar fhreastal níos mó ná 40,000 bailitheoir air. Is meán luachmhar é SOFA chun ceardaíocht Éireannach a thabhairt anuas ar na gailearaithe is tábhachtaí i Meiriceá agus mar thoradh ar an láithreach ag SOFA i 2007 tháinig cuairt de Bhailitheoirí SA agus eagraitheoirí cuairte go hÉirinn ar mhisean um aimsiú fíricí chun cuairteanna na todhcháí a fhorbairt. Ba chéim tábhachtach í an Chuairt, a d'eagraigh Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus Fáilte Ireland i gcomhar le Craft Northern Ireland agus Bord Turasoireachta Thuaisceart Éireann, le hÉire a fhorbairt mar 'cheann scribe ealaíona' inmhianaithe do bhailitheoirí Meiriceánacha de cheardaíocht chomhaimseartha. Is réimse fáis nideoige iad Cuairteanna Bailitheoirí agus táthar ag súil go dtarlódh cuairteanna cosúil leis sin, ag treisiú na hearnála ceardaíochta Éireannaí go láidir.

Lean Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann uirthi ag obair as láimh a chéile le Fáilte Ireland ag roinnt mhaith leibhéal i rith na bliana. Mar chuid den chomhoibriú seo, seoladh leathanach ceardaíochta Éireannach tiomanta nua ar an suíomh gréasáin Discover Ireland.

Gnóthaí Poiblí agus Cumarsáidí

Is gníomhaíocht thábhachtach í Gnóthaí Poiblí agus Cumarsáidí agus infheictheacht ceardaíochta le tomhaltóirí á cinniú agus le feasacht a chinntiú ar cá háit agus conas rochtain a fháil uirthi. I 2008 rinne Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann coimisiún ar Lansdowne Market Research chun staidéar a chur i gcrích i leith Feasacht agus Dearcadh Poiblí ar Cheardaíocht na hÉireann. Sa bhreis ar sin bhain CCol amach Suirbhé Feidhmíochta agus Cláir na gCliaint 2008 ar-líne. Beidh Ccol ag glacadh le torthaí na suirbhéanna seo i gcaitheamh na bliana 2009.

I 2008, i ndiaidh próiseas tairisceana, cheap Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann gníomhaireacht caidrimh poiblí chun fuadar a chur faoi fheasacht agus dearcadh poiblí ar Cheardaíocht na hÉireann. Fad is atá an feachtas seo díreach ag tosú ar rolladh amach, tá clúdach suntasach feicthe againn ar cheardaíocht trasna líon áirithe d'fhoilseacháin agus de stáisiúin teilifíse/raidió.

Tá an suíomh gréasáin ag éirí níos tábhachtaí an t-am ar fad mar mheán chun dul i dteagmháil le déantóirí ceardaíochta, iriseoirí agus tomhaltóirí. I mbliana, mar sin, táimid tar éis an suíomh a nuashonrú níos faide chun foilseacháin dhigiteacha, leagan ar líne de Portfolio 2008 agus íomhánna digiteacha ó thaispeántais an Ghailearaí Ceardaíochta Náisiúnta a chur san áireamh. Leanfar ar aghaidh le tuilleadh de seo i 2009.

Eagraíodh roinnt imeachtaí freisin chun béim a chur ar cheardaíocht agus a ról sa gheilleagar náisiúnta agus áitiúil. Áiríodh leis seo imeacht "Ghnó Iar-ama" le Comhlachtas Lucht Tráchtála Chill Chainnigh, a chuir béim ar an bhféidearthacht go mbeadh Cill Chainnigh mar an lárionad ceardaíochta, mar aon le tús le sraith d'imeachtaí líonraithe réigiúnacha ar fud na tíre, leis na céad imeachtaí ar siúl i gCill Chainnigh agus i nDún na nGall.

Tá ardmheas againn ar an gcomhoibriú a bhfuil againn le Craft Northern Ireland agus chun na críche seo chaith mé fein agus Gerry Wycherley, Cathaoirleach, trí lá ag "Mí Cheardaíochta Lúnasa" imeacht míosa a bhí dírithe ar an gceardaíocht agus a d'eagraigh Craft Northern Ireland. Bhí sé seo an-úsáideach i bhforbairt ár ngaol leanúnach.

Achoimre

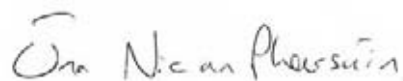
Tá a lán gníomhaíochta tar éis tarlú trasna ár sraitheanna forbartha go léir i 2008 fad is atáimid tar éis obair ag an am céanna chun an raon tairbhí dár mbaill a leathnú d'fhonn díriú ar na tacaíochtaí riachtanach i rith an chúlaithe eacnamaíochta. Tá ár bpleananna do 2009 díreach chomh

huailmhianach. Ag smaoineamh ar an méid seo forbraíodh struchtúr eagraíochtúil nua agus cuireadh é i bhfeidhm i 2008 d'fhonn ár n-acmhainní a ailiniú arís lenár spriocanna sa todhchaí. Áiríodh leis seo líon príomh-seasaimh a earcú a bhí riachtanach chun cúnaimh a thabhairt d'fhiontair cheardaíochta agus chun iad a chur ag fás ar fud na tíre.

Tá áthas an domhain orm a fheiceáil go bhfuil ár ngníomhaíocht tar éis an méid sin spéise, tacaíochta agus díograise a ghiniúint le gníomhaireachtaí tacaíochta, an earnáil mhiondíola, bailitheoirí agus tomhaltóirí, agus an méid dár gcliaint agus balleagraíochtaí a bhain tairbhe as ár gcuid seirbhísí i rith na bliana. Tá muinín agam go leanfar ar aghaidh leis an méid seo a choinneáil i 2009.

Tá líon áirithe eagraíochtaí tar éis glacadh le páirt príomha maidir le tacú le Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i gcaitheamh na bliana. Go háirithe ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil lenár bpríomh-mhaoinitheoir agus tacadóir, Fiontraíocht Éireann, agus an Roinn Fiontair, Trádála agus Fostaíochta, mar aon le Fáilte Ireland, LEADER áitiúil, Contae agus Boird Fiontair Cathrach agus FÁS.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an bhfoireann an-tiomanta atá ag Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann as ucht na nithe iomadúla a bhain siad amach, fáiltim roimh na daoine a thosaigh linn i rith 2008 agus mo bhuíochas leo siúd a d'imigh tar éis na blianta de sheirbhís díograiseach: Jane Huston, Cornelia McCarthy agus Sharon Rollston. Sa bhreis air sin, ba mhaith liom na deonaithe iomadúla i measc ár mball agus comhpháirtithe a bhí thar a bheith flaitiúil ag tabhairt a gcuid ama agus saineolais a mholadh. Ar deireadh ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil leis an gCathaoirleach agus Bord Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann as ucht a gcuid tacaíochta agus tiomantas díograiseach chomh maith leis na Coistí go léir a oibríonn thar cuimse ar ár son. Tá roinnt dúshlán suntasach os ár gcomhair go léir i 2009, ach táim muiníneach, le saineolas, díograis agus tiomantas ár bhfoirne agus ár mballraíochta, go n-éireoidh linn aghaidh a thabhairt orthu, iad a shárú agus ár dtionscal a chur ag fás go rathúil agus Tionscal Ceardaíochta na hÉireann a fheabhsú..



Úna Nic an Phearsúin
Príomhfheidhmeannach

An Overview of the Irish Crafts Industry 2008

Few of those working in the craft sector would have predicted Ireland's sudden descent into recession by September 2008, precipitated by the international credit crisis and exacerbated by the collapse of the property industry. The impact of the global recession was felt by both small and large craft-based enterprises. Larger companies, such as Waterford Crystal, were hard hit by the sudden change in the economic environment but many smaller Irish companies and single-person enterprises reported a quick reaction to the onset of recession and are of the view that keeping their operations small will help them to survive the slump.

The dramatic downturn inevitably affected the buying habits of the Irish consumer and the way that Irish craft is purchased. Gallery owners, retailers, and exhibition managers all pointed towards the need for craft producers to effectively market their product. Recession is not a time for passivity and, for a business to survive the downturn, visibility is paramount. In general the larger Irish giftware, jewellery and textile companies had an exceedingly difficult final quarter.

It seems that, despite the hard times, the clouds of recession may have a silver lining for craft. Trend forecasters predicted that shoppers would be more predisposed to buying product perceived as original, authentic or real. This prediction has been supported by early retail findings, with craft shops noting that shoppers were more likely to ask for goods that were designed and made in Ireland, and that also offered value for money. Kathleen Moran of *Kilkenny Design* found that shoppers were working to a fixed budget, looking for quality and value for money, and expressing a preference for Irish-made goods. This trend was also reflected in brisk trade at the *National Crafts Fair*, as Irish shoppers showed a renewed interest in Irish Christmas gifts. Other retailers also reported an increased customer interest in the story behind the product. This renewed interest brings with it a requirement for additional information for retail staff, who will need more knowledge to sell craft than has previously been required. The need to further develop skills in the giftware sector was underscored when the Cork Enterprise Boards announced details of the *Gift Business Development Programme*, one of several major initiatives undertaken to develop the craft and giftware sector in recent years. West Cork has a longstanding association with craft, and a film about the members of the West Cork Craft Guild - *An Inspired Gathering* - produced and directed by Robb Bradstock and partly narrated by Jeremy Irons, was premiered at the Kerry Film Festival in 2008.

Online sales may also become part of the craft retail pattern. Clare Grennan and Laura Caffrey opened the online retail store *Irish Design Shop* in 2008 to sell well designed Irish-made accessories and furniture. They have found that there are some advantages in starting a business in the middle of a recession. *'The boom years weren't really that great for Irish design,'* says Grennan. *'It was all about money and our identity got a bit lost along the way. Now people are thinking a bit more about what they buy. They're coming back to support small Irish businesses and not spending frivolously on cheaper items. And, because we're all under pressure, designers are coming together and supporting each other. There's a great buzz in Dublin at the moment. We've done a series of pop-up shops, and found that it's relatively easy to rent a city-centre space for a month,'* Grennan explains. The pair have recently signed the lease on a premises on Dublin's Bow Lane from which they will run their own workshops and a showroom, open by appointment. Many other craft and design graduates of Ireland's third level institutions reported difficulty in finding work relating to their qualification in 2008. Graduates reported that the collapse of the property industry has taken many design-related jobs with it, and those who have found work abroad say that they are unlikely to move home in the immediate future. However, some forms of craft, like knitting and patchwork, are more often undertaken for pleasure than as a livelihood, creating a value in craft that is not calculable in monetary terms. The mend-and-make-do trend shows a creative response to the reduction in economic circumstance, with an increase in the number of knitters shown by the surge in membership of *Stitch 'n' Bitch* clubs around the country.

It is said that the best time to start a business is in a recession and, despite a cloudy economic forecast, 2008 saw the launch of a number of new creative retail enterprises. Among them, *Gourmet Pots*, a gallery-shop of contemporary studio pottery opened in Schull, West Cork, offering a wide range of oven-to-tableware. *'There's a big difference between these pieces and some of those that you see in craft shops,'* the owner Mairead McAnallen explained. *'These are made by the person that designed them, or by small collaborative teams.'* It is possible that this enterprise marks the beginning of a shift of interest from the purely decorative to the functional. A similar change of emphasis was seen in exhibitions like *Gifted: An Exhibition of Applied Art* at the Wexford Arts Centre in December 2008. Moving away from the recent vogue for purely decorative craft pieces the curator, Mary Gallagher, chose a predominance of useable items. In recessionary times we may see a revival of the beautiful craft object that is also useful. The art-craft end of



Catherine Keenan
Glassmaker

the market has also received a boost with the first year in business of the new *Zozimus Gallery* on Dublin's Francis Street. Although the owner, Vincent Kelly, reported some difficulties in convincing customers of the art status of pieces made in media like ceramic, he believes that the value offered by ceramic art compared to painting will communicate itself to collectors looking for quality work at lower prices. One of the challenges facing the fine craft end of the market is lack of consumer confidence. Galleries reported that, during the latter months of the year, buyers expressed the intention to stay away from shows that might tempt them to spend money. Potential collectors still have money but are less likely to spend it in an uncertain economic climate.

Craft-based designers are also expressing every intention of surviving the downturn. *'It's a very serious situation for larger businesses,'* says the furniture and lighting designer Leo Scarff. *'But most of us are small operators. We're versatile and can change what we do without a big upheaval. If you've got flexibility there's a better chance that you can weather the storm.'* Despite the current economic climate, the *Irish Furniture Designers Network (IFDN)* put together a major exhibition for Irish Design Week in November 2008, showing a quality of work that is representative of the current high standards in Irish furniture. It is generally agreed that the sheer quality of much of the furniture now

made and designed in Ireland will be key to its survival. Jennifer Goff curator of furniture, musical and scientific instruments, at the National Museum of Ireland, feels that we have a number of exceptional designers in Ireland. *'I honestly believe that, in fifty years, Ireland is no longer going to be living on the edge of Europe in design terms. Bespoke woodwork is particularly strong at the moment. There's a lot of inventiveness out there.'* The Museum recently purchased a cabinet, Carraigeen, by John Lee under the Crafts Council of Ireland Joint Purchase scheme. NMI's most recent glass purchase was a pair of vessels by the Ulster glassmaker, Karl Harron selected by the curator of ceramics, glass and Asian collections, Audrey Whitty, who feels that the quality of contemporary Irish glass is very high, although it is still difficult to find in the shops. Sadly, the former Keeper of Art and Industry at the National Museum of Ireland, Máiréad Dunleavy, died on 18 March 2008. Ms Dunleavy was the first Director of the Hunt Museum and played a key role in the transfer of the Museum's collection to permanent premises in Limerick. Her role in the curation and interpretation of Irish craft has been unparalleled.

The RDS National Crafts Competition celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. The winner of the Award of Excellence 2008 was David McGrail for his concertina book *Intangible* in the Calligraphy & Lettering category. Second place overall went to Joe Hogan for his non-functional willow basket

Saved from the Saw. The RDS New Entrants Prize was awarded to Mary Neeson for her untitled bronze bowls in the Ironwork/Metalwork category, and the jeweller David McCaul won the RDS Graduate Prize for a pair of forged 18 carat gold rings. Irish jewellery seems to be in a spate of current development, and the winner of the Best New Product at *Showcase 2008* was an elaborate head-piece designed by Helen Fitzpatrick for Tipperary Crystal's jewellery range. *Interior Design 08* saw the launch of a range of Maine Jellet's historic rug designs, reproduced by Ceadogán Rugs, and the first Irish showing of *In Aer*, the suspended sculptural table designed by Joseph Walsh. Following the success of this piece, *Realisations*, Walsh's first major solo exhibition of sculptural furniture opened in New York in October 2008.

2008 was a year marked by the international success of several Irish makers. Karen Morgan was selected to take part in Ceramic Art London 2008, one of the world's leading events for Contemporary Ceramics, while Michael Moore was shortlisted for the 2008 Taiwan Ceramics Biennale hosted by Taipei County Yingge Ceramics Museum. Liam Flynn was one of 31 artists profiled in a new book on international turned wood art *New Masters of Woodturning*, and his totemic vessel forms featured in *Into the Woods*, an exhibition of international woodturners presented by Bamford and Sarah Myerscough Fine Art in London and Gloucester. The woodturner Roger Bennett was one of 175 leading international artists selected to exhibit in *Craft Boston* in March 2008. Several Irish makers, including the Ceramicist Sara Flynn, showed at *Origin: The London Craft Fair* in October, and the silversmith Séamus Gill participated in the prestigious International 15th Silver Triennial and was among the 30 silversmiths selected to exhibit at British Silver Week 2008.

The continued success of a number of Irish applied artists living and working abroad was shown by an exhibition of work at The Scottish Gallery, Edinburgh by the Irish silversmith Cólín Ó Dubhghaill, whose work also featured in an exhibition of Irish silversmithing at the NMI, Collins Barracks in September. Two Irish ceramicists living and working in Wales - Claire Curneen and Michael Flynn - exhibited at The International Ceramics Fair & Seminar, London, in June 2008, and the Northern Irish jewellery designer Grainne Morton, who is now based in Edinburgh, was one of six jewellers shortlisted for the £30,000 Jerwood Applied Arts Prize. A new Irish prize for non-utilitarian ceramic sculpture, the *Hallward Mill Cove Award*, was presented in September 2008 at the First Selected Ceramics Exhibition at the Hallward Gallery. The winner, Alison Kay,

makes coiled and hand built ceramic pieces with finishes achieved by the use of terra sigillata, a fine coating of clay that resembles a glaze. Along with the €1,500 prize Kay has been offered a solo exhibition at the Hallward in 2009/10. An additional award of €500 was presented by Ceramics Ireland to Lucy Meagher for a ceramic sculpture modelled in stoneware.

The *Habitat/House and Home Student Designer Award* was won in 2008 by Conor Trawinski, a student of furniture design and manufacture at (GMIT), Letterfrack for Multipooch, a small, dog-shaped seat that allows for seven different seating positions. Trawinski received €1,000 prize money and will take part in a customised year of support to help him develop his commercial skills as a designer. One of the runners-up, Colm Keller, designed a simple but witty mirror that stands against the wall at an angle that mimics the posture of a leaning person. Keller was the 2008 winner of the *IDI Frank Ryan Bursary*, which offers €5,000 to students wishing to pursue their studies or undertake a design project overseas. He will use his award to enable him to present his design work at exhibitions in Stockholm and Berlin. The winner of the *Bombay Sapphire Designer Glass Competition*, an annual competition giving students and recent graduates an opportunity to design their own martini glass, Claire McAlister, travelled to the global final at London Design Week in September. McAlister's elegant and original glass, *In Suspense*, is an elongated baseless cone, shaped a little like the vortex of a tornado.

In Northern Ireland, *Craft Month*, a celebration of craft, applied art and design in Northern Ireland, ran throughout August 2008 organised by Craft NI and supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. This year's main focus was on silversmithing - an area that is particularly strong in the province - with a *Silver Trail* of five silver exhibitions. Other popular events during Craft Month included *Craft Fest*, an interactive craft festival at The Castle Ward Estate, Strangford, County Down. Organised by Craftmark, the cross border partnership between County Down Craft and Design Collective and Louth Craftmark, *Craft Fest* offers an opportunity to see 'Craft in Action' through a series of demonstrations and workshops. The rebuilding of the Church of the Holy Family, Belfast, by Eamon Hedderman Architects was another Northern Irish highlight of 2008. The project shows a spectacular collaboration between architect and craftspeople with stained glass by George Walsh and a mosaic floor by Laura O'Hagan.

The Leitrim Design House, Louth Craftmark, and CORE Crafted Design, County Offaly, form part of a growing



Larry Kinsella, *Moth to a Flame*
Candlemaker

network of regional organisations promoting and retailing contemporary crafts. Many enterprise boards are looking at new initiatives to assist the craft sector in their areas. This year saw the launch of a business development programme for designers and makers, run at both Leitrim Design House and Louth Craftmark, and developed in association with the consultant Eddie Shanahan. The collections that evolved from the process were shown in two catwalk events - *The Art of Fashion at the Dock*, Carrick-on-Shannon, and *Craft meets the Catwalk* at the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, in November 2008. CORE Crafted Design, Offaly Westmeath's Regional Craft Outlet in Ballinahown was launched in the summer of 2008 and will host a website with an on-line sales facility, hold exhibitions, and offer classes and workshops. Celtic Roots, known for its functional and sculptural pieces made from Irish bogwood, has moved its premises to Ballinahown, which may well develop as the midland's craft centre.

Another major highlight in Offaly's craft year was the three-week residency of the environmental artist, Patrick Dougherty, who created a site-specific sculpture at *Sculpture in the Parklands*, Lough Boora. The artwork involved the help of local artists and craftspeople as well as community volunteers and the use of over 10 tonnes of willow, and was open to the public. The residency and masterclasses for craftspeople were supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Offaly County Council.

Our Board Members 2008

Ministerial Nominees

Gerry Wycherley **Chairman**

Paddy Hopkins

Jean Byrne

Jim Dunne

Anna Foy



Stevan Hartung
Furniture Maker

Elected Representatives

Emmet Kane

JP Donnelly

Peter Pollock

Loretta O'Brien

Anne Montgomery

Laura O'Hagan (to 12/06/08)

David Shaw-Smith (to 12/06/08)

Sarah Daly

Christine Charlton

Beth Moran

Tina Byrne (appointed 12/06/08)

Alison Ospina (appointed 12/06/08)



Terry Dunne
Textiles

Our Executive Team

Úna Parsons
Chief Executive Officer

Liz Byrne
Executive Assistant

Craft Education, Training and Development

Sharon Rollston (to January 2008)

Louise Allen (from June 2008)
Education and Awareness Manager

Gus Mabelson
Ceramics Skills Course Manager

Jane Huston (to June 2008)
Eimear Conyard (from June 2008)
Jewellery Course Manager

Emer Ferran
Enterprise Development Programme Manager

Mary Whelan
Enterprise Development Programme Administrator

Amanda Walsh
Education Administrator

Market Development

Nicola Doran
Retail Programme Manager

Emma McGrath
Retail Executive

Vincent O'Shea
Exhibitions Programme Manager

Brian Byrne
Exhibitions Programme Assistant

Public Affairs and Communications

Caroline O'Riordan
Communications and Marketing Manager

Mary Rhatigan/Emma Briscoe
Communications/Information Administrator (Job-share)

Operations

Mary Blanchfield
Finance Manager

Julie Jackman
Finance Administrator

Nuala McGrath
HR & Corporate Services Manager

Breda English
Joanne Lawlor (Maternity cover from June 2008)
Receptionist/Administrator

Our Members

An organisation of organisations

The Crafts Council of Ireland is a limited company. The CCol's shareholders are represented by member organisations and institutions, which share the CCol's aims and objectives and are involved in the promotion of contemporary and traditional craft.

Members are:

- Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association (founders) - 4
- Persons nominated by the Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland to represent unincorporated associations upon which the Board may wish to confer the benefit of membership (Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS)) - 41
- Corporate bodies (institutions, partners) - 10
- Individual persons whom the Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland shall from time to time decide to admit to membership

Organisational membership confers:

- The right at an AGM to question the Crafts Council of Ireland's Board on their presentation of CCol's activity and financial accounts of the previous year.
- The right to nominate any candidate to the Board of Directors.
- The right to vote candidates onto the Board of Directors.

Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS)

The GANS represent the backbone of the Crafts Council of Ireland's clients and craft in Ireland. During 2008 the representatives from each of the GANS were invited to attend 2 network and information sharing events in Kilkenny. One took place in March with 17 attendees and one in September with 23 attendees. One of the purposes of these meetings is to share best practice between member organisations. Feltmakers Ireland presented at the September meeting.

New member organisations

We are delighted to welcome 8 new organisations as members of the Crafts Council of Ireland during 2008. They are: the Glass Society of Ireland, Irish Chairmakers, Letter Carvers Guild Ireland, Kilkenny Craft Network, Limerick Ceramic Works, Louth Craftmark Designers Network, Offaly Crafty and the Waterford Designer Makers.

Network Support Scheme

The Crafts Council of Ireland granted €36,500 to various groups and networks in 2008 via the *CCol's Network Support Scheme*.



Jim Turner
Ceramicist

List of 55 Members as at 31st December 2008

GANS Members - 22 by Craft Discipline

- Ceramics Ireland
- Dunbrody Textile Academy
- Embroidery Artists
- Feltmakers Ireland
- Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers in Ireland (FJMI)
- Glass Society of Ireland (joined April 2008)
- Guild of Irish Lacemakers
- Handweavers Guild of Cork
- Institute of Designers in Ireland
- Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association
- Irish Basketmakers Association
- Irish Chairmakers (joined April 2008)
- Irish Guild of Embroiderers
- Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
- Irish Knitwear Exporters' Guild (IKEG)
- Irish Patchwork Society
- Irish Woodturners Guild
- Letter Carvers Guild Ireland (joined April 2008)
- Na Píobairí Uilleann
- Peannairí
- Quilters Guild of Ireland
- Society of Cork Potters
- Limerick Ceramic Works (joined April 2008)
- Louth Craftmark Designers Network (joined February 2008)
- Offaly Crafty (joined April 2008)
- Royal Dublin Society
- Spiddal Craft Centre
- The Fire Station Artist's Studio
- The Leitrim Design House
- Tower Design Group
- Waterford Designer Makers (joined December 2008)
- West Cork Arts Centre
- West Cork Craft & Design Guild
- West Kerry Crafts Guild
- Wecraftnet Ltd.

10 Corporate Members

- Association of CEO's of City & County Enterprise Boards
- Country Markets Limited
- Crawford College of Art and Design
- Crawford Municipal Art Gallery
- Irish Countrywomen's Association
- Limerick School of Art & Design
- National Committee for Science and Engineering Commemorative Plaques
- National College of Art & Design
- Network of Craft Development Officers
- University of Ulster

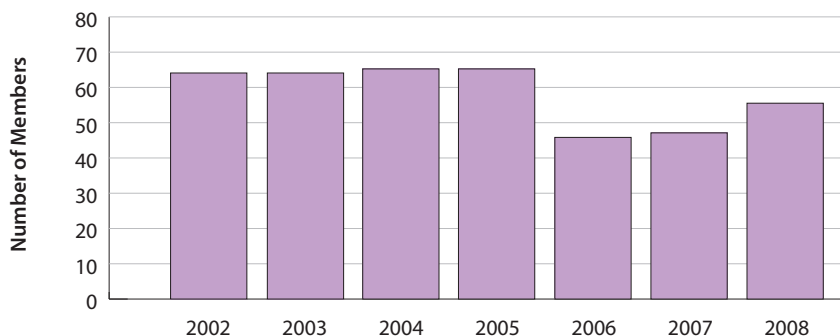
GANS Members - 19 by Region

- Cavan Monaghan Art & Craft Network
- Clare Association of Artists & Craftworkers
- Cork Textiles Network Group
- County Down Crafts (renamed Craft & Design Collective)
- Craftmark - Cross Border Network
- Kilkenny Craft Network (joined December 2008)

Founding Members

- Patsy Duignan
- Mary Mullin
- Blanaid Reddin
- Betty Searson

Number of Members* 2002 -2008



* Members = Member Organisations and Founding Members

Summary of Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009

The Crafts Council of Ireland's (CCol) role is to help sustain and further grow the Irish Crafts Industry - estimated in 2006 to be worth some €122 million* annually to the Irish economy. The Crafts Council of Ireland's Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is designed to build on its previous policies for the sector - Design, Marketing, Recognition, Education and Knowledge. These policies resulted in an increase in domestic consumer spend on craft in the region of €24m from 2003 to 2006* despite tough market conditions.

In recent years the national and global marketplace has changed dramatically at a pace never before experienced. Furthermore, turmoil in the World financial sector in 2008 has brought significant changes to the Irish and world economies, bringing with it, even greater challenges for the Irish craft sector. The aim of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is to continue using its knowledge of both the market and the consumer to equip the craft sector with the information and skills necessary to compete, adapt and prosper in these challenging and changing times.

The current plan is based on insights into consumer attitudes and behaviour revealed through research and recent changes and future trends in the social, economic and commercial environment. CCol's research has emphasised the need for the industry to be more responsive to changing patterns of consumption and in this Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009, the Crafts Council of Ireland places the consumer firmly at the centre of its thinking. Key issues have been identified as having the potential to yield greatest results for effort and resources expended and these are developed in the following areas.

Education, Training and Development

To create a greater awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level to help sustain the industry into the future. To work with craftspeople to facilitate the growth of their businesses in a way that fulfils their creative and commercial ambitions.

Market Development

To stimulate the creation of Irish craft that directly relates to consumer needs and preferences, in terms of product design, quality, and craftsmanship. To make craft products more accessible to consumers. This will mean exploring a variety of ways to bring craft to consumers.

Public Affairs and Communications

To promote Irish craft and design as an attractive and valuable alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland. Through a dedicated Public Relations programme the CCol aims over time to increase

public awareness of the Irish craft offering, its uniqueness, the story behind the work and maker and where to find Irish craft.

The main focus and driving force of the Crafts Council of Ireland's strategic objectives continues to be raising the turnover of the sector and the income of craftspeople. Understanding the consumers' needs, providing the consumer with access to craft that fulfils these needs and raising consumers' awareness of the range, diversity and quality of market-driven craft products are therefore all central to this plan.

Supporting and facilitating this activity are programmes designed to attract new talent to the industry, encourage school-leavers and graduates into the sector and facilitate the commercial development of new and emerging craft enterprises in partnership with County and City Enterprise Boards and other support agencies and educational bodies. New talent is the lifeblood of every sector and the Crafts Council of Ireland's aim is to ensure the sustainability of the craft industry in the long term by attracting, developing and supporting new and existing talent. Further details of the 2008 programmes are outlined in this report.

The Crafts Council of Ireland has invested substantially over the past number of years in understanding the consumer and the marketplace. From this research there is clear evidence that consumers are becoming more sophisticated and demand non-standardised, innovative and better-designed products. The international trend is moving away from mass produced, brand-led, 'designer' products towards the more creative, authentic and unique products that are design-led and quality-driven, but which offer consumers the opportunity to express their individuality, their personality and their sense of self. In addition, at this time of global recession there is evidence that consumers are becoming more selective in their purchasing habits and are looking to items that are less disposable and will last. Craft is ideally placed to meet consumers' desires to differentiate themselves and their homes - the aim of the plan is to ensure that craft enterprises are fully equipped to avail of this commercial opportunity.

Organisational Development

Underpinning the delivery of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Strategic Plan 2007-2009 is the requirement to have the correct resources in place. With this in mind, in 2008 CCol conducted a review of its current organisation structure and work processes in order to see how it can best support and develop the craft industry in Ireland, increase benefits to member organisations, deliver on its strategic objectives and work more efficiently and economically.

* CCol Industry Report 2005

As a result of this review the Crafts Council of Ireland began the process of recruiting a number of key positions in 2008 to enable the current strategic plan to be achieved on time and to budget. This in turn will improve knowledge management, increase internal competencies and reduce dependencies on external resources while at the same time delivering an enhanced service to members.

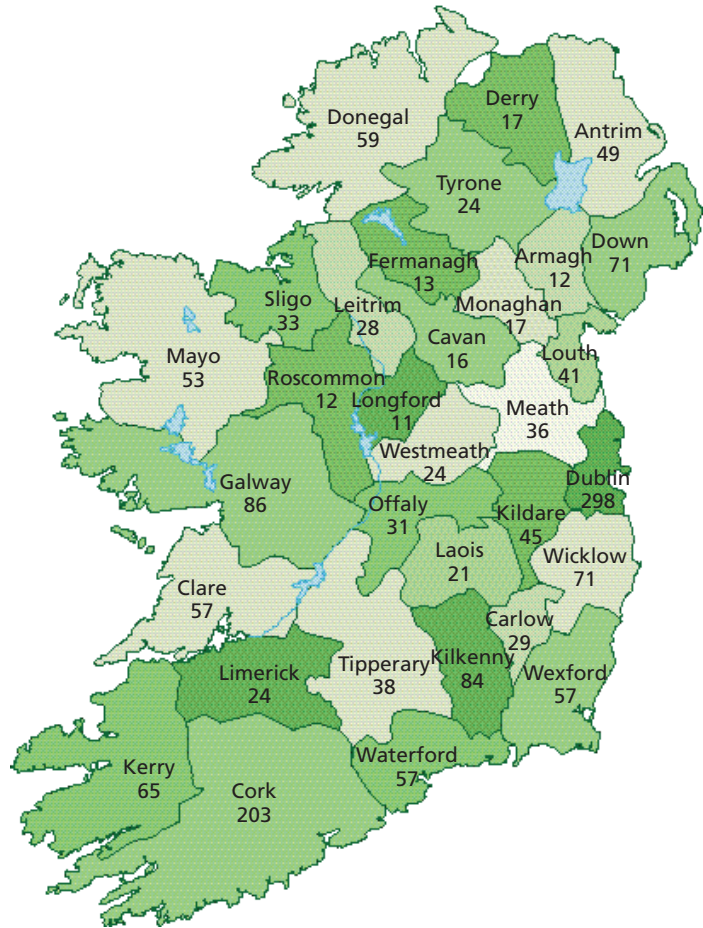
The Crafts Council of Ireland's long-term vision is to have a sustainable and vibrant Irish crafts Industry that will be recognised and celebrated worldwide. To work towards this vision, CCol believes that the recruitment of these key personnel will enable the organisation to work more efficiently and effectively, allowing it to improve customer service and better deliver key development services to registered craftmakers whilst simultaneously supporting and sustaining the many Craft Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies throughout Ireland and thus securing the future of Irish craft practice.



Glenn Lucas
Woodturner

Key Client Statistics

Breakdown of Register of Craft Enterprises by County as at 31st December 2008



Registration confers: Access to all CCoI services, programmes and activities.

Register by Discipline

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Basketry | 32 |
| Bookbinding | 5 |
| Bookmaking | 1 |
| Candlemaking | 18 |
| Ceramics | 324 |
| Fresco Painting | 2 |
| Furniture Making | 108 |
| Glass Making | 140 |
| Horology | 2 |
| Jewellery | 256 |
| Leather Working | 15 |
| Lettering | 4 |
| Metal Working | 65 |
| Mixed Media Construction | 43 |
| Musical Instrument Making | 16 |
| Paper Working | 49 |
| Paper Making | 7 |
| Printing | 29 |
| Silversmithing/Halloware | 14 |
| Soapmaking | 6 |
| Spinning | 2 |
| Stoneworking | 48 |
| Textile Making | 356 |
| Thatching | 3 |
| Toymaking | 7 |
| Woodworking | 149 |

Total 1701

Register by County

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Antrim | 49 |
| Armagh | 12 |
| Carlow | 29 |
| Cavan | 16 |
| Clare | 57 |
| Cork | 203 |
| Derry | 17 |
| Donegal | 59 |
| Down | 71 |
| Dublin | 298 |
| Fermanagh | 13 |
| Galway | 86 |
| Kerry | 65 |
| Kildare | 45 |
| Kilkenny | 84 |
| Laois | 21 |
| Leitrim | 28 |
| Limerick | 24 |
| Longford | 11 |
| Louth | 41 |
| Mayo | 53 |
| Meath | 36 |
| Monaghan | 17 |
| Offaly | 31 |
| Roscommon | 12 |
| Sligo | 33 |
| Tipperary | 38 |
| Tyrone | 24 |
| Waterford | 57 |
| Westmeath | 24 |
| Wexford | 57 |
| Wicklow | 71 |
| International | 19 |

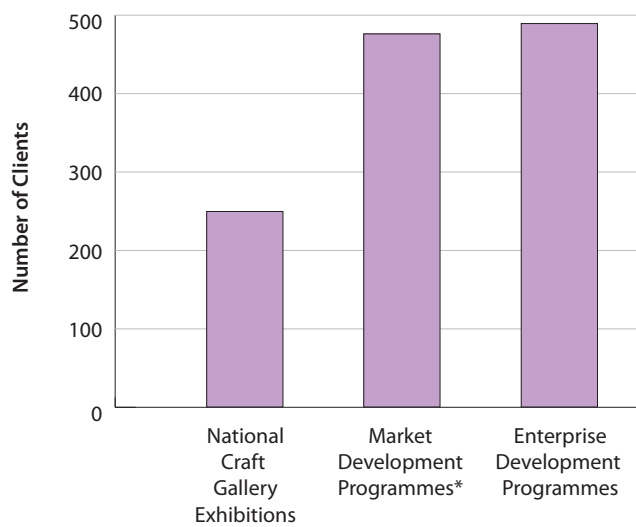
Total 1701

Key Client Statistics

Number of Registered Clients 2002 - 2008



Client Participation of CCoI Programmes 2008

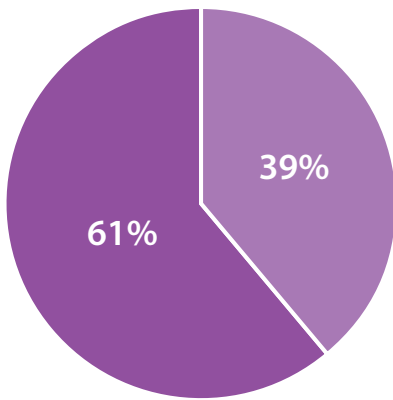


*Excludes National Craft Gallery Exhibitions

Crafts Council of Ireland's Programme and Performance Survey 2008

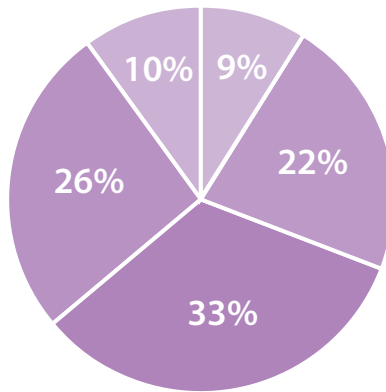
The annual *Programme and Performance Survey* was conducted through an online questionnaire in December 2008. Responses were received from 567 clients (31% of all registered clients), making the following statistics representative of the total Crafts Council of Ireland's client register. Survey results will be communicated to clients through CCol's newsletter 'Stopress' during 2009.

Gender



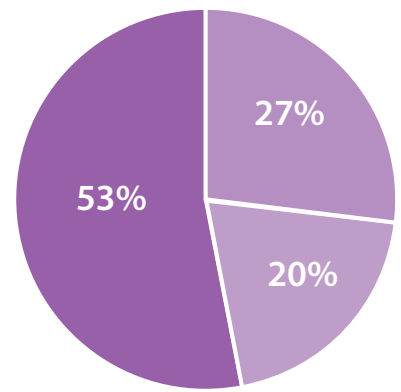
- Male
- Female

Age



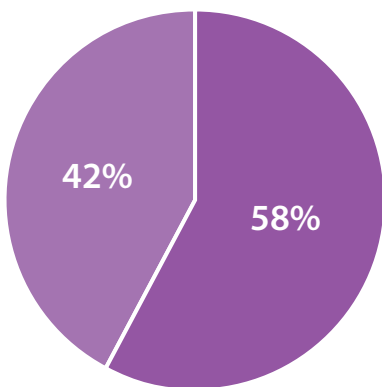
- Under 29
- 30 to 39
- 40 to 49
- 50 to 59
- 60 +

Location of Workplace



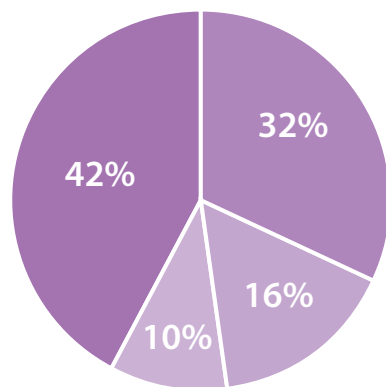
- Urban
- Semi-urban
- Rural

Main Market



- Mainstream
- Collector

Percentage of Annual Income from Craft



- 0 - 25%
- 26 - 50%
- 51 - 75%
- 76 - 100%



Programmes 2008

Craft Education, Training and Development

Key Objective

- To create a greater awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level in order to help sustain the industry into the future.
- To work with craftspeople to facilitate the growth of their businesses in a way that fulfils their creative and commercial ambitions.
- To commence a review of craft education and training in Ireland.

Education and Training Survey

In March 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland commissioned *Hibernian Consulting* to undertake a comprehensive review of craft education and training provision in Ireland. The survey which will launch in 2009, aims to map current provision in relation to craft; to identify future trends nationally and internationally; to make recommendations which will inform the Crafts Council of Ireland's strategic direction, particularly in the key areas of enterprise development and education (as per the *CCol's Strategic Plan 2007-2009*) and to act as an influencing tool for government in order to effect change.

In 2008, initial discussions were started to explore the possibilities of further developing training courses/schools for blacksmithing and uilleann pipe making in Ireland.

1. Craft Education and Awareness

Programme Activity 2008

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued its activities at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level. Details of these activities are outlined below.

FIRST LEVEL

Craft in the Classroom is a residency scheme designed specifically to inspire primary school children through the craft making process during their early developmental years.

In 2008, a number of changes were implemented in order to increase the number of residencies offered.

These include: partnership with education centres and the Professional Primary Development Service and restructuring of training processes and costs. The 2008/2009 programme

involved participation from 31 craftmakers who were paired with primary schools in Leitrim and Dublin.

SECOND LEVEL

FACT (Fine Art and Craft Together) was a Pilot Programme to develop a model of practice for artists and craft makers working with transition year students.

2008 saw the completion of the *FACT* Pilot initiative. An exhibition of the work produced was showcased at the Kilkenny Local Authority Arts Office Gallery No.72, Kilkenny, in January 2008.

Higher Options (Career and Jobs Fair) RDS, 2008

For the first year, the Crafts Council of Ireland took an education information stand at Ireland's most important educational fair for 2nd and 3rd level in Ireland, each year attracting over 25,000 students, teachers and career guidance counsellors. Now in its twenty third year, the conference is recognised as being the definitive and centralised forum of third level choices for Irish students and has the official sanction of the Irish Department of Education and Science.

In 2008, the Crafts Council of Ireland developed and disseminated an information leaflet targeted at the school leaver, entitled '*A Guide to Craft Education at 3rd Level*' to highlight and promote the various craft related career opportunities that are possible. The public feedback and response to the Crafts Council of Ireland's presence at this event was very positive and allowed for a 'one to one' mentoring approach with many of the students wishing to learn more about becoming a professional craftsman.

Ploughing Championships 2008

The Crafts Council of Ireland took an information stand at the Ploughing Championships, in Kilkenny, for the first time in 2008. Attracting over 200,000 people annually the Ploughing Championships offers great exposure, creating more general public awareness of the Irish craft offering.

National Craft Gallery (NCG)

Workshops for children as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival took place in the NCG in August 2008. A number of talks relating to the exhibitions programme were organised for 2nd level schools.



THIRD LEVEL

Review of Third Level Activity

In 2008 a comprehensive review of the Crafts Council of Ireland's activities for third level students was conducted. The purpose of the review was to accurately assess the needs of students and recent graduates with a view to a new series of awards and support schemes. The outcome of this review will result in significant changes being made to the Crafts Council of Ireland's supports and awards on offer in 2009.

3rd Level Awards

Now in its 3rd year, this all-island award scheme supports final year undergraduates and postgraduates who demonstrate the most potential to progress to craft-based practice beyond their current studies.

In 2008 the awards went to Textile Artist and Designer, Logan Mc Lain, National College of Art and Design, (M.A.), for his new enterprise "Slogan" producing T-shirts and one-off embroidery pieces and Jeweller Eily O'Connell, National College of Art and Design, (Bdes) for her unique cast jewellery combining stones and found objects. Overall, the high standard, quality and diversity of applications submitted this year made the decision making process difficult for the panel. As a result, they also requested that two additional 'merit awards' be given to ceramicists, Nuala Ní Fhlathúin, GMIT, Galway and to David Withers, University of Ulster.



CCol's 3rd Level Awards
Joint Winner 2008
Logan Mc Lain
Textile Artist and Designer

Crafts Council of Ireland/Irish Arts Review 'Emerging Maker Award'

The Crafts Council of Ireland launched a new *Emerging Maker Award* in 2008 in partnership with the Irish Arts Review and in conjunction with the 'Breaking Out' Exhibition in the National Craft Gallery. The overall winner in 2008 was Nuala O'Donovan a post-graduate of Ceramics at Cork Institute of Technology. The award is worth €5,000 and includes a two page article in the winter edition of the Irish Arts Review.

Short-listed applicants were provided with the opportunity of exhibiting in the 'Breaking Out' exhibition at the National Craft Gallery in Autumn 2008, which celebrated Ireland's future makers. In 2008, 68 applications were received and 31 makers exhibited.

RDS National Crafts Competition

...in partnership with the Crafts Council of Ireland

In 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland became the main partner of the RDS National Crafts Competition. The Crafts Council of Ireland has a long history of association with the RDS. The renewed partnership between the Crafts Council of Ireland and the RDS offers positive mutual benefits, synergies and possibilities that will benefit future generations of craftspeople.

The RDS National Crafts Competition is open to craft workers and designers in Ireland and Irish craft workers based abroad. At €31,050 it has one of the largest prize funds for craft in Europe and celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2008. A travelling exhibition programme, promoting the winners also forms part of the competition.

Crafts Council of Ireland Purchase Award

Winners of the different categories within the RDS National Crafts Competition are also eligible for the Crafts Council of Ireland Purchase Award. 2008 winners were:

Brigitta Varadi - Felting

Nigel G. Cheney - Contemporary Embroidery

Lyndsey McDougall - Contemporary Embroidery

House and Home / Crafts Council of Ireland 'Student Design Awards'

This award was established by *House and Home* magazine in 2004 to reward excellence in student design talent. Applications are accepted from all levels of students studying craft and design in Ireland. In 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland announced they would become the main sponsor of the 2009 *House and Home Awards*.

Linkages

Craft at Kilkenny Arts Festival

As part of the 2008 Kilkenny Arts Festival the Crafts Council of Ireland organised and facilitated a craft workshop for

children between the ages of 4 and 6 as part of the arts festival children's programme. Based on the idea of creating a 'mini-me', the workshop, which took place in the NCG was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and assisted the Crafts Council of Ireland in raising awareness of craft in education.

Kilkenny Arts Festival has long established itself as a leading event for the visual arts. The 2008 programme included numerous independent craft events happening throughout the city and county.

2008 marked the first year of the Crafts Council of Ireland's involvement as a sponsor of the festival, which will be developed further in 2009.

2. Skills Training

Programme Activity 2008

Ceramic Design and Skills Training Course

This is a two year Crafts Council of Ireland training course in ceramic technical and design skills based in Island Mill, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

12 students (7 Irish, 5 European) whose course started in 2006, successfully graduated in July 2008 with an exhibition filling both Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery spaces. The Show, which proved popular with the public and media saw 90% of the work on show being sold. Two of the students reached the finals of the 2008 *Habitat and House and Home Young Designer Awards* and exhibited their work with the other three finalists in Dublin whilst three were selected for the Craft Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery's emerging makers exhibition *Breaking Out* in October 2008.

In 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland's Ceramic Design and Skills Course students were commissioned by the Water Garden Café and Garden Centre, run by the local Camphill Community to make four innovative ceramic features for the café and gardens in Thomastown. The twelve students, under the supervision and instruction of course trainer Gus Mabelson, provided design solutions for the areas. Presentations, site visits and client feedback provided valuable experience for the students. The end result was very impressive with great public feedback.

A new group of 12 students was selected for the 2008 - 2010 course, which commenced in September 2008.



Kevin Gallagher, CCol's Ceramic Design & Skills Course Exhibition, 2008

The annual Ceramics Ireland International Festival, supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland via the Ceramics Ireland network funding, took place in September in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny and was again a great success for participating artists and visitors. The Crafts Council of Ireland's Ceramic Design and Skills School played host to this event and included a variety of demonstrations, lectures and exhibitions.

Crafts Council of Ireland's Jewellery and Goldsmithing Design and Skills Training Course

This is a two year Crafts Council of Ireland intensive training course in jewellery technical and design skills based at the Crafts Council of Ireland headquarters in Castleyard, Kilkenny. Current students commenced study in August 2007 and will graduate in July 2009.

Jane Huston, CCol's Jewellery and Design Skills trainer retired in June 2008 after 15 years, and Eimear Conyard was appointed the new Course Trainer.



CCol's 3rd Level Awards
Joint Winner 2008
Eily O'Connell
Jeweller

3. Enterprise Development

Programme Activity 2008

Seminars

During the year the Crafts Council of Ireland ran a number of enterprise focused seminars which complimented and coincided with key calendar events in particular with regard to the Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery exhibitions programme.

These included;

Ecology, Mythology, Technology (EMT) Conference, May 2008

This conference supported the Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery's EMT travelling exhibition in Farmleigh, Dublin, which showcased groundbreaking work of Irish craftmakers, designing select pieces for the interior in collaboration with leading architects. The exhibition and seminar were based on 'how we will live in the future' and featured a number of informative and international speakers.

The European Basket Making Seminar, May 2008

This seminar and workshop coincided with the opening of the European Baskets Exhibition in the Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery in May 2008. The seminar was considered to be a great success, attracting a large international audience and bringing the best of European basket makers together in Kilkenny to collaborate and engage in discussion and debate.



Delegates at the EMT Conference in Farmleigh, Dublin

USA Retailer /Collector Workshops, April 2008

These workshops consisted of a number of presentations and workshops during which craftmakers received advice on how to trade successfully in the USA. They also included 'one to one' mentoring discussions on the maker's individual work and recommendations on how to best sell to galleries and retail outlets in the USA.

Business Awareness for Emerging Makers

This was a tailored seminar held to complement *Breaking Out*, the emerging makers exhibition at the National Craft Gallery, comprising an A to Z business kit for craft enterprises, packed with useful information for new and emerging craft businesses.

Exposing Craft Curatorial Seminar

Curatorial skills are extremely important to craftspeople and exhibition organisers. This exhibition brought together key thinkers and originators in exhibitions and cultural development such as Simon Olding, Professor of Contemporary Crafts, University of Creative Arts England and Pat Cooke, School of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD. It also saw the launch of a practical digital guide to curating exhibitions entitled *Exposing Craft* by Hilary Morley, Curator, with a stimulating introduction by Mary Gallagher, Chair of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Exhibitions Advisory Panel. This publication was made available as a digital pdf on the Crafts Council of Ireland website.

Partnerships

A major focus in 2008 was to grow and develop partnerships to enable the delivery of enhanced enterprise services nationwide, tailored towards the needs of the Crafts Industry. Key development partners include Enterprise Ireland, the County & City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) and LEADER groups. A number of opportunities are currently being explored with the LEADER Programme as part of the Rural Development Plan.

Throughout 2008 meetings and advisory sessions were held in order to promote a joint understanding of the particular needs of craftspeople in enterprise training programmes.



Johann Bachinger (Germany)
Basketmaker
European Baskets Exhibition 2008

This resulted in the formation of joint training programmes such as *Getting your Product to Market* and *Making it in Business* for emerging craft businesses, both launched in 2008. To further develop this area and grow partnerships the Crafts Council of Ireland initiated its Enterprise Advisory Panel and worked closely with the CEBs to advance a new mentoring initiative.

Training

In 2008 consumer focused training programmes tailored to suit the business needs of craftspeople were run nationwide. These included;

Getting your Product to Market

A business and marketing training programme designed and run in conjunction with County & City Enterprise Boards to assist craft enterprises enhance the marketing opportunities of their products. In 2008, programmes were held in North Tipperary and one in County Waterford.

The Making it in Business Programme

Originally launched in the autumn of 2007 with the support of the County & City Enterprise Boards, the first *Making it in Business Programme* started in April 2008. Its objective was the nurturing and fast-tracking of craft enterprises to optimise the opportunities of the mainstream and collector markets. Currently the Programme is providing the 11 chosen participants with the vital skills to run their own craft enterprise; with assistance in setting up their business and with on-going mentoring to ensure their goals are met.

Meet the Mentor/Maker

This Programme provides craft businesses with professional development advice in production and business through 'one to one' mentoring sessions with key business people. These sessions targeted craft businesses seeking to access the Retail and Collectors Market.



Catherine Grout
CCol's Ceramic Design & Skills Course Exhibition, 2008

Market Development

Key Objective

- To stimulate the creation of Irish craft that directly relates to consumer needs and preferences, in terms of product design, quality, and craftsmanship.
- To make craft products more accessible to consumers.
- To encourage and promote retail outlets selling craft and to identify and target other channels to bring more volume and variety of craft to consumers.

1. Retail Market

Programme Activity 2008

Showcase 2008

Showcase, Ireland's largest gift and craft trade show, is held yearly in January in the RDS, Dublin. Showcase Ireland Ltd. is jointly owned by Gerry Murphy, Expo Events Ltd and the Crafts Council of Ireland.

Showcase is an important monitor of evolving trends, an essential platform for launching new products and the arena for emerging designers and small companies to introduce themselves to the wider community of buyers. In 2008, the Minister for Enterprise, Trade, and Employment, Micheál Martin T.D officially launched the show.

Key features at Showcase 2008 included:

- **Index 50**, a display of fifty unique, high-quality new products, providing a promotional platform for introducing new and innovative products.
- **SOURCE** represented the most cutting edge of Irish craft with exhibitors, undergoing a rigorous judging process before inclusion in the Crafts Council of Ireland designated area.
- **The Lifestyle Area and Trend Seminars** focused on key themes for 2008/9 which were developed by internationally renowned trend forecaster Michelle Lamb in conjunction with the Crafts Council of Ireland.
- **Crafts Council of Ireland's Craftsmanship Award**, a new award recognising the unique skills, talents and abilities that are utilised in the craft process and which make a craft piece truly outstanding. The 2008 winner was Jeweller Inga Reed.
- **The Enterprise Hall** offered a mix of first-time and emerging exhibitors showcasing their collections under the umbrella of their local Leader and Enterprise Boards.

In all 162 craft enterprises exhibited at Showcase 2008, from which 38 were selected for the juried SOURCE Aisle.

Other key highlights of Showcase 2008 included a *Corporate Buyers Day*, an exhibition of craft by 1st, 2nd and 3rd level students entitled *Craft-Ed*, and *Promoting Craft Alive*, a series of live craft demonstrations by the Irish Basket Makers Association and the Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

A three year plan for development and expansion of Showcase has been developed, with particular emphasis on enhancing the overall Irish craft offering.

Accessing Craft

During 2008 several pilot initiatives in the Retail Sector were launched. These initiatives focused on offering a wider variety of craft to consumers through new and existing retail outlets. Details of some of these initiatives follow.

Garden Centre Initiative

A pilot was developed with *Arboretum* Lifestyle and Garden Centre, Carlow entitled *Crafted Design*. Seven makers from six different craft disciplines were featured in a store within the *Arboretum's* giftware store. The *Crafted Design* area was launched by celebrity gardener Dermot O'Neill and several events were undertaken to raise the profile of craft amongst consumers, including talks and demonstrations.

In October 2008 following a review and analysis of the pilot project a decision was taken to change the store-within-a-store element of the *Crafted Design* promotion and to broaden the craft offering, providing consumers with a greater variety of price ranges.

Regional Craft Outlets

The objective of the regional outlets initiative was to work with groups of craftspeople and their local funders to facilitate the development of regional outlets to sell and promote craft in areas where craft is under-represented at retail level. The secondary role of these outlets was to help support and develop the commercial capabilities of the craftspeople they support.



Louth Craftmark at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda

In 2008 the Crafts Council of Ireland Board of Directors agreed to pilot two projects. *CORE Crafted Design* was developed by groups of makers from Offaly and Westmeath along with their local LEADER companies, UCIT (Ulster Community Investment Trust) and Bord na Móna. In June 2008 *CORE Crafted Design* was opened by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, with over 60 craftspeople from Offaly and Westmeath represented in the outlet.

The Crafts Council of Ireland also worked with two groups in Kerry - Blue Umbrella and Samhlaíocht - to develop similar outlets such as the one planned in Listowel, Co. Kerry. The launch of such retail outlets was dependent on the release

of National Rural Development Funding which did not come to fruition in 2008.

Regional Outlets Networking

A promotional campaign was undertaken which focused on the three outlets currently working together to promote craft in the regions - *CORE Crafted Design*, *Leitrim Design House* and *Louth Craftmark*. Consumer-focused photography was produced and PR activity undertaken including advertising at both a local and national level.

Dublin Retail Initiative

The objective of this initiative is to strengthen and promote the presence of craft in Dublin, creating a greater awareness amongst consumers of the Irish craft offer. A promotion entitled *Craft for Christmas* was undertaken in the key Christmas shopping period encouraging consumers to buy Irish craft and identifying the outlets in Dublin City Centre where they could find work of over 64 craftspeople.

Ten retailers in 11 outlets were highlighted in a brochure which was distributed in all 4 and 5 star hotels in the City Centre. An extensive PR campaign was also undertaken resulting in front page coverage in one of Ireland's leading national newspapers.

Bloom

Bloom, which takes place at the Phoenix Park on the June Bank Holiday weekend, is Ireland's premier consumer show celebrating garden life. The annual event is hosted by Bórd Bia and was launched in 2007. The Crafts Council of Ireland took part in Bloom 2008 for the first time in order to increase awareness of craft amongst consumers and to develop new sales channels. Over 54,000 consumers visited the show over a 5 day period.

The craft presence included; 20 retail stands representing over 50 makers, 28 outdoor exhibition pieces from 20 craftspeople, demonstrations of 11 craft disciplines by seven different groups/guilds, and a dedicated Crafts Council of Ireland information stand. In addition contact was made with over 30 garden designers to encourage commissioning of craft for future events.

New Product Development

The CCol's 50% scheme gives makers the opportunity to secure 50% of the cost of developing new, market-led product. In 2008, 8 craftspeople received awards to develop new products for specific market opportunities.

Trend Forecasting

Understanding consumer trends and providing craftspeople with key trend information is essential to the development of market-focused craft. The Crafts Council of Ireland further developed this area, gathering trend data and disseminating information through its newsletter '*Stopress*'; presenting it at four seminars and undertaking two product development workshops, with international forecaster, Michelle Lamb.

Irish Craft Directory for Retailers

During 2008 work began in developing a publication specifically for retailers to facilitate them in finding new craft suppliers. The purpose of the *Irish Craft Directory for Retailers* is to offer a quick and easy way for retailers to source craft. It provides a list of craftspeople that wholesale, sorted alphabetically, by county and by discipline.

Craft and Tourism

Launch of Discover Craft on Fáilte Ireland website

As part of the Crafts Council of Ireland's partnership with Fáilte Ireland, September 2008 saw the launch of a new dedicated Irish craft page on the Fáilte Ireland website. Visitors to the portal have easy access to contact details for quality retail outlets, open studios, craft trails and information on craftspeople working in Ireland.

This website is extensively promoted nationally as part of the annual Discover Ireland campaign which feeds all other information distribution channels including the network of tourist offices.

Go to: www.discoverireland.ie/crafts

Crafting New Tourism Relationships

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued to work towards building new tourism relationships and to seek opportunities for collaboration with Fáilte Ireland. In 2008 some of the most influential figures in the US Collectors market completed an intensive unique 'craft tour' of Ireland specially tailored to demonstrate the extraordinary quality of work being produced in this country.

This tour was an important step in developing Ireland as a desirable 'arts destination' for American collectors of contemporary craft. It is hoped that encouraging collectors of fine craft to travel to Ireland will provide a major boost both to the Irish craft sector and the economy as a whole. The 'craft tour' was organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Fáilte Ireland in conjunction with Craft Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Tourist Board.

2. Collector Market

Programme Activity 2008

Exhibitions Programme and the National Craft Gallery

The National Craft Gallery (NCG) was established by the Crafts Council of Ireland in December 2000, and presents dynamic and groundbreaking exhibitions from home and abroad. Its aim is to provide a stimulating and innovative programme of exhibitions of the best in Irish and international craftsmanship at the NCG and its touring programme.

2008 was the ninth year of operation with nine NCG exhibitions including two from overseas and two touring shows visiting Ireland, the UK and USA. The National Craft Gallery had approximately 70,000 visitors in 2008, with over 50,000 visiting the touring exhibitions.

A number of high quality publications/catalogues were produced to coincide with gallery exhibitions, including; *You'll Never Walk Alone*, *Portfolio at the Bluecoat*, *European Basket-making*, *Image of Longing*, *Breaking Out*, *Side by Side* and *the RDS Prizewinners*.

The Exhibitions Advisory Panel (formed in the latter part of 2007) conducted several meetings in 2008 to assist in the development of a policy which enables the staging of challenging exhibitions which promote creativity and quality within the craft sector, and provides a context within which exhibitions are planned, staged and reviewed.

2008 Exhibitions Programme

In 2008 the National Craft Gallery received 35 proposals in response to a call for submissions for upcoming exhibitions in the 2009 programme and beyond.

Features of the National Craft Gallery's 2008 Exhibitions Programme included:

You'll Never Walk Alone

The exhibition at the Bluecoat Gallery in Liverpool, UK celebrated the links between Ireland and the city during its European Capital of Culture celebrations. Twelve Irish and twelve UK makers participated in the exhibition. It featured on RTE's *Nationwide* Liverpool special.

European Basketmaking

The exhibition, curated by Mary Butcher and Joe Hogan, was a major survey show of some of Europe's most important basket-makers. Seventy-six basketmakers participated from over twenty countries, including eight from Ireland.

Image of Longing

The twenty-six makers participating in this exhibition created and presented a piece to a diverse range of

laureates, including social crusaders, cultural icons and artistic pioneers. The opening day, when the creators of the work met for the first time with their laureates, was a very special occasion animated by the exhibition curators, Karel Betman and Martha Haveman from Galerie Beeld & Aambeeld, in the Netherlands.

CCol's Ceramic Design and Skills Course

This exhibition featured the work of the twelve 2008 graduates from this two year course based in Thomastown, Kilkenny.

RDS National Crafts Competition 2008

The work of forty-eight prize winners from the RDS National Crafts Competition exhibited at the National Craft Gallery in October 2008, as part of its nationwide touring programme. This exhibition marked the first year of the Crafts Council of Ireland's involvement as key partner and sponsor.

Breaking Out

The National Craft Gallery opened its doors to a new generation of craftspeople in an exhibition curated by Ann Mulrooney. Thirty-one craftspeople participated in this exhibition, which showcased the work of emerging makers from all disciplines for the first time.

Regional Touring Exhibitions

CCol supported a range of regional touring exhibitions across the island of Ireland during 2008 including:

Ecology Mythology Technology

In this exhibition twenty-two Irish designer-makers collaborated with leading architects to address themes from the ancient past to the future. A seminar ran alongside the exhibition during its run at Farmleigh House, Dublin.

Side by Side

Curated by Brian Kennedy, twenty-five Irish makers participated in this exhibition which showcased high-end contemporary craft in ceramics, jewellery, wood, glass, textiles, baskets and furniture, sitting alongside one of Ireland's greatest collections of art and antiquities at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.



Michael Ray
Glassmaker

International Exhibitions and Events

During 2008, CCol actively supported the exhibition and promotion of Irish craft abroad by bringing the following to key events and locations.

Crafts Council of Ireland's PORTFOLIO Exhibition

A selection from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Portfolio panel was exhibited at the Bluecoat, Liverpool during European Capital of Culture celebrations and at SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art) 2008, Chicago, USA.

NCG @ SOFA, Chicago

For the third year running, the Crafts Council of Ireland, with support from Culture Ireland, took some of the finest examples of contemporary Irish craft to the 14th Annual International Exposition of Sculpture Objects & Functional Art (SOFA Chicago) - the key international event for contemporary craft and applied art. The Show is 'the' marketplace for the fine art community - galleries, curators and fine craft press and high-end collectors, with over 40,000 collectors attending.

23 leading designer-makers were selected for their mastery of skills and innovative design to showcase their work including ceramicists, jewellers, glass artists, woodturners, furniture designers, fiber artists and silversmiths. Exhibiting at SOFA each year, since 2005, has resulted in many of the Irish craftspeople gaining international representation in US galleries and in major American collections. In addition, the Irish work was well received by the press with further linkages being made with US galleries and collector groups.

Other Collector Activities

Irish Craft 2009

Irish Craft is a yearly Crafts Council of Ireland publication produced in partnership with the Irish Arts Review. As part of the 2008 winter edition of the Irish Arts Review a 63 page publication entitled 'Irish Craft 2008' was produced. This was distributed through the Irish Arts Review to 15,000 people interested in Irish visual culture and the applied arts in general and to collectors attending SOFA Chicago 2008.

This highly acclaimed publication has been made possible because of the Crafts Council of Ireland's PORTFOLIO initiative, which selects work by Irish designer-makers working to an International standard.

Crafts Council of Ireland's PORTFOLIO

Set up in 2005, PORTFOLIO is the Crafts Council of Ireland's digital catalogue of some of Ireland's leading craftspeople selected by an International panel of experts. To date Portfolio consists of 45 designer-makers, with no additional selection being carried out in 2008. However, a review of the programme was conducted in 2008 and it is aimed to change the format in 2009.

Originally a CD catalogue, in 2008 Portfolio was made available to view online from the Crafts Council of Ireland website.

Bursary Award

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Bursary Award is made on an annual basis in order to support and recognise the achievements of professional craftspeople in the creative development of their craft. It may be awarded to one or divided amongst a number of recipients. Applications are invited each year and are judged by a distinguished group of Irish and International panellists.

In 2008, after much consultation and close study, it was the decision of the panel that, whilst all applications had much to commend them, no single application showed an equal and consistent strength in both the proposal and portfolio of work. It was, therefore, decided to use the prize money to provide mentoring programmes for the Bursary applicants in an area of benefit to craft. This included research trips, technical training, studio visits and attendance at important international craft events.

During 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland will organise a number of seminars to discuss best practice in the craft industry and to provide continuing professional development opportunities for registered craft enterprises. Specific bursary briefing sessions will also be held prior to the 2009 application process.

Collections

The Crafts Council of Ireland is committed to working with key cultural partners to ensure the continued development of the *National Contemporary Collection of Irish Craft* as well as the on-going purchasing of Irish Craft by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

During 2008, the Joint Purchasing Schemes operated in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland and the Department of Foreign Affairs continued with pieces purchased for embassies and residences in Ottawa and Brussels.

In 2008 pieces by the following makers chosen for the National Museum of Ireland collection were; *Michael McCrory* (silversmithing), *Sasha Sykes* (furniture), *Nest Furniture*, *Michael Moore* (ceramics), *Mark Hanvey* (woodturning), *Emmet Kane* (woodturning).

Makers selected for the embassy collections were; *Rachel McKnight* (jewellery), *Sara Flynn* (ceramics), *Mandy Parslow* (ceramics), *Joe Hogan* (basket making), *Michael Ray* (glass), *Jane Jermyrn* (ceramics), *Roger Bennett* (wood), *Liam Flynn* (woodturning). These will be allocated to specific venues in 2009.

Álainn

Álainn, the Crafts Council of Ireland's membership scheme aimed at collectors and potential collectors of fine Irish craft, continued to operate during 2008. This scheme offers members regular communication on all things to do with fine craft, invitations to gallery openings, special events and discounts on Crafts Council of Ireland National Craft Gallery special exhibitions.

During 2008 a small selection of events was offered to members. It is planned that this will be expanded in 2009, with an additional focus on regional events and expansion of the membership base.



Derek Wilson
Ceramicist
Breaking Out Exhibition

Public Affairs and Communications

Key Objective

- To promote Irish craft and design as an attractive and valuable alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland.
- To increase public awareness of the Irish craft offering, its uniqueness, the story behind the work and maker, and where to find Irish craft.

Programme Activity 2008

Consumer Research and Branding

A key focus of the Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 is to raise public awareness of Irish craft. In 2007, a new proposition for the positioning of Irish craft was developed which explored perceptions of Irish craft, buyer behaviour and emerging trends. Throughout 2008, all Crafts Council of Ireland Programmes and PR activities began the process of implementing the new proposition and brand thinking, with particular emphasis being placed on re-branding Showcase 2009.

Key preparatory work and outputs in 2008 involved the development of a fresh approach to the design and branding of Showcase, including updating the existing logo, and brand guidelines, a re-branding and re-design of all literature and publications, a new Showcase website and video podcasts of makers at the show entitled 'Stories in the Making'.

In the final quarter of 2008, research was once again carried out on the public perception of Irish Craft. The results showed a number of interesting variants since the first extensive study was conducted in 2006 as well as highlighting areas for further attention in the future. Overall there was an increase of 3% (from 36% to 39%) in the number of people interested in buying and owning craft products. These figures highlight that awareness of Irish craft amongst consumers has improved but needs to increase considerably in the coming years.

Online Client Survey

The annual *Programme and Performance Survey* was conducted through an online questionnaire in December 2008. Responses were received from 567 clients (31% of all registered clients). All results and feedback were considered in the 2009 Programme Planning. Some key statistics from this survey are on page 26.

Public Relations/Promotions

In 2008, the Crafts Council of Ireland tendered for a dedicated year-round PR service contract to help accelerate increased public awareness and perception of Irish Craft.

In Autumn 2008 *Midas PR* secured the contract and began the process of building a focused PR strategy and campaign to roll out in 2009.

Whilst this is a long-term campaign, 2008 saw a significant increase from 2007 in media coverage, with results in top national television and press and leading Irish Interior style and art magazines such as *House and Home*, *Irish Arts Review*, *Select* and *The Irish Times Magazine*.

Key Crafts Council of Ireland projects receiving coverage during 2008 included *Showcase 2008*, *Craft for Christmas*, and the *CORE Crafted Design and Arboretum* retail initiatives.

In addition throughout 2008 excellent national and international press coverage was achieved for the Crafts Council of Ireland's Exhibition Programme, at the National Craft Gallery and *SOFA (Sculpture Objects & Functional Art Fair) 2008*, as well as from the number of craft networking and promotional events held throughout the country, such as Chamber of Commerce Networking Evening, Kilkenny and new Regional Craft Network evenings.

In 2008 - a total of 294 CCOL generated media hits were recorded, showing an increase of 49% from 2007.

The Crafts Council of Ireland also placed a number of corporate advertisements in key retail, educational and public sector publications in order to create awareness of core activities, programmes and services.

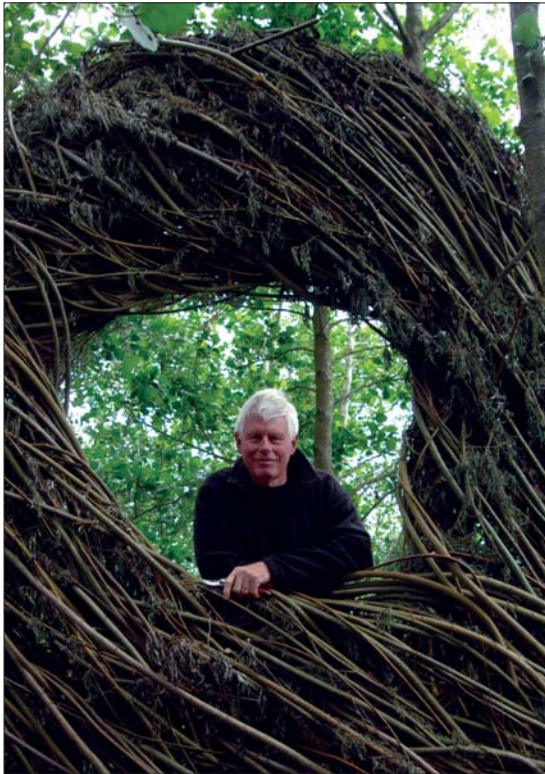
Joseph Walsh Solo Exhibition in New York

Following on from Joseph Walsh's first appearance at SOFA, Chicago with the Crafts Council of Ireland in 2006 where he achieved international success, in 2008 Joseph Walsh celebrated his first major solo exhibition of work at the Irish Historical Society in New York. Entitled 'Realisations', the exhibition represented the most significant collection of his work created over the last 10 years and was supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

LOUGH BOORA - Sculpture in the Parklands

This summer, for three weeks, internationally renowned environmental artist Patrick Dougherty gave masterclasses to craftspeople whilst creating a monumental work of art at Lough Boora, Co. Offaly as part of Sculpture in the Parklands. The sculpture consumed over 10 tonnes of willow saplings and involved the assistance of 8-10 helpers over a three week period. In collaboration with Sculpture in the Parklands, the Crafts Council of Ireland helped make the residency of this international artist possible and provided opportunities for its members and staff to work with this inspirational artist. The site was open to the public

and touring educational groups, bringing over 450 children to the site to experience the creativity and energy of this world-renowned artist. This event was a great success and through the extensive media interest and coverage it received, it helped further public awareness of the craft process and the importance of craft in education.



'Ruallie Buaille' by Patrick Dougherty, Sculpture in the Parklands

Photography and Images

The Crafts Council of Ireland each year produces a volume of professional images for a variety of purposes including press, publications and for archive purposes. All these images are held on the Crafts Council of Ireland's digital image library and on Image-Bank - an on-line digital resource of press quality images promoted to the press. Throughout 2008, CCol responded to a variety of national and international media requests.



Abbie Treacy aged 5 from Swords with Colm de Ris at the launch of Craft for Christmas, 2008

Website - www.ccoi.ie

The Crafts Council of Ireland's website www.ccoi.ie continues to be utilised as a key information tool for its clients, providing up to date information on upcoming opportunities, news and events, promoting current and up-coming National Craft Gallery exhibitions and hosting over 1000 individual web pages promoting its registered members. In addition the website holds a large amount of downloadable publications, various pdf's such as press releases, information documents and an image gallery.

In 2008, the Crafts Council of Ireland further enhanced the range of visual material available through the website. This included an on-line version of PORTFOLIO as well as a visual record of exhibitions in the National Craft Gallery.

The number of visitors to the website continued to show an upward trend year on year: from 167,319 visitors recorded for year end 2008 compared to 102,744 during 2007 (an increase of over 50%).

Publications

The Crafts Council of Ireland produced a number of high quality print and digital publications in 2008 to help promote awareness and appreciation of Irish Craft. In addition to the catalogues for the National Craft Gallery exhibitions the following corporate publications were produced:

Print Publications:

- Crafts Council of Ireland bi-monthly newsletter Stoppress - 6 issues
- Corporate Report 2007
- Irish Craft 2008: A Crafts Council of Ireland supplement with Irish Arts Review

Digital Publications:

- Annual Report 2007
- Crafts Council of Ireland's Portfolio online catalogue of makers 2008
- Crafts Council of Ireland Newsletter 'Stoppress' 2008
- Exposing Craft 2008: A Practical Guide to running Craft Exhibitions

Peter J. Brennan

An exciting new exhibition showcasing the life and work of artist potter Peter Brennan during his time in Kilkenny, from 1941 to 1962, was opened by Audrey Whitty (Curator of Ceramics, Glass and Asian Collections, National Museum of Ireland) in Rothe House, Kilkenny in September 2008. The Crafts Council of Ireland supported this event via Ceramics Ireland network funding to provide assistance to help publish a book that celebrates the life and work of this renowned craftsman.

E-Communications

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued to increase its communications with core client groups through tailored and targeted emails and e-bulletins on relevant industry information, opportunities and promotional news.

Information Opportunities and Events

The Crafts Council of Ireland had an information stand at a number of key events to increase public awareness and education of Irish craft in 2008. These included The National Crafts & Design Fair and The Interior & Design Fair, both of which took place at the RDS, Dublin.

Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce Event

The future of Kilkenny as the centre of craft in Ireland was outlined at the Chamber of Commerce *Business After Hours* Event hosted by the Crafts Council of Ireland in the National Craft Gallery. Further discussions have been held between the Crafts Council of Ireland, Kilkenny County Council and Enterprise Board as well as Fáilte Ireland. It is hoped that these discussions will lead to the formation of a craft forum to drive Kilkenny as a Craft City & County.

Regional Networking Events

In order to create opportunities for dialogue between the Crafts Council of Ireland and key stakeholders in the craft industry, the Crafts Council of Ireland commenced a series of Regional Networking Events in 2008. Craft enterprises, craft networks, retailers, gallery owners and all those involved in supporting the craft industry were invited to attend and share their views and ideas on craft in an open discussion. Valuable input and suggestions on ways in which the Crafts Council of Ireland could improve the services offered to members and clients were received. The first events in this series were hosted in Kilkenny and Donegal, and a schedule of events throughout the country was created for 2009.

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL LINKAGES

August Craft Month NI

Organised by Craft Northern Ireland, this month-long celebration of craft entitled *'August Craft Month'* opened on the 1st of August with a packed calendar of over 30 events taking place across Northern Ireland. August Craft Month had particular appeal for tourists and was supported by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board. Gerry Wycherley, Chairman and Úna Parsons, Chief Executive of the Crafts Council of Ireland spent a number of days at the event in order to explore further opportunities for cooperation.

World Crafts Council (WCC) - Europe

Masterworks: Best of European Crafts II

In March 2008, WCC in co-operation with the French National Entity, Ateliers d'Art de France (AAF) held an exhibition in Paris, France entitled *MASTERWORK: Best of European Contemporary Crafts II*. The exhibition showcased a combination of objects including those selected for the

'Mind and Matter' fair in Luxembourg in 2007, in which celebrated woodturner Liam Flynn was represented. In 2008, Crafts Council of Ireland Board Member, Laura O'Hagan attended and represented the Crafts Council of Ireland at this show.

WCC-Europe: Annual General Assembly 2008

The Annual General Assembly 2008 of WCC-Europe was held in Spain, in Talavera de la Reina (near Toledo) in October and was generously hosted and organised by the national entity of Spain, Oficio y Arte (Organización de los Artesanos de España). Irish delegates attending were Alison Ospina, Crafts Council of Ireland Board Member and an executive staff member.

During 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland will work closely with the WCC in the lead up to 2011 Year of Craft to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Crafts Council of Ireland, including a planned visit by the World Crafts Council to Ireland.



Liz Nilsson, Textiles

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION DIRECTORS' REPORT
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET
CASHFLOW STATEMENT NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FINANCIALS

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Gerry Wycherley (Chairperson)
Emmet Kane
John Paul Donnelly
Jean Byrne
Anne Montgomery
Loretta O'Brien
Peter Pollock
Sarah Daly
Christine Charlton
Jim Dunne
Anna Foy
Elizabeth Moran
Paddy Hopkins
Alison Ospina
Tina Byrne

Secretary and Registered Office

Úna Parsons
Crafts Council of Ireland
Castle Yard
Kilkenny

Auditors

Horwath Bastow Charleton
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Marine House
Clanwilliam Court
Dublin 2

Bankers

Allied Irish Banks plc
Bank Centre Branch
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4

Bank of Ireland
Parliament Street
Kilkenny

Allied Irish Bank
St Helens
1 Undershaft
London EC3A 8AB

Solicitors

Beauchamps Solicitors
2 Wellington Quay
Dublin 2

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION DIRECTORS' REPORT

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET

CASHFLOW STATEMENT NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DETAILED COST OF SALES AND OVERHEADS SCHEDULES

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors submit their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2008.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland). The directors are also required to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus and deficit of the company for the year. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently and to make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent. The directors confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 202 Companies Act, 1990, the company has employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and has maintained appropriate accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's office at Castle Yard, Kilkenny. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the company is to be the champion of the Craft Industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality, design, innovation and competitiveness.

The directors are satisfied with the company's performance during the year.

RESULTS, DIVIDENDS AND RETENTIONS

The results and appropriations are summarised as follows:

| | Year ended 31 December 2008 | Year ended 31 December 2007 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | € | € |
| Surplus for the year, after taxation | 71,420 | 397,177 |
| Balance at beginning of year | 507,135 | 109,958 |
| Balance at end of year | 578,555 | 507,135 |

STATE OF AFFAIRS AND EVENTS SINCE THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

In the opinion of the directors, the state of the company's affairs is satisfactory and there has been no material change since the balance sheet date.

TAXATION STATUS

The company is a close company within the meaning of Part 13, Taxes Consolidation Act 1997.

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION DIRECTORS' REPORT INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET CASHFLOW STATEMENT NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DETAILED COST OF SALES AND OVERHEADS SCHEDULES

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The present membership of the board is set out on page 42. On the 12 June 2008, David Shaw Smith and Laura O'Hagan resigned as directors of the company and Alison Ospina and Tina Byrne were appointed directors.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors do not retire by rotation.

AUDITORS

Horwath Bastow Charleton were appointed auditors by the directors to fill the casual vacancy and they have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

On behalf of the board

Gerry Wycherley
Paddy Hopkins

Directors



Jerpoint Glass

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

to the members of Crafts Council of Ireland Limited
(Limited by Guarantee)

We have audited the financial statements of Crafts Council of Ireland Limited on pages 47 - 54 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein. This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

As described on page 43 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2006. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company and whether the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to the members if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not given and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the directors' report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatement within it.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2008 and of its surplus for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account. In our opinion, the information given in the directors' report on pages 43 and 44 is consistent with the financial statements.

Horwath Bastow Charleton
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Marine House
Clanwilliam Court
Dublin 2

Date 22 May 2009

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies are applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements:

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and the Companies Acts 1963 to 2006. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

Income and Expenditure

Income and expenditure is recognised when earned or incurred and is dealt with in the financial statements of the year to which it relates.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is provided on leasehold improvements, office equipment and computers and equipment and machinery, so as to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful economic life on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

- Leasehold improvements - 16.67% Straight Line
- Office equipment and computers - 33.3% Straight Line
- Equipment and machinery - 20% Straight Line

Pensions

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year. The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the profit and loss account over the employees' service lives on the basis of a constant percentage of earnings.

Deferred Taxation

Full provision is made for deferred tax liabilities arising from timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and their recognition in a tax computation. Timing differences are temporary differences between surpluses as computed for taxation purposes and profits as stated in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised only where they are regarded as recoverable. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis.

Government Grants

Grants are credited to deferred revenue. Grants towards capital expenditure are released to the profit and loss account over the expected useful life of the assets. Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the profit and loss account as the related expenditure is incurred.



Inga Reed, Jeweller
Winner of the CCol's Craftmanship Award
Showcase 2008

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31 December 2008

| | Notes | 2008 € | 2007 € |
|--|-------|---------------|----------------|
| Income | | 3,936,517 | 4,061,471 |
| Expenditure | | (3,858,508) | (3,662,543) |
| Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation | 1 | 78,009 | 398,928 |
| Taxation | 3 | (6,589) | (1,750) |
| Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation | | 71,420 | 397,178 |

All of the income and results arise from continuing operations. The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the year which has been calculated on an historical cost basis. This represents the only movement on members funds.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 30th April 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Gerry Wycherley

Paddy Hopkins

Directors

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2008

| | Notes | 2008 € | 2007 € |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed Assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 4 | 233,814 | 222,299 |
| Financial Assets | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| | | <u>233,815</u> | <u>222,300</u> |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Debtors | 6 | 165,219 | 284,883 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 893,109 | 1,218,909 |
| | | <u>1,058,328</u> | <u>1,503,792</u> |
| Creditors (amounts falling due within one year) | 7 | (665,201) | (1,122,250) |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>393,127</u> | <u>381,542</u> |
| Deferred Income | 9 | (48,387) | (96,707) |
| Total Net Assets | | <u>578,555</u> | <u>507,135</u> |
| Accumulated Funds | | | |
| Income and expenditure account surplus | | 578,555 | 507,135 |
| Total Accumulated Funds | | <u>578,555</u> | <u>507,135</u> |

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 30th April 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Gerry Wycherley
 Paddy Hopkins

Directors

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

Year ended 31 December 2008

| | Notes | 2008 € | 2007 € |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Net cash inflow from operating activities | 10 | (235,481) | 302,368 |
| Taxation | | (7,022) | - |
| Capital expenditure and financial investment | 11.1 | (83,297) | (16,008) |
| | | (325,800) | 286,360 |
| Reconciliation of net cash flow to movements in net funds | | | |
| (Decrease)/Increase in cash for the year | 11.2 | (325,800) | 286,360 |
| Net funds at beginning of year | | 1,218,909 | 932,549 |
| Net funds at end of year | | 893,109 | 1,218,909 |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 31 December 2008

1. Operating Profit

Operating profit is stated after charging (crediting):

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | € | € |
| Directors remuneration | | |
| Fees as directors | 140,000 | 116,830 |
| Depreciation of tangible assets | 71,782 | 75,044 |
| Auditors' remuneration | 8,000 | 8,000 |
| | <u>8,000</u> | <u>8,000</u> |

2. Staff and Staff Costs

The average number of persons (including executive directors) employed during the financial period was 20 (2007: 17). These numbers include 2 pensioners.

The aggregate amounts paid to or on behalf of staff are as follows:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Wages and salaries | 753,266 | 653,470 |
| Social welfare costs | 75,928 | 65,182 |
| Other pension costs | 24,486 | 21,700 |
| | <u>853,680</u> | <u>740,352</u> |

3. Taxation (Credit)/Charge

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | € | € |
| Current taxation: | | |
| Corporation tax @ 12.5% | 6,589 | 1,750 |
| | <u>6,589</u> | <u>1,750</u> |

Reconciliation of current taxation charge:

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation | 78,009 | 398,928 |
| | <u>78,009</u> | <u>398,928</u> |
| Taxation at standard rate of 12.5% | 9,751 | 49,866 |
| Factors affecting charge: | | |
| Expenses not deductible for tax purposes | - | 2,134 |
| Depreciation in excess of capital allowances | 4,444 | 4,972 |
| Higher tax rate on passive income | 3,295 | 876 |
| Loss relief | (10,901) | (56,098) |
| | <u>6,589</u> | <u>1,750</u> |

4. Tangible Fixed Assets

| | Leasehold Improvements | Office equipment & computers | Equipment & machinery | Investment collection | Total |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | € | € | € | € | € |
| Cost | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2008 | 288,836 | 184,052 | 189,589 | 2,230 | 664,707 |
| Additions | 61,892 | 9,151 | 6,598 | 5,656 | 83,297 |
| At 31 December 2008 | 350,728 | 193,203 | 196,187 | 7,886 | 748,004 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 January 2008 | 141,136 | 166,245 | 135,027 | - | 442,408 |
| Charge for year | 46,320 | 7,172 | 18,290 | - | 71,782 |
| At 31 December 2008 | 187,456 | 173,417 | 153,317 | - | 514,190 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| At 31 December 2008 | 163,272 | 19,786 | 42,870 | 7,886 | 233,814 |
| At 31 December 2007 | 147,700 | 17,807 | 54,562 | 2,230 | 222,299 |

5. Financial Assets

| | € | € |
|--|---|---|
| Investment in associated undertaking at cost | 1 | 1 |

| Name & Registered Office | Nature of Business | % Shareholding | Relevant Share Capital |
|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Showcase Ireland Events Limited Castle Yard, Kilkenny | Trade Fair | 50% | €1.269738 ordinary shares |

Profit for the year ended 30 April 2008 €32,560. Net Assets at 30 April 2008 €36,893. Details of transactions and balances between Crafts Council of Ireland and Showcase Ireland Events Limited are set out in note 13 to the financial statements.

6. Debtors

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| | € | € |
| Trade debtors | 157,027 | 200,079 |
| Prepayments | 8,192 | 84,804 |
| | 165,219 | 284,883 |

7. Creditors (amounts falling due within one year)

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|---------|-----------|
| | € | € |
| Trade creditors and accruals | 370,633 | 284,751 |
| Corporation tax | 1,318 | 1,750 |
| Payments received on account | 100,000 | 200,000 |
| Amounts owed to connected companies (Note 13) | - | 454,867 |
| Payroll taxes | 19,816 | 18,169 |
| Value added tax | 11,896 | 27,020 |
| Pension and union dues | 111,428 | 87,373 |
| Deferred income - unamortised grants (Note 9) | 48,320 | 48,320 |
| Other creditors | 1,790 | - |
| | 665,201 | 1,122,250 |

8. Income and Expenditure Account

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| | € | € |
| Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year | 507,135 | 109,958 |
| Surplus for the year | 71,420 | 397,177 |
| Accumulated surplus at end of year | <u>578,555</u> | <u>507,135</u> |

9. Deferred Income

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | € | € |
| At 1 January 2008 | 96,707 | 145,027 |
| Released in year | <u>(48,320)</u> | <u>(48,320)</u> |
| At 31 December 2008 | <u>48,387</u> | <u>96,707</u> |

Grants are credited to deferred revenue. Grants towards capital expenditure for the Jewellery School relocation in 2005 are released to the profit and loss account over the expected useful life of the assets. Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the profit and loss account as the related expenditure is incurred.

10. Cashflow Statement

Reconciliation of Operating Profit to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| | € | € |
| Surplus on ordinary activities before interest and taxation | 78,009 | 398,927 |
| Depreciation | 71,782 | 75,040 |
| Decrease in debtors | 119,664 | 50,231 |
| (Decrease) in creditors | (456,616) | (173,510) |
| Amortisation of grants | <u>(48,320)</u> | <u>(48,320)</u> |
| Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities | <u>(235,481)</u> | <u>302,368</u> |

11. Analysis of Cash Flows for Headings Netted in the Cash Flow Statement

11.1 Capital Expenditure and Financial Investment

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | € | € |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | <u>(83,297)</u> | <u>(16,008)</u> |

11.2 Analysis of Changes in Net Funds

| | 2007 | Cash Flows | Non-cash Movements | 2008 |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 1,218,909 | (325,800) | - | <u>893,109</u> |

12. Capital Commitments

There was capital expenditure commitments of €220,000 relating to refurbishment and upgrade of offices approved by the directors at balance sheet date.

13. Related Party Transactions

During the year ended 31 December 2008, Crafts Council of Ireland Limited received income of €332,358 (2007: €309,487) from Showcase Ireland Events Limited, an associated company.

An advance payment of €761,843 given by Enterprise Ireland during 1998 and 1999 as an interest free loan to the Crafts Council of Ireland was paid back when European funds were received. €454,867 was received from Europe and this was paid in full in 2008 to Enterprise Ireland. Due to the shortfall from the European Social Fund the balance was written off by Enterprise Ireland.



Caroline Doran
Ceramicist

DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION DIRECTORS' REPORT
 INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES
 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT BALANCE SHEET
 CASHFLOW STATEMENT NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DETAILED COST OF SALES AND OVERHEADS SCHEDULES

DETAILED COST OF SALES AND OVERHEADS SCHEDULES

Year ended 31st December 2008

(not covered by the report of the auditors)

| | 2008 | 2007 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | € | € |
| INCOME | | |
| Enterprise Ireland | 3,450,000 | 3,250,000 |
| Write off Enterprise Ireland advance | - | 306,976 |
| Operations and Registrar | | |
| Sundry revenue | 37,885 | 10,131 |
| Council member subscriptions | 6,032 | 5,712 |
| Education, Training and Development | | |
| Short courses and consultancy | 15,480 | 3,711 |
| Craft industry contributions | 18,389 | 4,372 |
| Market Development | | |
| Programmes and gallery exhibitions | 46,275 | 53,649 |
| Showcase trade fair income | 332,358 | 309,487 |
| Atlantic Interreg IIB | 10,098 | 31,406 |
| Culture Ireland funding | 20,000 | 85,000 |
| Arts Council Northern Ireland | - | 1,027 |
| | 3,936,517 | 4,061,471 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Operations and Registrar | | |
| Administration, staff, consultancy and professional services | 1,973,184 | 1,369,911 |
| Corporate | 48,869 | 35,421 |
| IT costs | 90,952 | 88,842 |
| Membership and registration | 6,311 | 5,043 |
| Education, Training and Development | | |
| Education and awareness | 73,497 | 129,800 |
| Skills training | 270,081 | 389,518 |
| Enterprise development programme | 155,193 | 88,388 |
| Market Development | | |
| National exhibition programme | 417,292 | 515,213 |
| Collector programme | 298,528 | 444,746 |
| Retail programme | 389,944 | 410,127 |
| Public Affairs and Communications | | |
| Marketing and communications | 134,657 | 185,534 |
| | 3,858,508 | 3,662,543 |
| Surplus for the year | 78,009 | 398,928 |



APPENDICES

HISTORY OF THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND
LIST OF COMMITTEE/TASKFORCE MEMBERS
MEMBERS REPORTS



Nicola Brown
Feltmaker
Breaking Out Exhibition

1. History of The Crafts Council of Ireland

The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol) is the national design and economic development organisation for the craft industry in Ireland. Its activities are funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment via Enterprise Ireland.

The Crafts Council of Ireland was founded in 1971 following a visit by the World Crafts Council (WCC) the previous year. Bringing the WCC Conference to Ireland was organised by the Irish Society for Design and Craftwork, Dr Muriel Gahan, the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) and Blanaid Reddin among others. It was an event which inspired many and which resulted in the formation of the Crafts Council of Ireland as a voluntary body under the chairmanship of Frank Sutton, with a committee of honorary officials. The RDS provided office facilities and met all secretarial expenses. Subscriptions were raised by members.

In 1976 CCol became a Limited Company. Funding was received from the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Justin Keating, and from the Industrial Development Authority and it employed a staff of two at Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge. Its brief was to work for the improvement of standards in craft and the welfare of craftspeople and to act as advisors to the Government in matters concerning crafts. In 1977, Showcase began as the National Crafts Trade Fair with 34 exhibitors.

From 1973 to 1983, a Management Committee of fifteen people was elected by ballot at the CCol's Annual General Meeting to devise policy and oversee its implementation by the Secretariat. In 1983, however, the Articles of Association were amended to allow the Minister for Industry and Commerce to nominate five members of the Management Committee, while the remaining ten members continued to be elected by CCol members. Elections are held annually, when the three longest serving elected members retire by rotation. Ministerial appointments are for a period of three years.

In 1986, the HQ in Powerscourt Townhouse Centre in Dublin city centre became home to the Crafts Council of Ireland's central administration, a large exhibition gallery and retail shop. The venue hosted many selected and themed exhibitions showing Irish and International work. Crafts Council of Ireland business and skills training, initiated in Kilworth Co. Cork in 1981, moved to the former KDW workshops in Castle Yard, Kilkenny in 1989.

In 1997 the retail activity ceased and reduced gallery activities were put in place from Design Yard in Temple Bar for about a year. All administration activity transferred permanently to Kilkenny.

The opening of the National Craft Gallery in 2000 marked a new era for the Crafts Council of Ireland, providing a new and permanent exhibition space for craft in Ireland.

Over the years, the aims and objectives of the Crafts Council of Ireland have evolved and grown to meet the needs of the industry and to ensure its continued growth and development. CCol's third Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 clearly outlines its policy objectives and maps out the activities until the end of 2009.

The Crafts Council of Ireland is based in Kilkenny and in 2008 employed 18 staff. It has 55 Member Organisations and 1,701 registered craft enterprises as at 31st December, operating with a budget of €4,016,925 in 2008.

KEY DATES

- 1971** Crafts Council of Ireland set up in Dublin under the auspices of the RDS
- 1976** Became a limited not-for-profit company
- 1976** Showcase Ireland Trade Fair started
- 1986** Moved to Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, Dublin
- 1997** Moved from Dublin to Castle Yard, Kilkenny
- 2000** Opened National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny

2. List of Committee/Taskforce Members

Audit Committee

Emmet Kane **Committee Chairperson and CCol Board Member**
Christine Charlton **CCol Board Member**
Anna Foy **CCol Board Member**
Peter Pollock **CCol Board Member**

Finance Committee

Gerry Wycherley **Committee Chairperson and CCol Chairperson**
Paddy Hopkins **CCol Board Member**
Úna Parsons **CCol Chief Executive**
Karen Hennessy **Advisory Consultant**

Education and Training Advisory Panel

Gerry Wycherley **Panel Chairperson and CCol Chairperson**
Úna Parsons **CCol Chief Executive**
Anne Montgomery **CCol Board Member**
Loretta O'Brien **CCol Board Member**
Joe Crockett **County Manager, Kilkenny County Council**
Andrea Cleary **Craftsperson and Lecturer at St. Patrick's College**
Lisa O'Brien **Art Teachers Association of Ireland**
James Dennison **Head of Department, Limerick School of Art and Design**
Seán McKeown **Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Enterprise Board**
Derek West **National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (Post-Primary)**
Polly Minett **Coordinator, Craft in the Classroom Programme**

Enterprise Advisory Committee

Sarah Daly **CCol Board Member**
Christine Charlton **CCol Board Member**
Peter Pollock **CCol Board Member**
Úna Parsons **CCol Chief Executive**
Emer Ferran **CCol Executive Support**

Dublin Retail Taskforce

Gerry Wycherley **Taskforce Chairperson and CCol Chairperson**
Jim Dunne **CCol Board Member**
Jean Byrne **CCol Board Member**
J.P. Donnelly **CCol Board Member**
Tina Byrne **CCol Board Member**
Úna Parsons **CCol Chief Executive**
Emma McGrath **CCol Executive Support**

Exhibitions Advisory Panel

Mary Gallagher **Panel Chairperson, Independent Project Manager & Curator**
Jean Byrne **CCol Board Member**
Sarah Daly **CCol Board Member**
Beth Moran **CCol Board Member**
Úna Parsons **CCol Chief Executive**
Audrey Whitty **Curator of Ceramics, Glass & Asian Collections, National Museum of Ireland**
Helen O'Donoghue **Education & Outreach Officer, Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)**



Noel Forde
Furniture Maker

3. Members' Reports

19 of our 55 member organisations have provided reports of their activities in 2008. These member organisations had 7,636 members at the end of 2008 as follows:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Ceramics Ireland | 245 |
| Craftmark | 30 |
| The Design Tower | 20 |
| Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers of Ireland | 24 |
| Feltmakers Ireland | 194 |
| Glass Society of Ireland | 200 |
| Irish Artist's Blacksmiths Association | 19 |
| Irish Basketmakers Association | 109 |
| Irish Chairmakers | 8 |
| Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers | 85 |
| Irish Patchwork Society | 600 |
| Irish Woodturners Guild | 625 |
| Lettercarvers Guild of Ireland | 9 |
| Louth Craftmark Designers Network | 33 |
| Offaly Crafty | 30 |
| Peannairí | 33 |
| Quilters Guild of Ireland | 350 |
| RDS | 5,000 |
| West Cork Craft & Design Guild | 22 |
| TOTAL | 7,636 |



Grainne Watts, Ceramics Ireland

CERAMICS IRELAND

www.ceramicsireland.org

2008 was an active year for Ceramics Ireland. In June Laura O'Hagan stepped down from the Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland and was replaced by Tina Byrne following an election.

Highlights of the Year

The start of the year also saw the second edition of Ceramics Ireland magazine, which has received positive feedback. It has continued to be developed during the year and is now available through Eason's, various craft shops and studios and the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks.

Also in February the final audit took place of the Féile Clai project a joint initiative between Ceramics Ireland and the International Ceramics Festival Wales, funded by the EU Interreg 111A programme.

In March two members of Ceramics Ireland travelled to NCECA - National Council for Education in the Ceramics Arts in Pittsburgh at their own expense to make a short presentation. They also took the opportunity to meet with editors from a range of international magazines through the ICMEA group (International Ceramic Magazine Editors Association).

May saw the opening of an annual exhibition at Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan featuring the work of 26 members and was followed by a Ceramics Ireland Stand at Bloom 2008 Garden Festival in the Phoenix Park.

The Ceramics Ireland International Festival exhibition was opened at the Kozo Gallery, Thomastown by Henry Pim, of the National College of Art and Design, for the Kilkenny Arts Festival in August. The exhibition featured the work of six international makers: Kira Campbell (USA), Mike Dodd (UK), Frances Lambe (Irl), Jim Robison (UK), Jim Turner (Irl), Jason Walker (USA). The Exhibition ran until the festival weekend 5th, 6th and 7th September.

The Ceramics Ireland award of €500 was presented to Petra Schradi at the *RDS National Crafts Competition*.

In September *The Ceramics Ireland International Festival* took place at the Crafts Council of Ireland's Ceramic Design and Skills School, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny and featured national and international makers and speakers. It was a great success with approximately 100 participants in the event. We are already planning the 2010 event.

September was a busy month with The Hallward Gallery, inaugural ceramics exhibition. Ceramics Ireland presented a €500 award to Lucy Meagher as part of the exhibition.

In October the annual juried exhibition at Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre, Dalkey was held. 32 makers were selected from approximately 50. The exhibition was opened by Jim Dunne (Board member of the Crafts Council of Ireland and Design Consultant). Two awards were made, *The Peter Brennan Pioneering Award* to Frances Lambe and *The Hallward Gallery Award* to Kinga Pers.

Thanks to the support of Gerry Murphy the Exhibition was also brought to Plan Expo, an architectural event at the RDS.

SOFA took place in Chicago in September and Tina Byrne attended at her own expense with some assistance from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Research Mission. While there she promoted the Ceramics Ireland magazine to a number of editors. The event was very successful leading to several articles for the future and good contacts made for possible demonstrators at the festival in 2010.

CRAFTMARK

www.craftmark.ie

Committee Members

Sarah Daly
 Ronan Dennedy
 Karl Harron
 Jan Irwin
 John McEntaggart
 Garrett Mallon
 Karen Shannon
 Joanne McKenna
 Heather Parker
 Liz Christy
 Declan Campbell
 Martin Patterson

Craftmark, the partnership between County Down Crafts and Louth Craftmark, was a cross-border economic development initiative. Craftmark's East Border Region Programme 2006-2008 was a two-year events, training and support programme funded predominantly by the European Union through the East Border Region Interreg IIIA Partnership. The programme ended on 31 August 2008.

Highlights for 2008 include:

Showcase 2008

Six emerging craft businesses participated in the Craftmark stand at Showcase 2008 for the first time including Ann Connolly - Wood; Heather Burgess - Card making; Lotus de Wit - Jewellery; Lynda Brown - Ceramics; Mark Hanvey - Wood and Rachel Evans - Card making.

Craft Map 2008

Craft Map 2008 was organised for the weekend of May 24th and 25th. 30 craft and design studios participated. 12,000 copies of the publications were printed; an increase of 2000 from 2007. A fully interactive map was available online at www.craftmark.ie.

Going Green Exhibition

13 cross border designer makers were involved in the *Going Green* touring exhibition which was hosted in Space CRAFT, Belfast; the County Museum, Dundalk and Millmount Design Centre, Drogheda.

BCTF Harrogate

The British Craft Trade Fair 2008 took place from 6th to 8th April 2008 at the Great Yorkshire Showgrounds near Harrogate. As in 2006, Craftmark block booked 10 stands with a range of craftmakers from leather to ceramics, textiles, jewellery, paper and woodturning.

Product Development Training

Two Product Development projects were developed by the Craftmark programme in 2008:

1. *The Hand Meets High Tech* - a Product Development project delivered by the INTERFACE Centre for Research in Art, Technologies and Design at the University of Ulster, Belfast. The project facilitated 20 makers and designers learn about and adopt digital technologies and production methods to expand their creative possibilities, and potentially their incomes through new products.
2. *Creativity and the Marketplace* - a programme delivered by Eddie Shanahan, a leading mentor and trainer with vast experience of new product development was a three day course for eight makers on developing new products for the marketplace.

THE DESIGN TOWER

www.thedesigntower.com

The Design Tower is home to over twenty different craft workers and designer businesses ranging in specialism from jewellery makers to object conservators from violin makers to ceramic artists. Many of these are "household names" within their own area of specialization. Although quite varied each business has as a common factor a committed skilled artisan creating or providing a specialised service.

For the past four years they have been engaged in a programme of collective action to increase their collective identity and boost the awareness of the unique venue that is the Tower, Dublin.

The three main achievements to date provided by the programme are the production of a high quality brochure, the creation of a website and an improvement in overall signage around the building increasing visitor satisfaction. These provide the basis for the most ambitious project to date a group exhibition organized in conjunction with the National Museum Collins Barracks which will form the Towers' contribution to Design Week 2009.

Designers and craftworkers use the Bender Exhibition within the Museum as a source of inspiration to create unique pieces from their area of specialization. Works resulting will be on display within the Tower with some

on display in the National Museum Collins Barracks. This project which presented to the highest design standards has gains for all involved, The Tower craftworkers, The National Museum, all the project supporters and the wider craft community. It is the culmination of a focused, time specific, goal driven programme which has provided benefits many times beyond the resources invested.

Any success has been due, in no small part, to the support and partnership of the Crafts Council of Ireland, both financially and through their support and guidance.

FEDERATION OF JEWELLERY MANUFACTURERS OF IRELAND

www.fjmi.com

The Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers of Ireland (FJMI) has continued to represent the Irish Jewellery manufacturers in this ever-changing industry and the focus continues to be on education and support to our member companies. We have provided this through the following programmes.

In conjunction with the North American Celtic Trade Association, the FJMI developed a Jewellery Accreditation programme. This education programme has been designed by the Federation to assist the NACTA members in their knowledge of crucial aspects of the jewellery industry, thus increasing retailer confidence and generating sales for both NACTA and FJMI member companies.

NACTA members having completed all these modules are eligible to sit an Accreditation exam. This programme is run on a continuous basis to ensure the opportunity of accreditation is available to all NACTA members.

Also in conjunction with the NACTA Vendor Tour, our member companies welcome NACTA members to their workshops thus further enhancing the connection between manufacturer and retailer.

Trends Day

Our trends day was dedicated to future trends in the jewellery industry worldwide and covered manufacturing, marketing, retail and the internet. The one day seminar was presented by Mr Ben Janowski a well known and highly respected jewellery consultant from New York. It was hugely informative and has proven to be incredibly accurate. We plan to bring Mr Janowski back in Autumn 2009 and it will be a day not to be missed.

FJMI Education Programme

Early in the year we introduced the first in a series of photography courses designed to help participants improve their standard of photography for advertising and web use.

This was followed by our first cad-cam course using Rhino, run over a number of days. Both courses were well attended and well received.

Consultations with various bodies also took place during the year. These included Expo Events, Enterprise Ireland, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, RJI and the Crafts Council of Ireland.

The FJMI Board for 2009 is John Condron (Chairman), Jack Henderson, Joe Harbourne, Peter Gallagher, Lloyd Malynn, Eoin Mc Donnell, Noel O'Farrell and Paul O'Rourke.

FELTMAKERS IRELAND

www.feltmakersireland.com

Committee Members

Elizabeth Bonnar, President
 Colleen Prendiville, Chairperson
 Sheila Ahern, Secretary
 Susan Walsh, Treasurer
 Holly Angle, Membership Sec./Wednesday get-together Organiser
 Maureen Cromer, Sunday get-together organiser
 Gina Faustino
 Cristina Garcia Grijalbo
 Kathrina Hughes, Newsletter organiser
 Clodagh McDonagh
 Suzanne Phelan
 Eleanor Roche

2008 was an active year for Feltmakers Ireland. We held a variety of workshops throughout the year including the Basic and Beyond (beginner's) workshop in January. In April/May we had two visiting tutors from the UK, Sue Johnson who gave jacket and hat workshops and Sheila Smith who gave a Felt to Stitch workshop, as well as giving a great talk about her journey into felt at the Feltmakers AGM. In June a great workshop with Mel Bradley on painting on silk was held, followed in July by a workshop with Australian felt artist, Anita Larkin, and two workshops in November with German felt artist Sigrid Banner supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland Network Support Scheme.

New activities in 2008 included participation in the Craft area at Bloom in June and in the Festival of World Cultures in Dun Laoghaire in August. A significant development in 2008 was the development of the Feltmakers website www.feltmakers.ireland.com which keeps up to date with all felt happenings in Ireland and elsewhere and includes a gallery of members' work.

The very popular monthly get-togethers carried on throughout the year and included a monthly Sunday get-together. Also popular is the quarterly newsletter,

a great way of keeping in touch with all members. In August Feltmakers Ireland was involved with the Dochas Centre in Mountjoy Women's Prison as part of their summer school, and in September a 'felt day' in the Museum of Country Life in Castlebar.

As in previous years, the group took a stand at the Knitting and Stitching show in November at the RDS which was very successful. 2008 was a great year for Feltmakers Ireland and was made possible by the huge amount of work put in by all on the committee.

GLASS SOCIETY OF IRELAND

In 2008, the Glass Society of Ireland's e-bulletin reached an excess of 200 subscribers, including students, historians, practising glass artists and enthusiasts. In conjunction with NCAD Glass Department the Society has hosted a number of evening lectures with glass artists such as Peter Houk, Robin Cass, Scott Benefield, Jeffrey Sarmiento and Paula Stokes. The Society has also recently announced it will sponsor a €500 prize for glassmaking at the 2009 RDS National Crafts Competition.

IRISH ARTIST'S BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

Committee Members

Edward Bisgood, Chairperson
Peter Cassidy, Treasurer
Richard Linstead, Membership Secretary

2008 was a successful year for the Irish Artist's Blacksmiths Association. The AGM was held at the Dunlavin Arts Festival. Over 30 artist blacksmiths attended the forge-in and there was much interest from the general public thus helping to increase the awareness of our craft to the general public as well as to architects and interior designers.

The second forge-in of the year was held at Lisnaveagh House and was organised by Raymond Bourke in his new forge which he restored in the old farm buildings of the house.

Significant advancements were made in 2008 regarding the Association's 2009 activity plan, including a request to forge gum tree nuts and leaves for a memorial to be made by blacksmiths from around the world in memory of the people who lost their lives in the terrible bush fires in Australia in the early part of 2009.

Plans were also put in place to hold a 'forge-in' in Dublin in 2009.

The Association plans to launch its own web site in 2009 as well as introducing a web based newsletter twice a year

IRISH BASKETMAKERS ASSOCIATION

During the year the heritage collection of Irish baskets, held in trust by the Irish Basketmakers Association (IBA), moved to a permanent exhibition site at Carriganass Castle, Kealkil, West Cork.

The baskets also featured in an exhibition on potatoes at the National Botanic Gardens and will be part of a fishing exhibition in conjunction with the Volvo Ocean Race to Galway.

A conference on "European Basketmaking" where four internationally acclaimed basket makers spoke, was held in Kilkenny in May in conjunction with the Crafts Council of Ireland. An Exhibition on basketmakers was held at the same time, in which IBA members participated.

Our AGM was held at Castlecomer Estate Yard in May and the IBA had a stand at Bloom, manned by seven basketmakers.

We also ran a two-day New Zealand flax course with Lynn Kirkham, kindly supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland. During the year we issued four newsletters, held four committee meetings and developed and extended our library. Finally we are delighted to note that our membership increased from 67 to 109 in 2008.



Alison Ospina
Chairmaker

IRISH CHAIRMAKERS

2008 saw us receiving a grant allocation of €1000 match funding for the launch of "Green Wood Chairs - Chairs and Chairmakers of Ireland" and an inaugural exhibition for the newly formed Irish Chairmakers group.

GANS funding was also secured and put towards the costs of advertising in Irish Arts Review, Munster Interiors and

The Southern Star, as well as paying for transport and a contribution towards the Gallerie's mail-out costs. We also had posters designed and supplied as part of the exhibition, showing each chairmaker at work in their studio, which can be used in future shows.

An exhibition of 24 handmade wooden chairs was opened at the Doswell Gallery, Rosscarbery, West Cork. 60 books and one chair were sold throughout the month.

The "Chairs" Exhibition will also travel to Carlow Arts festival "Éigse" in June.

Most of the chairmakers involved in the Exhibition only sell their work locally and market by "word of mouth." By touring the exhibition however, and through the book launch, their work is being seen in other parts of the country and attracting national media attention.

Articles about the exhibition and book launch appeared in The Examiner and Southern Star; Nationwide came to the launch and interviewed the author and the Sunday Business Post has reviewed the book. Book reviews have also been promised in House and Home magazine and The Independent.

The work of these chairmakers is neglected and the purpose of this group is to give chairmaking a stronger profile in Ireland.



Muriel Beckett, Guild of Irish Weavers Spinners and Dyers

IRISH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS and DYERS

www.weavers.ie

Committee Members

Peter Hoare & Florence Harmelin, Co-chairpersons
Diane Murphy & Kathleen McCormick, Co-secretaries
Marylin Lesh, Treasurer
Muriel Beckett, Webmaster
Florence Harmelin, Newsletter Editor

The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers elected three new members to the committee in January 2008.

The Guild has currently 85 paid up members. There were 15 new members this year. The IGWSD produces a newsletter every three months, which is sent to 142 people in four countries.

The committee focused this year on heightening the Guild's visibility to the general public. This meant increasing the number of demonstrations and updating the website.

The IGWSD participated in several demonstrations throughout the year, some high profile and some local. Bloom 2008 was a great opportunity to demonstrate to a large public as more than 50 000 visitors attended. The Guild was part of *Craft in Action* in the wall garden, where eight Crafts Council of Ireland selected guilds or associations demonstrated for four days.

Other demonstrations included the Rose Festival in St Ann's park (Dublin), the Irish Game and Country Fair in Birr Castle (Offaly), Heritage Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge programme in the National Museum of Decorative History (Dublin) and the Knitting and Stitching show (Dublin). In addition to that, local networks organised their own demonstrations throughout the country. The Knitting and Stitching Show 2008 was good. The demonstrations of spindle spinning, spinning on the wheel, tapestry weaving, weaving sticks, and loom weaving were popular. The sales of weaving sticks, lollipop-stick loom kits, and microwave dye kits were good. There were many enquiries about classes. We recruited 14 new members, which is a very good figure.

The website is currently being updated by Muriel Beckett. It is under the management of a new hosting company and a new web designer. We hope to improve the website's flexibility and foster enquiries made through the website.

Guild members Florence Harmelin and Mary Shiels represented the IGWSD at the GANS meetings. Member Beth Moran is currently our Crafts Council of Ireland Board representative.

The AGM took place on March the 7th at the National Museum of Decorative Art and History in Collins Barracks (Dublin). 16 members attended and 5 sent apologies. The chairperson's report, the annual RDS Craft Committee report and the treasurer report were read. Florence Harmelin, Peter Hoare and Diane Murphy stepped out of the committee. Maire Ni Neachtan, Shanah Cauldwell and Janet McKee were voted in.

IRISH PATCHWORK SOCIETY

www.irishpatchwork.ie

The Society, founded in 1981, aims to foster the art of patchwork and quilting in Ireland. The society has over

600 members throughout Ireland with eight branches who meet throughout the country.

2009 saw the National Exhibition being held in Cilin Hill, Kilkenny. Exhibits were drawn from all over the country and a very successful exhibition was displayed with the theme of Links. In November the society had a presence at the Knitting and Stitching show in the RDS and used this opportunity to display its work again.

The Southern Branch is currently hosting an ongoing exhibition with a mariners theme and the Western Branch is planning an exhibition later in 2009 to coincide with the Volvo Yacht Race. Many other branches have held exhibitions and details are available on our website.

Every two years the Society in co-operation with the Northern Irish Patchwork Guild holds a joint exhibition. The IPS hosted it this time in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. A theme of IA Journey was chosen and the society was fortunate to have President Mary McAleese accept an invitation to open the exhibition.

More than eighty entries nationwide were submitted and styles ranged from contemporary to traditional. Almost 200 people attended the opening highlighting the growth in popularity that crafts are enjoying at the moment.

2009 also sees an exciting opportunity for Irish Quilters to showcase their work further afield. The society is participating in an exhibition in Ailsa Craig, Canada which will be entirely on Irish quilting with the theme of Irish Culture. Work is being gathered and evaluated for this exhibition. This exhibition will take place in October 2009.

THE IRISH WOODTURNERS GUILD (IWG)

www.irishwoodturnersguild.com

Evan Petty, President of IWG

2008 was the 25th Anniversary of the World's first Woodturning Guild and with the effort put in by everyone, it was not surprising that it was the most successful and enjoyable ever.

To bring the Guild into line with the Government's new Financial Year, our AGM was held in November 2007. To continue the planning done by the previous year's Committee, the members were all re-elected except for the Journal Editor, Hanspeter Bodmer, who stood down after four years in the post. Peter Lyons of the Ulster Chapter was persuaded to continue the excellent work of Hanspeter and has kept up this quality and quantity for the whole year.

The Executive Committee reviewed the year and requested that no local seminars be held in this Anniversary Year, all efforts going into the Annual seminar. All Chapters, of course still held their monthly meetings/demonstrations organized by their own Committees. The Executive met regularly, mostly at the 2008 venue (Enniscrone) and later at the 2009 venue (Armagh). These meetings checked that the planning of these events was going well and also considered any changes required to improve the future running of the Guild.

Recognising the greater distances some members had to travel to "local" meetings, some new Chapters were formed ie., Dolmen in the Midlands and Down in the North. This brings the total of Chapters to nineteen. Reports of the progress of these new Chapters regularly appear in the Journal with reports of the happenings of all the other Chapters. The Guild continued to support the production of this Quarterly Journal which records most of our activities. Every member receives a copy to keep them abreast of planned developments and events.

The Guild made its customary award of €500 to the winner of the RDS Craft Competition for woodturning. We were delighted to see Seamus Cassidy of the IWG North East Chapter win the First Prize. The Annual Seminar held at the Diamond Coast Hotel, Enniscrone on 3rd to 5th October was an outstanding success as confirmed by many delegates from abroad including the AWGB. We were delighted at the attendance of Úna Parsons, Chief Executive of the Crafts Council of Ireland which has always supported the Guild and of Chris Eagles, Chairman of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain. Several members involved in the early days of the Guild were also present ie Liam O'Neill, John Shiel, Ray Key, Tom Dunlop, Michael Dickson and Willie Stedmond. Brother Ciarán Forbes, who could not be present, sent a written oration read out by the Secretary at the Dinner. The demonstrators were selected from UK, USA, France as well as several of our own.

To celebrate our Anniversary a small but select group are aiding the President as Editor to prepare a book "The Story of the IWG: The First 25 years". This will be available in time for the next Seminar.

LETTER CARVERS GUILD OF IRELAND

The Guild of Letter Carvers of Ireland is a newly formed group and held its inaugural meeting in March 2008 facilitated by an executive of the Crafts Council of Ireland.

Its main aim is to create awareness and promote the craft of hand carved lettering in stone. In order to do this, the guild is planning to put in place a leaflet promoting their activities and a website. To date we have designed our

letterhead courtesy of two of our members. They also take part in promotional events such as Bloom which they plan to attend again in 2009. Looking forward, the guild hopes to hold group exhibitions to showcase its combined work.

On coming together as a group the following items are discussed:

- Lettering - all aspects of this from design to drawing to carving
- Lettercarving Equipment - hammers, chisels, sharpening blocks, easels, etc.
- Commissions - as they work mostly to commission, discussions about current projects arise.

This guild is of great benefit to the participants who are geographically spread all over Ireland, and mostly work in isolation. As a group they plan on attending the memorials exhibition near Southend in England in 2009

LOUTH CRAFTMARK DESIGNERS NETWORK

www.louthcraftmark.com

Committee Members

Joanne McKenna, Chairperson
Sarah McKenna, Secretary
Cathy Prendergast, Treasurer
Nanette Ledwith
Fiona Thornton
Garrett Mallon

Louth Craftmark Designers Network aims to ensure that Louth will have a flourishing craft sector where makers and their work will be valued, developed and celebrated, that the activities of the Louth Designers Network are relevant to the needs of its members and to develop a clear marketing vision for the craft sector in Louth.

Our membership has increased to 33 members and we continue to work with Craft Design Collective through the cross border partnership Craftmark.

The network planned a seminar on PR and marketing given by Maggie Ruane, followed by a social networking evening. A PR and media campaign and photo shoot was planned for early 2008 with renowned stylist Wendy Grant and photographer Philip Lauterbach. PR consultant Sarah Bohan worked with makers to write up profile pieces for use on marketing materials. We engaged photographer Nesta King to take portrait shots of makers in their studios. We then engaged Pure Design to produce individual maker's postcards. The Network plans to continue this collective marketing in 2009.

Members of the network participated in the 2nd annual Fashion Show in November at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda as well as Showcase, Bloom, Mistletoe and More and The National Craft Fair.

OFFALY CRAFTY

www.offalyartsandcrafts.com

Committee Members

Ross Hathaway, Chairman
Kieran Brennan, Secretary
Ann Schnittger, Treasurer
Jo Barber, PRO

Contacts: www.offalyartsandcrafts.com

Offaly Crafty is a mixed discipline network of approximately 30 craft makers which aims to promote Offaly-based art and craft by developing a brand based upon excellence of quality and innovation in design.

The highlight of 2008 for us was the official opening of CORE, a craft retail outlet in Ballinahown. This project supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland, was undertaken by the craft workers of Offaly and Westmeath with the welcome sponsorship of several funding bodies. CORE showcases contemporary craft and design and serves as a hub for our extended network.

PEANNAIRÍ, IRISH CALLIGRAPHERS

www.calligraphy.ie

Committee Members

Noeleen Frain
Clodagh Opdebeeck
Jane Connolly
Angela Ganter
Ann Cannon
Ann O'Clery

We are Dublin based and hold monthly meetings from September to May on the last Thursday of the month in Oatlands College, Stillorgan. At the meetings we discuss projects, show slides, have demonstrations and we also have a library from which members may borrow books for one month. We hold workshops on calligraphy and related topics. In 2008 these included book making and binding from Sandi Sexton, calligraphy from Denis Bown, card making from Ann Cannon and printing from Kevin Honan. At the June bank holiday weekend we were thrilled to be one of the seven guilds invited by the Crafts Council of Ireland to take a stand in the *Craft in Action* area at Bloom

in the Phoenix Park. We were delighted with the amount of interest shown in calligraphy. As a result, and to accommodate would-be calligraphers throughout Ireland, we are hoping to hold workshops in Carlow, Waterford, Dundalk and Galway.

We run evening calligraphy classes in Raheny and Booterstown and two of our members teach calligraphy in DATE Adult Learning Centre in Dundrum.

David McGrail, one of our members, entered the RDS National Crafts Competition held in partnership with the Crafts Council of Ireland in August, winning first prize in calligraphy, the Library prize and the California Gold Medal!

QUILTERS GUILD OF IRELAND (QGI)

www.quiltersguildireland.org

Committee Members

Ingrid Rendell, Chairperson
 Patricia Frawley, Secretary
 Maureen Feary, Treasurer
 Robyn Fahy, Education Officer
 Susan Taylor, Membership Secretary
 Yvonne McKee, Retreat Organiser
 Beryl Cadman, Editor
 Maureen Feary, Crafts Council of Ireland Representative
 Laura Cahill, Committee Member
 Frances Flanagan, Committee Member
 Josie Molloy, Committee Member

The Aim of the Quilters Guild of Ireland (QGI) is to provide education about Patchwork, Quilting and Appliqué in the island of Ireland as well as internationally.

The guild offers education to all members through the following;

- Regular Newsletter
- Workshops and clinics taught by recognised teachers
- Access to small working groups all over the country
- Participation in exhibitions for all levels of quilter
- Website providing updates about activities national and international; currently being updated.

Our year started off with our AGM at our annual retreat, held in Nenagh in 2008. QGI offered workshops by four international teachers; Sally Schneider, Dawn Cameron Dick, Denise Labadie and Krys Evans, and two Irish teachers; Ailbhe O'Callaghan and Yvonne McKee. Our workshops were well attended and retreat numbers were up on the previous year; feedback was very positive.

Prior to the retreat all QGI members were sent a 10" square of fabric in their gazette and issued with a challenge to make a piece no more than 36" square with the theme of 'Beauty is in the Eye of the Beholder'. All completed pieces were exhibited at the retreat weekend with many prizes given to various categories. It is hoped that this exhibition will travel around the country next year.

In September international teacher, Jenny Beyer, travelled the length and breadth of the country giving workshops to QGI members, these were extremely popular with many venues over subscribed.

We are currently looking forward to our next retreat in 2009 in Antrim, which this year is being subsidised by QGI. It is packed with exciting workshops for all levels of patch-worker, competitions, exhibitions and another challenge! We are all looking forward to catching up with old friends and making new ones.

RDS CRAFTS SUB-COMMITTEE

www.rds.ie

Members of the Sub-Committee

Ms Bernardine Hurley, Chairman
 Ms Alison Casey
 Ms Ida Delamer
 Mr Arthur Duff
 Mr Emmet Kane
 Ms Mary O'Reilly
 Mr Henry Pim
 Ms Veronica Rowe
 Ms Clodagh Ryan

The RDS was founded in 1731 to promote and develop arts, agriculture, science and industry in Ireland. In 1746 the RDS established The Dublin Society School of Drawing. In 1877 it was transferred to the portfolio of the Irish Government and became the Metropolitan School of Art and Design and later the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). Since 1834 craft exhibitions have been held at the RDS and in 1968 the RDS National Crafts Competition was launched. The RDS was also instrumental in the establishment of the Crafts Council of Ireland in 1971. Current membership of the Royal Dublin Society is approximately 5,000.

In 1968, the national competition for the encouragement of applied arts was launched and has since been held annually to encourage professional and emerging Irish designers and craft-workers. Today the RDS National Crafts Competition is Ireland's largest Craft Competition. In 2008, the RDS National Crafts Competition in association

with the Crafts Council of Ireland celebrated its 40th successful year. The overall prize fund was €31,050, the largest in Europe and comprised 21 craft categories. Independently adjudicated, the competition received entries from craft designers and makers based in Ireland as well as Irish craft-workers abroad. The RDS National Crafts Competition and subsequent exhibitions are recognised as a valuable platform for craft designers and makers to gain national and international recognition for their work. The Competition has been a catalyst for many of today's top craft designers who, in the early stages of their career entered and won awards and prizes.

The RDS National Crafts Competition Exhibition of prize winners and commended entries is one of the highlights of the annual Fáilte Ireland Dublin Horse Show which attracts tens of thousands of national and international visitors each year. In addition to the Exhibition of prize winners, works from the Crafts Council of Ireland's 'Craft in the Classroom Primary School Residency Programme' are exhibited.

In 2008, the RDS National Crafts Competition Prize Winners Exhibition travelled to Foxford Woollen Mills, Co. Mayo; the National Craft Gallery, Co. Kilkenny; the Strule Arts Centre, Co. Tyrone; and, returned to the RDS in December for the National Crafts & Design Fair. The Travelling exhibition established in 1999 has been successful in heightening the profile of individual craft designers and makers as well as promoting awareness of the diversity of craft practice in Ireland. Reports from venues hosting the RDS National Crafts Competition Travelling Exhibitions have been excellent. High visitor attendance, positive reaction and interest in the individual exhibits that represent each of the craft disciplines have also been recorded.

Further details on the RDS National Crafts Competition can be found at www.rds.ie/crafts.

WEST CORK CRAFT AND DESIGN GUILD (WCCDG)

www.westcorkcraft.org

Members of the Sub-Committee

Kieran Higgins, Chairman
Christina Davenport, Treasurer
Alison Ospina, Development Officer
Etain Hickey, Secretary

In 2008, the WCCDG commissioned a Feasibility Study for the development of a multi - purpose craft facility in Skibbereen, devoted to the production, sale and teaching

of craft in the region. This was funded by grants from Cork County Council, West Cork County Enterprise Board and Airtricity. The Study was completed in Jan 2009 and we are presently forming a working group with those interested parties to devise a development strategy for the project.

The Guild is also working in partnership with the Cork Vocational Education Committee and Rossa College to create a Level 6 FETAC Accredited Craft Course for teaching in registered Centres nationwide.

To cater for this initiative, we are in the process of restructuring the Guild to allow for Associate Membership. This will allow us to have a 'Craft Teachers' subdivision, thus, we hope, attracting skilled and qualified craft teachers to the Guild.

We continued to show and exhibit throughout the year. Our ten year celebration 'Making Memories' exhibition was shown in Belfast in the Spacecraft Gallery hosted by County Down Craft Collective and part of Northern Ireland's Craft Month in August. The final showing of the exhibition took place back in West Cork, at "Etain Hickey Collections" in October 2008.

One of our major causes for celebration during 2008, was the launch of our own film 'An Inspired Gathering' which shows all of our members at work in their studios. It taps into the methods, thoughts, ideas, and inspirations that help West Cork Craft and Design Guild members to create their exceptional work.

The Guild was also pleased to have one of its members elected to the Crafts Council of Ireland's Board of Directors in 2008.



Geraldine Murphy
Jeweller

Acknowledgements

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