

Year of Craft 2011

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■ Raku fired ceramic fish plaque by Julian Smith Ceramics

FOREWORD

Year of Craft 2011, coordinated by the Crafts Council of Ireland (CCoI), was a year that firmly established the importance of Ireland's craft and design sector in the public consciousness. While the economic environment remained extremely challenging during 2011, those working in craft and design demonstrated determination, resourcefulness and entrepreneurial spirit. Craft makers showcased Ireland's creative talent in many imaginative ways, from acclaimed exhibitions and innovative pop-up shops to world-class conferences and talks.



We were delighted to partner with Craft Northern Ireland on Year of Craft 2011, enabling this to be an island of Ireland initiative. CCoI also partnered with over 70 key organisations throughout the country, which ensured that a significant number of new audiences witnessed the extraordinary skill, variety and standard of Irish craft and design. We look forward to maintaining many of the partnerships established in 2011 and we are particularly pleased that several initiatives pioneered with our partners during Year of Craft 2011 have flourished during 2012.

This Year of Craft 2011 Report provides just a flavour of what happened throughout the year. Delivering this extensive programme would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and dedicated involvement of the talented craft makers, CCoI's member organisations and clients, strategic partners, event planners, retailers, educators and the general public as well as the craft champions, craft ambassadors and the many volunteers who supported craft events in 2011.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who made Year of Craft 2011 possible. We are especially grateful to the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and Enterprise Ireland who fund our work and support us in developing Ireland's craft sector.

The impact of Year of Craft 2011 was felt immediately on many levels and we are confident that the legacy of the initiative will mature in the years to come, at a local, national and international level. Appreciation and understanding of Irish craft and design has significantly increased and the Crafts Council of Ireland is committed to embedding that change over the coming years in order to sustain and grow Ireland's dynamic craft and design sector into the future.

Laura Magahy
Chairman, Crafts Council of Ireland

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall aim of the Year of Craft 2011 initiative was to promote and celebrate the outstanding talents of craftspeople living and working throughout the island of Ireland in order to sustain and grow this economically significant sector. The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol) was particularly delighted to have Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, as Patron of Year of Craft 2011. The President's support was a resounding endorsement of the importance of craft in Ireland to our culture and our society, as well as its contribution to the Irish economy, both historically and in contemporary Ireland.

Together with its partners, CCol delivered an exciting programme of craft events and activities right across the country throughout 2011, as well as internationally. This included exhibitions, workshops, talks, demonstrations and children's events, providing something for everyone. Consumers and event attendees had the opportunity to interact with craftspeople and learn about the talented makers behind the beautiful craft that is Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland.

The programme of activities was promoted both nationally and internationally by CCol, Craft NI and its network of partner organisations, through a dedicated media campaign and through a comprehensive web presence at www.craftinireland.com, supported by social media.

CCol commenced the Year of Craft 2011 initiative by hosting its first ever Craft Summit at Farnleigh, which was attended by over 120 policy makers from various support agencies to discuss the future of the Irish craft sector and resulted in many tangible outcomes, which were explored and executed throughout 2011 and have been included in proposals and plans for the future.

CCol was particularly delighted that the World Crafts Council – Europe accepted an invitation to host their Annual General Assembly in Dublin in June to celebrate the designation of 2011 as Year of Craft. The event was attended by 16 representatives of craft organisations across Europe and led to international contacts and links with European counterparts.

To coincide with the WCC Europe visit, CCol held an international public conference 'Craft Conscious: Re-Shaping Global Futures in the Innovation Age' in Dublin Castle to discuss the future of craft. The event was attended by 281 delegates and included an address by Year of Craft 2011 Patron President Mary McAleese. The conference agenda included many celebrated international speakers and was facilitated by journalist and writer Fintan O'Toole. Following a keynote address from Edmund de Waal, ceramic artist and author, presentations were delivered by Edna dos Santos-Duisenberg, Chief - Creative Economies and Industries Programme at the United Nations; Brian Keane of Tonfisk Design; Leonardo Bonanni, a world leader in the sustainable design of products and supply chains; and Finbarr Bradley, economist and lecturer.

CCol supported 31 Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS) to present innovative and appealing work specifically for Year of Craft 2011 – this included the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association's highly successful International Forge-In in Monaghan which was attended by 200 blacksmiths from all over the world.

21 counties delivered dedicated craft programmes as part of Year of Craft 2011, which saw high octane, high quality craft activity take place throughout the country. These programmes include Designer Dublin, Cork Craft Month, Laois Year of Craft, Galway Craft Month and Craftfest Northwest.

The planning of a new national craft trail commenced as a direct result of CCol's work with Fáilte Ireland on the Year of Craft 2011 programme and during 2011 the number of county craft trails expanded from 7 to 12.

The contents below provide an overview of some of the key highlights of Year of Craft 2011. This is by no means an exhaustive list but these landmark events and key projects provide an overview of the range of activity and the resulting impact.



■ President Mary McAleese addresses the Year of Craft 2011 conference

HIGHLIGHTS OF YEAR OF CRAFT 2011

Large Scale Public Events:

- Irish craft was included in Saint Patrick's Festival for the first time in 2011 with over 300 children participating in CCoI's free workshops across four disciplines and over 700 members of the public involved in the 'Flags of Intention' installation in Merrion Square, Dublin, on Sunday 20th March.
- The Tall Ships Race in Waterford, 30th June – 3rd July, which attracted an estimated 500,000 visitors, featured the Irish Craft Village and provided 60 craftspeople with an opportunity to sell directly to the public through 32 retail stands and saw 2,400 children get actively involved in craft through a series of free workshops.
- Bloom in the Park, which attracted almost 90,000 visitors to the Phoenix Park over five days, 2nd – 6th June, featured the Irish Craft Garden, which had a prime location and showcased the work of 30 craftspeople in a specially designed wander space. The CCoI area also included 21 retail stands providing some makers with one of their most successful direct selling events, gave 430 children the opportunity to participate in free craft workshops and allowed the public to learn more about skills and craftsmanship through craft demonstrations.

- New this year to Electric Picnic, 2nd – 4th September, was Cruth Curach, the Craftitecture pavilion, a fusion of dynamic architectural design and skilled Irish craftsmanship, designed by Bucholz McEvoy Architects and hand built by the Galway School of Boat Builders. Cruth Curach was commissioned by CCoI and the Irish Architecture Foundation through an open competition in celebration of Year of Craft 2011.

Headline Exhibitions/Events with Partners:

- CCoI actively sought out new partners and worked with them closely to introduce craft to their programmes - for many craft was an entirely new strand. The intention was to reach new audiences who might be surprised to find craft at events such as Electric Picnic and Dublin Fringe Festival.
- CCoI co-presented a seven week long craft exhibition called Crafted Creatures with The Ark - A Cultural Centre for Children from 15th February to 3rd April, which reached an audience of over 4,600 and was accompanied by a comprehensive workshop programme and a specially created craft trail through Dublin city centre.



■ Joanne Hynes and Joe Hogan in Craftitecture Pavilion

New partnerships were brokered with festivals and galleries such as:

- Dublin Fringe Festival, 'The Sock Exchange' by Futuremenders, 22nd – 25th September.
- Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, 17th – 23rd October, introduced craft in a significant way to their programmes in 2011 with the support and involvement of Year of Craft 2011.
- Irish Craft Portfolio exhibition at The RHA Gallery, Dublin, 24th – 28th November.
- Galway Arts Festival, with the exhibitions Material Poetry and Modern Languages, 11th – 14th July.

Aidan Dunne's comment in his review of the Galway Arts Festival visual programme in The Irish Times on 22nd July 2011 bears out the success of this approach: "There are also craft shows, rightly presented side by side with all manner of fine art practices."

CCoI sought to intersect other worlds with craft:

- Literature - most strikingly through the presentation of Edmund de Waal's sold out public reading and the Modified Expression exhibition at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny.
- Fashion - Joe Hogan's collaboration with Irish designer Joanne Hynes seen at London Fashion Week and subsequently in Ireland.
- Architecture through Craftitecture presented at Electric Picnic and at Open House Dublin.
- Sport through Culture Night at Culture Box where Dublin's All-Ireland win was celebrated in the "Craft Your County Colours" workshop with textile artists Angela O'Kelly and Liadain Butler.

Key promotion of Irish Craft

- An Post released a special issue of five stamps featuring Irish craft to celebrate Year of Craft 2011.
- In collaboration with CCoI, Big Mountain Productions produced Craft Master, a new 6 part television series to coincide with Year of Craft 2011 which aired on RTÉ One in the autumn of 2011 to wide acclaim.

- Following input from CCoI, Athena Media produced the radio segment Made in Ireland for RTÉ Radio 1's Today with Pat Kenny programme which included several craft features.
- Enabled by the RTÉ Supporting the Arts Scheme, CCoI produced and screened a new and highly acclaimed television advertisement promoting Irish craft during high profile slots coinciding with the week of President Obama's visit to Ireland, reaching an enormous audience.
- As well as regular segments on Irish television on programmes such as RTÉ One's Six One News and Nationwide, and TV3's Ireland AM, CCoI secured exposure for Irish craft on international television, such as The Breakfast Show on TVNZ in New Zealand.
- As a direct result of Year of Craft 2011 initiatives, craft had a significant presence in retail outlets through its high profile consumer campaign promoting craft Imagined, Designed, Made in Ireland. Three discipline-specific campaigns took place during the year – Celebrating Irish Ceramics, Celebrating Ireland's Designer Makers and Celebrating Ireland's Jewellery Makers – in addition to expanding the number of retail outlets promoting Irish craft as Christmas gifts and continually developing CCoI's dedicated consumer site **www.giveirishcraft.com**.
- On 14th November, CCoI launched an exhibition of Irish jewellery at The Loop in Dublin Airport's Terminal 2 for the busy Christmas holiday period, with pieces of Irish jewellery available to purchase from the House of Ireland outlet at The Loop.
- CCoI created an exhibition space featuring Irish craft gift ideas at the National Crafts & Design Fair, RDS (30th November – 4th December).

Irish Craft on the international stage during Year of Craft 2011

- The National Craft Gallery presented an exhibition of the work of eight contemporary Irish makers at COLLECT, which took place at The Saatchi Gallery in London, in May. Six of the makers were from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Irish Craft Portfolio - Sara Flynn, ceramicist; Jack Doherty, ceramicist; Karl Harron, glass artist; Nest Design, furniture designers; Marcus O'Mahony,

ceramicist; and Yaffe Mays, furniture designers. Also included in the exhibition were glass artist Róisín de Buitléar, recipient of the 2010 Crafts Council of Ireland Irish Craft Bursary and ceramicist Derek Wilson, previous recipient of the Crafts Council of Ireland Student Award.

- Through the Year of Craft 2011 programme, CCoI supported 12 Irish designer makers in attending TENT London, one of the largest design trade shows taking place during the London Design Festival, where they received wide acclaim and valuable exposure for their work.
- Material Poetry and dubh - dialogues in black were also supported by the Crafts Council of Ireland and attracted significant exposure at the American Irish Historical Society, New York, 7th October – 13th November.

Demonstrations/Workshops/Education Programmes

- In all, over 12,000 children had a direct engagement with craft through specially devised workshops at a range of public events during 2011, including Big Day Out at St. Patrick's Festival, Bloom in the Park, Tall Ships Race Waterford and Kilkenny Arts Festival.
- **www.learncraftdesign.com**, a comprehensive new digital resource for first and second level education, was

developed as one of the legacies of Year of Craft 2011 and was launched during the Baboró Festival in Galway.

The above list is merely a snapshot of some key highlights. The full breadth of the programme reflects the health and vitality of Ireland's craft sector and bodes well for the future of this important industry.

Delivering the comprehensive programme of events and activities, generating excitement for Irish craft and maintaining momentum throughout the year long programme would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and dedicated involvement of CCoI's member organisations and clients, strategic partners, event planners, retailers, educators and the general public as well as the craft champions, craft ambassadors and the many volunteers who supported craft events in 2011. CCoI would like to express its sincere gratitude to all those who participated in the Year of Craft 2011 programme.



■ Irish Jewellery Exhibition, Dublin Airport, 2011

INTRODUCTION TO YEAR OF CRAFT 2011

CCol has a remarkable geographical spread through its membership and programme of activities. The nature and diversity of craft has obvious appeal for the tourism market and Irish craft is both locally rooted and firmly and progressively international in outlook. In 2009, the Crafts Council of Ireland began to formulate plans for designating 2011 as the Year of Craft to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the organisation, which was founded in 1971 following a visit to Ireland by delegates of the World Crafts Council the previous year.

CCol recognised the importance of ensuring a major step change for awareness of authentic Irish craft and of ensuring the growth of the craft industry in Ireland. In order to ensure that Year of Craft 2011 celebrated craft throughout the island of Ireland, CCol was delighted to partner with Craft Northern Ireland on the year-long programme of activities and events.

During 2009, CCol was in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the organisation for the period 2010 – 2012, building on the successes of previous Strategic Plans. Year of Craft 2011 became a key aspect of the Strategic Plan, involving all process teams across the organisation and linking all activities to the Year of Craft programme.

Both CCol's Strategic Plan and the Year of Craft 2011 initiative were developed to be closely aligned with the Government's Smart Economy Framework and the Report of the Innovation Taskforce. The report outlines a vision for sustainable economic renewal, by building on the strengths of the enterprise economy and utilising the innovation or 'ideas' component of this economy present in the knowledge, skills and creativity of people.

The crafts industry has a key role to play both in contributing to sustainable economic renewal and in the campaign around 'Brand Ireland' and CCol was perfectly placed to ensure that this was achieved in a cost efficient, appealing and imaginative manner through the delivery of the Year of Craft 2011 initiative and CCol's Strategic Plan.

These observations about the potential of the craft industry underpinned CCol's approach to the programming and promotion of this year-long calendar of events. The Year of Craft 2011 programme provided CCol's registered clients with a number of high profile direct selling opportunities, members of the public with countless opportunities to engage with craft through demonstrations and exhibitions, and craft enthusiasts of all ages with hands on opportunities for making across the 32 counties.

The intention was that throughout the year, excellent and appealing craft across all disciplines and in every corner of the country would be presented and promoted. The programme was intended to be strongly events based and to run throughout the calendar year. CCol had also secured that Ireland would host the Annual General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Europe in June 2011.

While 2011 coincided with the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Crafts Council of Ireland, the Year of Craft initiative was not a celebration of the organisation itself. The overall objective of this partnership initiative was to promote and celebrate the outstanding talents of craftspeople living and working throughout the island of Ireland in order to sustain and grow this economically significant sector.

In framing the programme CCol were mindful of the following:

- Geographic spread
- Spread of activity type e.g. Arts and Music Festival (Electric Picnic), Older persons Festival (Bealtaine) etc
- Spread of ages – the programme had to appeal to everyone from toddlers to those in their twilight years.
- Spread across the calendar year – with at least one key event per month
- Partnering only with organisations that had a proven track record in attracting and satisfying audiences

Through an innovative and appealing programme, marketed with imagination, CCol set out to:

- Develop the Irish craft sector with a view to sustaining existing jobs and generating new jobs, and increasing sales both domestically and internationally
- Showcase Ireland through craft to both domestic and international markets
- Raise awareness of Irish craft
- Celebrate Irish craft
- Leave a craft legacy



■ Showcase 2011



Year of Craft 2011



Crafts Council of Ireland



KEY PARTNERS:



An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation



MEDIA PARTNERS:



PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

CCoI adopted a partnership approach in planning and implementing its comprehensive programme of activity, realising that this would guarantee best results and penetration. CCoI has established and strengthened strategic partnerships with a view to collaborating on programmes for sustaining and increasing employment in craft into the future. In order to ensure efficiencies in expenditure and resources, CCoI has developed projects and programmes which can be replicated in the coming years. At all times, CCoI was mindful of ensuring that 2011 was not to become a 'one-off', stand alone event.

The aim of the partnership approach was to attract as many partners as possible from a wide spectrum of Irish life.

Aware of the multitude of organisations already well established and doing remarkable work in the Irish cultural landscape, CCoI recognised that partnering with these organisations would make for a cost efficient and successful means to achieve the objectives of Year of Craft 2011. Thus excellent and rewarding collaborations were established with partners such as Galway Arts Festival, Tall Ships Race Waterford and An Post to mention just a few. In all, almost 800 newly generated events took place in collaboration with partners by the end of Year of Craft 2011, realigning Irish craft and presenting it in a fresh and appealing way to the Irish public.

Numerous collaborations are set to continue and be developed further in the future. For many of the partners craft was an entirely new offering, and one which they have embraced with encouraging zeal. Many commented on the enormous benefit of being exposed to the world of Irish craft and pledged to retain craft as part of their future plans after seeing how craft can significantly enhance the overall visitor experience at these events.

All activities during Year of Craft 2011 were planned and implemented in line with the objectives of the Strategic Plan. Therefore all proposals and opportunities that arose were evaluated on a case-by-case basis and only proceeded if a project would assist in the delivery of CCoI's strategic goals and could be implemented through existing programmes.

The main focus of the Strategic Plan is on developing and growing the craft industry in Ireland. Four main strategic objectives were identified, each with associated areas of focus. An operational plan was developed in tandem with the Strategic Plan to map out activities across all programme teams.

The four main strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan 2010 – 2012 are as follows:

- Developing the Market for Irish Craft
- Building the Next Generation of Craftmakers
- Raising Awareness of Irish Craft
- Strengthening the Member Organisations



■ National Crafts & Design Fair 2011

CCOI'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2012 AND YEAR OF CRAFT 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Strategic Plan 2010 – 2012 sets out an ambitious and challenging programme of activity, especially given the current economic environment. Working with existing partners and developing strategic partnerships with organisations, agencies and other bodies throughout Ireland is central to delivering on the goals contained within the Plan. Based on the objectives of the Strategic Plan, CCol set out to engage and consult with a number of key support agencies in January 2011 as part of the Year of Craft 2011 Craft Summit. The outputs of the Craft Summit provided strategic focus as the organisation set about delivering on the second year of the 3-year plan for 2010 – 2012.

Objective 1: DEVELOPING THE MARKET FOR IRISH CRAFT

The Crafts Council of Ireland is committed to developing market opportunities for Irish craft, through two strands of activity: Developing Market Channels and Developing Craft Enterprises. The key aims are:

1a: Developing the Market Channels

- To expand the retail channels for Irish craft
- To increase direct selling opportunities for Irish craft
- To develop the tourism market for the benefit of Irish craft
- To develop the commercial gallery and exhibition channels for Irish craft

1b: Developing Craft Enterprises

- To deliver a range of supports for craft enterprises through a comprehensive CCol mentoring service
- To deliver skills training addressing specific industry needs
- To create business support information for CCol member organisations and craft enterprises
- To develop relationships with national and international partners to increase training and development in Irish craft
- To identify and influence opportunities for teacher education for craftmakers

Objective 1 and Year of Craft 2011:

Expanding the retail channels for Irish craft was a central component of the Year of Craft 2011 initiative. During the year CCol launched and supported four strong consumer marketing campaigns to grow understanding of disciplines, awareness of individual maker brands and sales across various channels. These campaigns were supported through the expansion of the www.giveirishcraft.com website. In addition to growing ties with major retailers, CCol also encouraged innovative retailing initiatives through the launch of the "Curated Craft" programme as part of Year of Craft 2011.

CCol also leveraged Showcase to connect with international retailers. As part of the organisation's plans for continually developing the annual show, CCol expanded the Creative Island area at Showcase 2011 and put plans in place for the launch of a new Fashion Show at Showcase 2012. In order to increase opportunities for direct sales, CCol exhibited at 4 major direct-sales events: Bloom in the Park, Tall Ships Race Waterford, the Interior Design & Art Fair and the National Crafts & Design Fair, while also supporting numerous smaller direct selling shows such as pop-up shops.

The National Craft Gallery expanded both its programme of exhibitions in Kilkenny and the touring programme. CCol created an external exhibitions fund and also supported numerous makers to show abroad. Relationships were strengthened with exhibition partners and a new show was launched at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) featuring work from Irish Craft Portfolio. Throughout 2011 CCol also worked with Fáilte Ireland to visit and audit 130 craft studios in preparation for the roll out of a national craft trail initiative in 2012.

The Enterprise Development Team hosted 8 days of specialist workshops as part of CCol's Building Craft Enterprise - Making it in Business programme, 56 enterprises received mentoring, and 70 businesses were awarded funds through the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) fund. 150 enterprises attended CCol's Continuing Professional Development workshops and a regional delivery plan was implemented to make the service available to a wider audience.

Objective 2: BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CRAFTMAKERS

The Crafts Council of Ireland believes that building the next generation of craftmakers through a range of education initiatives is critical to the future of the Irish craft industry.

In order to achieve this goal the key aims are:

- To increase national awareness of craft as a career
- To deliver a National Primary Level Initiative in support of the national curriculum
- To deliver an Education & Outreach programme targeted at second level to increase awareness of careers in craft
- To initiate targeted programmes for craftmaker and teacher development
- To ensure the future of the skills provided by the Ceramics and Jewellery Schools
- To grow relationships with national bodies to contribute to education policy in craft education

Objective 2 and Year of Craft 2011:

Existing education programmes were enhanced and new initiatives announced during Year of Craft 2011. CRAFTed, CCol's craft education initiative for primary schools, was delivered as a nationwide programme in partnership with Education Centres and a new dedicated online learning resource for teachers www.learncraftdesign.com was developed and launched as a legacy of Year of Craft 2011. The Future Makers Awards & Support programme was maintained and the accompanying website was redeveloped.

The Education & Outreach team coordinated visitors to the National Craft Gallery on gallery tours (primary, secondary, third level and special interest groups) and developed support materials for the exhibitions and talks as part of the National Craft Gallery exhibition programme. New partnerships were established with the outreach teams of other cultural centres and festivals, and over 12,000 children participated in craft workshops around the country through the Year of Craft programme.

Objective 3: RAISING AWARENESS OF IRISH CRAFT 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland aims to raise awareness of Irish craft in order to encourage interest in and demand for Irish craft products. To enable this, the key aims are:

- *To adopt a focused approach to promoting Irish craft to various audiences*
- *To redevelop the CCol website and targeted communications based on the requirements of the agreed identified audiences*
- *To generate interest in Irish craft through the Year of Craft 2011 Programme*
- *To increase exposure to Irish craft through media and strategic partnerships*
- *To conduct research to facilitate market intelligence on all aspects of the Irish craft sector*

Objective 3 and Year of Craft 2011:

The Year of Craft 2011 initiative was promoted throughout the year with all events, campaigns and activities across all process teams supported through national and local media, online and social media. Key coverage was achieved across TV, radio, and both national and regional print media, including several pieces of TV and print media coverage internationally.

An Post launched a series of 5 stamps promoting Irish

craft to mark Year of Craft 2011. The media partnerships established for Year of Craft resulted in a series of adverts and a 32 page special supplement on Irish craft in The Irish Times, and the airing of a specially created TV advert through the RTÉ Supporting the Arts Scheme. Relationships were also maintained and established with other key media throughout the country and internationally. CCol worked in collaboration with Big Mountain Productions on a 6 part TV series Craft Master which was aired on RTÉ One in autumn 2011.

To support the high level of activity for the Year of Craft 2011 programme, a new website was launched www.craftinireland.com allowing visitors to search for activities by location, date and type. As part of CCol's ongoing web developments, the implementation of a new, comprehensive CRM system commenced, to be rolled out in 2012.

CCol's annual Consumer Perceptions Survey was conducted by Millward Brown Lansdowne in December 2011 and the outcomes were very encouraging for the initial impact that the Year of Craft 2011 initiative had on consumers.



■ Craft Workshop, Kilkenny Arts Festival, 2011

Objective 4: STRENGTHENING THE MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

The member organisations of the Crafts Council of Ireland play an important role in enhancing the awareness of Irish craft and the skills of craftmaking. This strategic theme recognises this contribution and outlines the Crafts Council of Ireland's strategy of working closely with the member organisations for the overall benefit of Irish craft.

Key aims for achieving this are:

- *To enhance the links between the member organisations and the Crafts Council of Ireland*
- *To strengthen member organisations' ability to contribute to the craft sector by empowering them through targeted funding*
- *To increase the presence of all member organisations on the CCoI website*
- *To work with the member organisations in preserving Ireland's craft heritage*
- *To create opportunities for craft awareness by utilising the expertise of the member organisations*

Objective 4 and Year of Craft 2011:

During 2011 the Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS) took part in and provided craft

demonstrations at numerous events across the country such as Showcase, Bloom, Tall Ships Race Waterford, Electric Picnic and the National Crafts & Design Fair to name just a few. As part of Year of Craft 2011, the Network Supports Scheme was extended and 31 GANS participated with an exciting array of activities and CCoI coordinated a Counties Initiative, which saw 21 counties directly involved in the Year of Craft programme.

As a result of discussions at the GANS meetings that took place in 2011, a Heritage Committee was set up in September 2011 in order to focus on maintaining the heritage of some traditional crafts.

Next Steps:

Following the progress that was made during a very busy year in 2011, an operational plan was developed for the organisation to map out the activities for 2012, which will bring the current Strategic Plan to a close. During 2012 the next Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2015 will also be developed and launched before the end of the year.



■ Demonstration by Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers, Bloom 2011

CONCLUSION

Year of Craft 2011 was highly successful in raising both an awareness and appreciation of Irish craft amongst the general public and CCol has achieved the objectives set out at the start of this exciting and ambitious initiative.

Delivering the comprehensive programme of events and activities, generating excitement for Irish craft and maintaining momentum throughout the year long programme would not have been possible without the enthusiastic and dedicated involvement of CCol's member organisations and clients, strategic partners, event planners, retailers, educators and the general public as well as the craft champions, craft ambassadors and the many volunteers who supported craft events in 2011.

CCol would like to express its sincere gratitude to all those who participated in the Year of Craft 2011 programme. The principle and overarching purpose of Year of Craft 2011 was to raise the profile of craft in Ireland and to create public awareness of the availability, diversity and uniqueness of what is on our doorstep and its importance both culturally and economically to our local communities.

The results from CCol's most recent annual consumer perceptions survey conducted by Millward Brown Lansdowne in December 2011 highlight the immediate impact of the success of the Year of Craft project. Levels of interest in owning and buying craft products has increased significantly since 2011, and disinterest has plummeted. Negativity towards Irish crafts has diminished, with evidence that the public is considering them more as a purchase now than in the past, and not just seen as souvenir items. This amounts to a strong endorsement of Irish craft and builds on a solid, credible foundation from which Irish craft can continue to grow.

The following quote goes some way to illustrating the impact that Year of Craft 2011 has had on many stakeholders in the creative sector. It is clear that CCol's designation of 2011 as Year of Craft has had a significant impact on the way Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council's Arts Office thinks about Irish craft:

"Year of Craft challenged us to reconsider perceived boundaries between visual art and contemporary craft and to look at how we engage with, represent and support craft as an arts practice within this county. In response to the initiative we have commissioned a curator to develop an exhibition that will showcase local and national craft as an integral part of our visual arts programme in 2012. We also reassessed our funding opportunities and from this year on will include craft among our list of supported arts practice".

Kenneth Redmond, Arts Officer, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown

Ireland's Year of Craft 2011 succeeded in:

- creating jobs and generating income for craft makers
- building new relationships to the benefit of many individuals and organisations and contributing positively to Brand Ireland
- introducing new audiences to craft and motivating them to participate
- securing an elevated place for craft in the national consciousness
- reflecting the diversity and dynamism of the craft industry
- communicating the excitement and diversity of the sector

This report highlights many tangible outputs of the Year of Craft 2011 initiative, such as the new digital education resource www.learncraftdesign.com and the National Craft Trail, which will resonate throughout Ireland across its many different audiences. CCol will continue to monitor other outputs that emerge under the following headings:

- Links with new venues who will continue to engage with craft
- Increased number of channels to the public
- Increased public awareness
- New partnerships
- Heightened presence on political agenda
- Increased collaboration with agencies such as Fáilte Ireland, Irish Local Development Network, LEADER companies and County & City Enterprise Boards.



■ Claire Brewster, *Modified Expression*, 2011

APPENDIX 1

Highlight Events and Activities

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF YEAR OF CRAFT 2011

Dublin

15th December 2010

The Year of Craft 2011 initiative was officially launched by then Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Innovation Batt O’Keeffe, T.D. on Wednesday 15th December 2010.

Minister O’Keeffe announced the programme of events being delivered by the Crafts Council of Ireland, Craft Northern Ireland and their network of partners both at home and abroad to showcase the very best of craft made on the island of Ireland. It was also announced that President Mary McAleese would be Patron of Year of Craft 2011.

In launching the programme, Minister O’Keeffe said his Department was pleased to support Year of Craft 2011. “This initiative offers a strong platform for the crafts industry which has an important role to play in our economic recovery. Our craft sector is innovative and creative and its contribution to jobs, tourism and “Brand Ireland” cannot be overstated. The craft sector is a vital component of the culture of entrepreneurship the Government wants to foster as our economy recovers,” said Minister O’Keeffe.

The Minister noted that recent Crafts Council of Ireland research (conducted by Indecon International Economic Consultants) had shown that employment in the crafts sector is estimated at 5,771, with potential to increase to 7,589. “Over half of all craft businesses are based in rural communities where they are providing local jobs for local people and the Government will continue to support them in whatever way we can,” said Minister O’Keeffe.

As part of the announcement, Minister O’Keeffe unveiled the identity for Year of Craft 2011 which was created with

a view to supporting the development of a brand for Irish craft studios. The symbol included in the Year of Craft 2011 logo will act as a stand-alone icon on brown road signs for the Irish craft studios in the future, a fitting dimension to the legacy of Year of Craft 2011.

A new website was also launched to promote the Year of Craft 2011 programme, featuring a searchable online database of craft events and activities throughout Ireland and abroad, and a social media campaign commenced to promote the Year of Craft 2011 programme and introduce Irish craft to new audiences. Distribution through a network of tourist offices, hotels and visitor attractions also commenced for the first in a series of printed Event Guides for Year of Craft 2011.

The Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, (formerly Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation), Enterprise Ireland, Fáilte Ireland and the Office of Public Works were announced as key partners in promoting the Year of Craft 2011 initiative. The Irish Times and RTÉ (through the RTÉ Supporting the Arts scheme) were also announced as media partners.

“This initiative offers a strong platform for the crafts industry which has an important role to play in our economic recovery.”

**Batt O’Keeffe, T.D.,
Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Innovation**



■ L – R: Bernie McCoy, Craft Ambassador for the South East, Helen Conneely, Craft Ambassador for the Midlands, Batt O’Keeffe T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, and Anna - Marie O’Rourke, Craft Ambassador for the North West

SHOWCASE – IRELAND'S CREATIVE EXPO

RDS, Dublin

23rd – 26th January 2011

The country's leading designers, manufacturers and craftspeople took part in their most important sales event of 2011 when they exhibited at the 35th Showcase – Ireland's Creative Expo, in the RDS, Dublin. The annual trade show is the largest international fair in Ireland and has become an important means of developing market opportunities for Irish craft businesses.

Ireland's talented designers and craftspeople unveiled their latest innovative products at Showcase – Ireland's Creative Expo, hoping to sign new lucrative contracts for the year. The 2011 event attracted 4,927 buyers from over 17 countries including North America, continental Europe and Japan throughout the four days and the energy of the event showed that despite the recession, Ireland was definitely open for business.

The opening of the event was the first official engagement of Mary Hanafin T.D. in her role as Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation. Showcase was about enterprise that was very much at the heart of our economy and it was also about culture, creativity and art, she said.

Creative Island - a space dedicated to beautifully crafted products exclusively Imagined, Designed, Made in Ireland - was presented for the second year running. The 75 craftspeople in Creative Island were chosen by an independent jury for their creativity, innovation and craftsmanship and the area was supported with a Creative Island catalogue featuring a selection of work by the makers.

4,927 buyers
from over 17 countries
attended Showcase 2011

Several County & City Enterprise Boards participated in Showcase by supporting many first-time exhibitors at special County Enterprise Stands. Free retail seminars in development and merchandising were presented, along with a seminar on trends forecasting, specially commissioned for Showcase, to provide inspiration for retailers interested in interiors and fashion and supported by a dedicated trends display area.

RTÉ's Nationwide visited the first day of the Showcase and aired a 30 minute show dedicated to Showcase the following day, including pre-recorded segments and onsite interviews with exhibitors, buyers and a representative of CCoI. The event also achieved extensive media coverage pre, during and post the show at both national and regional level.



■ Minister Mary Hanafin, Creative Island, Showcase 2011, RDS, Dublin

IRISH CRAFT SUMMIT

Farmleigh, Dublin
26th January 2011

The Irish Craft Summit was one of the first major events marking Year of Craft 2011 and was attended by representatives of leading support agencies including Enterprise Ireland, Tourism Ireland, the Arts Council and Culture Ireland.

Delegates were invited from key relevant sectors to join CCoI for the day - from the fields of Culture, Design, Education, Enterprise, Environment and Tourism - all with a demonstrable interest and stake in craft. The aim of the event was to generate practical ideas for job creation in, and support for, the craft sector in Ireland.

In light of the significant contribution that the craft sector makes to the Irish economy and the number employed in the sector, CCoI invited attendees to explore how they could jointly create the conditions in which the potential for growth in the sector could be fully realised. There was recognition of the need for a joined up positioning strategy for Irish craft and design in a similar way to what has been done successfully for Irish food.

Speakers highlighted the importance of developing centres of excellence where craft makers can design, make and exhibit their products and where visitors can buy craft and design and see them in a local context. Summit attendees were asked for job creation ideas and what factors are preventing the potential for Irish craft right now. They were also asked to describe Irish craft at its absolute best and what it contributes to Ireland.

Outcomes and resulting actions from the event included:

- Exploring how to align supports for the craft sector between the enterprise agencies;
- Analysing gaps in craft skills training provision, and agreeing with partners how best these can be met;
- Developing closer links between heritage, arts and crafts in order to raise the profile and economic importance of the creative sector with a view to developing job opportunities;
- Developing a closer relationship between design and craft.

The Irish Craft Summit, which coincided with the last day of Showcase 2011, was followed by a reception at Áras an Uachtaráin hosted by President Mary McAleese, to celebrate Year of Craft 2011. Guests included delegates from the Summit and craftspeople who had just completed Showcase. The President spoke enthusiastically of her passion for traditional crafts and of Ireland's international standard of crafts and the importance of keeping jobs at home.

80 representatives of leading support agencies attended the first Irish Craft Summit



■ L-R Sarah McKenna (Louth), Cathy Prendergast (Louth), Sarah Daly (Louth), President Mary McAleese, Garrett Mallon, (Louth), Liz Christy (Monaghan), Brenda McGinn (Monaghan)

CRAFTED CREATURES AT THE ARK

Temple Bar, Dublin

15th February – 1st April 2011

The Ark, A Cultural Centre for Children, was invaded by Crafted Creatures when each floor of its award-winning building came to life with an animal-themed exhibition of Irish craft which opened in February.

Specially commissioned by The Ark and the Crafts Council of Ireland to celebrate Year of Craft 2011, the exhibition gave children and families an opportunity to explore a captivating world of crafted soft toys, pets, insects, underwater creatures and mythical beasts, while activity sheets helped reveal the secrets used to bring materials like clay, wool and willow to life as wonderful pieces of art.

The Crafted Creatures exhibition was curated by Brian Kennedy and featured work by 28 contemporary craftspeople including Bob Johnston, Lynn Kirkham, Gwen

Wilkinson, Inga Hamilton, Frances Lambe, Mark Oliver and David Withers.

At weekends, children discovered all the fun and creativity of contemporary craft in a unique series of workshops celebrating Year of Craft 2011 and on weekdays, schools craft workshops invited children to unleash their imagination while giving potential to explore aspects of the primary school visual arts curriculum. The workshops for families and schools were led by Gina Faustino, Terry O'Farrell and Angela O'Kelly.

The seven week long exhibition reached an audience of over 7,000 children and adults and was accompanied by a specially created craft trail through Dublin city centre.

7,127 children and adults visited Crafted Creatures

"The exhibition is delightful, well done The Ark, Crafts Council and Museum. I'll be recommending it highly to my colleagues."

Gaye Tanham, Head of Young People, Children & Education, The Arts Council



■ *The Brown Bull of Cooley* by Bob Johnston

CORK PUBLIC MUSEUM

Cork Public Museum

4th March – 30th April 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland was delighted to coordinate Tread Softly, the first exhibition of textiles in conjunction with members of their guilds, associations, networks and societies (GANS). The exhibition was first launched at the Knitting & Stitching Show in the RDS, Dublin in October 2010 and travelled to the Phoenix Park Visitor Centre in February 2011 before it was officially opened at Cork Public Museum for the months of March and April.

The poetry of W.B. Yeats has been interpreted in many genres and has been a great source of inspiration for artists. In this exhibition, Yeats' poem 'He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven' (otherwise known as Tread Softly) became a delightful and evocative source of inspiration for a number of textile makers working throughout Ireland, across a broad range of disciplines from feltmaking to patchwork. Entrants were free to interpret the poem as they wished.

*Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with the golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and half-light,
I would spread the cloths under your feet
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams beneath your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my dreams.*

William Butler Yeats

It was evident from the quality and diversity of the work on show in the exhibition that the potency of the language in Tread Softly greatly stimulated the imagination and suggested a wide range of meanings to the participating textile artists.

The work in the exhibition was selected by Ann Mulrooney, Curator of the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny and Angela O'Kelly, designer, jeweller and curator. The 17 textile artists included in Tread Softly were Carmel Creaner, Pascale de Coninck, Bernadette Falvey, Gina Faustino, Gillian Freedman, Louise Hardman, Amanda Kenny, Anne Kiely, Frances Leach, Jean McKenna, Beth Moran, Liz Nilsson, Helen O'Shea, Caroline Schofield, Arlene Shawcross, Lana Shuks and Lesley Stothers.

17 textile artists
featured in Tread Softly
exhibition



■ 'Tread Softly' (Detail) by Ann Kiely

CRAFT WORKSHOPS AT BIG DAY OUT

Merrion Square, Dublin

20th March 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Education & Outreach team from the National Craft Gallery, in partnership with the Year of Craft 2011 and Saint Patrick's Festival, ran a day of childrens' craft activity as part of the Big Day Out on Merrion Square.

This was the first time that Irish craft was included on the programme for the Saint Patrick's Festival. The craft activities were coordinated by the CCoI Education & Outreach Team and artists from the CCoI's Education Panel, including Marie Brett, Nic Piper, Sabrina Meyns, Rosie Naughton, Shona Flood, Gina Faustino and Jean Conroy, supported by 14 volunteers from various third level colleges in Cork, Limerick, Dublin and Galway.

Five free workshops for children took place loosely based on themes in the Roddy Doyle 'Brilliant' story which was the overall theme for the Saint Patrick's Day Parade: Felted Funny Bones, Dream Machine, Clay Café, Re-Jewellerate and the Flags of Intention.

The workshops were fully subscribed with 300 children participating on the day and over 700 people engaging with the Flags of Intention installation in Merrion Park.

300 children
participated in free craft
workshops

700 people of all ages
engaged with *Flags of
Intention* installation



■ *Flags of Intention, Merrion Park, Dublin*

KNITTING WORLD RECORD

Roscommon
30th April 2011

Knitters aged from 7 to 70+ participated in an historic occasion for Roscommon during Year of Craft 2011 where a knitting world record was broken on 30th April as part of the annual Roscommon Lamb Festival.

Whilst the county football team were beating New York in the USA, 1,147 knitters of all ages came together and took to the stands of Dr. Hyde Park in Roscommon to break the world record! The previous world record of 937 knitters knitting simultaneously for 15 minutes had been held by attendees of The Sock Summit 2009 in Portland, Oregon but the title moved across the ocean to Roscommon town during Year of Craft 2011.

Lamb Festival promoter Brian Kearns was quoted as saying "the whole thing was great fun and we're delighted with the result". In addition to the world record break, on Sunday 1st May spinners, felt makers, weavers, knitters and crocheters gathered together to demonstrate and offer free workshops.

Visitors to Roscommon during the festival included international travel writer Anne Van Dyke whose trip to Ireland was prompted by the attempt to break the world record. The Breakfast Show on New Zealand's TVNZ subsequently aired a travel segment with Anne Van Dyke, featuring coverage of craft trails in Ireland and the Year of Craft 2011 programme of events, including the knitting world record in Roscommon.

Knitting world record broken
1,147
knitters of all ages involved



■ *Knitting World Record, Roscommon Lamb Festival*

COLLECT

Saatchi Gallery, London
6th – 9th May 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery participated in COLLECT 2011, the International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects at London's Saatchi Gallery in May.

Following the impact made by Irish craft at COLLECT in 2010, the National Craft Gallery presented an exhibition of the work of 8 contemporary Irish makers in 2011. Six of the makers were from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Irish Craft Portfolio - Sara Flynn, ceramicist; Jack Doherty, ceramicist; Karl Harron, glass artist; Nest Design, furniture designers; Marcus O'Mahony, ceramicist; Yaffe Mays, furniture designers. Also included in the exhibition were glass artist Róisín de Buitléar, recipient of the Crafts Council of Ireland Irish Craft Bursary in 2010 and ceramicist Derek Wilson, previous recipient of the Crafts Council of Ireland Student Award.

"It is fantastic to have the National Craft Gallery back at COLLECT for the third year in a row" said Rosy Greenlees, Executive Director of Crafts Council UK who run the COLLECT event. "It is heartening to see the quality of work that they are showing from a number of Irish makers who have come up through Crafts Council of Ireland schemes."

The Duke of Devonshire made a special appointment to view pieces by Nest Design, and later in September of 2011 the Duke & Duchess of Devonshire asked Nest Design to design and make a piece for the Chatsworth collection. After viewing Derek Wilson's work at COLLECT, Wallpaper Magazine included a feature on him and Luxembourg's Ambassador to the UK bought one of his pieces. David Lionel de Rothschild bought a Róisín de Buitléar piece. Craft Arts International magazine also ran a four-page feature on ceramicist Jack Doherty as follow up to seeing his work exhibited at COLLECT.

This international success further reinforced Ireland's reputation as a world-class source of contemporary fine craft, representing not only Ireland's finest craft, but as a source of cultural and economic potential.

"It is heartening to see the quality of work that they are showing from a number of Irish makers" Rosy Greenlees



■ Derek Wilson 'Void 1 and 2'

LAUNCH OF YEAR OF CRAFT 2011 STAMPS

G.P.O. Dublin
11th May 2011

Five 55 cent stamps with images of Irish craft were issued by An Post in May to celebrate the Year of Craft 2011.

The five craft artists and makers representing five craft disciplines were Róisín de Buitléar - Glass; Liam Flynn - Wood; Inga Reed - Metal; Helen McAllister - Textiles; and Deirdre McLoughlin - Ceramics.

Booklets of the five stamps which were designed by talented Irish graphic designer Ger Garland, as well as a First Day Cover envelope, were available to purchase from 12th May in selected post offices throughout the country and online at www.irishstamps.ie.

A prestige booklet was also produced containing information on craft in Ireland and the launch of the craft stamps was promoted in An Post's Stamp Collector catalogue for 2011.

5 craft disciplines profiled in Year of Craft 2011 stamps

A special exhibition of the craft pieces that were featured on the 5 stamps also took place at the GPO from 12th May to 10th June, giving visitors to the historic building an opportunity to admire up close the craftsmanship of the pieces selected to represent contemporary craft in Ireland.

The special issue of the 5 craft stamps was the outcome of an application submitted by the Crafts Council of Ireland in 2008 to the Stamp Design & Advisory Committee of An Post for the inclusion of a set of craft stamps in 2011's commemorative issues.



■ 5 Irish Craft Stamps Issued by An Post to Celebrate Year of Craft 2011. L-R: Deirdre McLoughlin, Róisín de Buitléar, Helen McAllister, Liam Flynn, Inga Reed

A CONSTANT THREAD

Rathfarnham, Dublin

14th – 29th May 2011

As part of Year of Craft 2011 and the Bealtaine Festival, a unique exhibition entitled 'A Constant Thread' took place in the beautiful Rathfarnham Castle celebrating older craftspeople who work from the traditions of weaving. These traditions which included lace and rug-making, all began with a thread, showing how one thing leads to another, simply at first but given time with greater complexity and virtuosity.

Commenting on the exhibition, Mamo McDonald, Honorary President of Age & Opportunity and a lacemaking enthusiast, said "All craftwork, including lace, tells stories. The lacemakers share their skills and motifs – like Bealtaine transmits its ideas between generations. Motifs we got from Venice lace become Clones or Carrickmacross marigolds and shamrocks, roses and lilies; even the whitewash brush appears in lacework here. Women use lace motifs to express their own lives, sharing the excitement of making new things; that's surely the essence of all craftwork".

To coincide with the opening of A Constant Thread, the Bealtaine Festival also hosted a lace making workshop on 14th May. Absolute beginners or those wanting to revive or improve existing lace making skills were invited to come along to the workshop led by lace maker and teacher, Maire Treanor.

24 makers were involved
in A Constant Thread

age & opportunity
Promoting greater participation by older people

bealtainefestival
celebrating creativity as we age

ORNAMENT

Tallaght, Dublin

16th May – 18th June 2011

Ornament was a stunning exhibition of brooches, designed and made by some of the finest contemporary studio jewellers based in Ireland and the UK presented by Red Rua, South Dublin's Art Centre as part of Year of Craft 2011. The exhibition highlighted current trends and celebrated the rich diversity in European jewellery.

This group of dynamic makers challenged the boundaries of their craft, art and wearability. Prevalent trends and approaches were addressed in this exhibition exploiting conceptual jewellery, slow and fast craft techniques and materials. The common link between all the makers was their sensitivity to the materials they use, mastery of their craft and strong individual identity.

The work of 39 makers was featured in the exhibition

Each maker used a variety of techniques when creating their work. The makers focusing on slow craft presented contemporary design and ingenuity of traditional techniques through a variety of precious and non-precious materials. Techno craft techniques were explored by makers using cutting edge technology and materials including laser cutters and rapid prototype machines. Conceptual jewellers accentuated thought provoking work, which conveyed a meaning and message in their jewellery.

Exhibiting makers included Debbie Paul, Seliena Coyle, Niamh Mulligan, Inga Reed, Julie Connellan, Jessica Turrell, Sarah Keay, Pauline Edie, Clare Hillerby, and Emma Barnett.

10,920

visitors to Ornament during its run



■ Pieces by Lindsey Mann, Ornament at Rua Red Arts Centre

YEAR OF CRAFT 2011 TV ADVERT

RTÉ

23rd – 29th May 2011

Year of Craft 2011 was brought to the small screen and an audience of millions in May 2011. RTÉ's involvement as a media partner for Year of Craft 2011 resulted in CCoI securing advertising through the RTÉ Supporting the Arts scheme for the initiative.

CCoI commissioned a twenty second advert to promote Year of Craft 2011 and featured the popular disciplines of ceramics, jewellery and wood as well as the Imagined, Designed, Made in Ireland identity established by the Crafts Council of Ireland to promote Irish craft to consumers.

The Year of Craft advert aired 50 times during a 7-day period, commencing Monday 23rd May, the date of President Obama's visit to Ireland. Transmission times included slots before and during the News on both RTÉ One and RTÉ Two, with several prime time transmission times throughout the week.

The pieces of Irish craft featured in the advert, which was produced by Image Now, were a woodturned bowl by Glenn Lucas, silver jewellery by Rachel Swan and ceramics by Karen Morgan.

*Year of Craft 2011
TV advert aired*

50

*times during the week of
President Obama's visit to
Ireland*



■ Year of Craft 2011 TV advert

WEST CORK INSPIRES

Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin
29th May – 24th July 2011

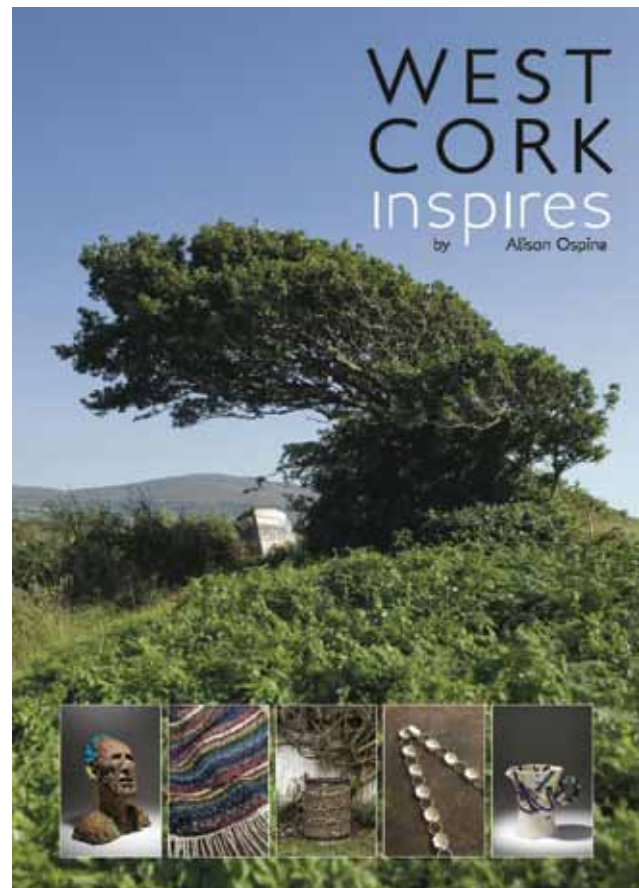
'West Cork Inspires', a new book by Alison Ospina, was initially launched on 1st March at the European Commission in London by Lord Puttnam and hosted by the Irish Embassy. The Irish launch of the book took place on 29th May at Farmleigh Gallery to coincide with the opening of the West Cork Inspires exhibition of work by craftspeople profiled in the book.

'West Cork Inspires' tells the story of the creative community in West Cork – how the craft movement was started in the early 1960s and how it impacted on craft production in the whole of Ireland – and profiles 22 of the most outstanding artists. Often inspired by books like 'Self Sufficiency' and 'Silent Spring', these young people moved to West Cork looking for a better way of life. They were attracted in particular by the stunning landscapes and low property prices but as the creative community grew, it became an attraction in its own right.

The 22 craftspeople profiled in West Cork Inspires include potter, Christa Reichel, (1932-2009); weaver, Barbara Harte (1921-2007); ceramic artist Cormac Boydell; basketmaker Norbert Platz; feltmaker, Helen Stringer; and woodturner, Kieran Higgins.

The accompanying exhibition curated by Etain Hickey showed how the work of these artists has developed over the last 50 years and illustrated how a West Cork aesthetic has emerged from the multi cultural craft community.

The exhibited work was supported by an abundance of archival material, photographs, posters designed and printed by the artists themselves, invitations and newspaper cuttings. The homecoming exhibition of 'West Cork Inspires' took place in Cork Public Museum in October 2011 and ran until December 2011.



■ West Cork Inspires (jacket cover)

West Cork Inspires profiled 22 of the many skilled craftsmen and women from the West Cork region

BRUCE METCALF

National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
20th May – 6th July 2011

Iconic US jeweller Bruce Metcalf had his first solo exhibit in Ireland at the National Craft Gallery during 2011.

Bruce Metcalf is a leading art jeweller, curator, essayist and critic of contemporary craft. Metcalf uses various materials, including wood, metal, and Plexiglass, and diverse techniques for his jewellery, small sculptures, and wall reliefs.

Using images drawn from personal experience, he contrasts familiar, everyday objects with the unfamiliar in an effort to create whimsical yet restrained works of art that comment on the human condition.

“Think of my work as the mutant love child of Fabergé’s jewels, Hans Bellmer’s doll, and Tex Avery’s cartoons. Which is not to say that I’m completely irreverent.” – Bruce Metcalf.

Metcalf’s work has been featured in major exhibitions including the American Craft Museum, New York; Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. and the Galeria Universitaria Artistas, Mexico City. He has been a contributing editor of *Metalsmith* magazine for nearly two decades and teaches at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

Metcalf was in Kilkenny to install the exhibition and also created wall reliefs as part of the show, by drawing on the walls of the National Craft Gallery. This process was filmed and played in the gallery for the duration of the exhibition. The exhibition in Kilkenny was his first solo exhibition in Ireland, and offered visitors to the National Craft Gallery a rare opportunity to see the work of this leading master craftsman.

6,436

visitors to Bruce Metcalf’s solo exhibition during its run at the National Craft Gallery



■ Lucia's Leaves by Bruce Metcalf

CELEBRATING IRISH CERAMICS CAMPAIGN

Nationwide
June 2011

Ireland's ceramics industry was celebrated in June with the launch by the Crafts Council of Ireland of National Ceramics Month. CCol encouraged Irish people and summer visitors to take the time to experience the beautiful work of Ireland's talented ceramicists and to recognise the cultural and economic contribution of ceramic artisans and designers all over Ireland.

As part of the month-long celebration of Irish ceramics, CCol planned several exciting and high profile events and a consumer awareness campaign to celebrate Irish ceramics was rolled out to 46 stores nationally, with point of sale materials promoting the work Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland. Stores participating in the campaign included Arnotts, House of Fraser, Meadows and Byrne, Shaws, amongst many others. Details of the craft makers and additional stockists throughout the country were available at www.craftinireland.com.

Key events and activities coinciding with the consumer campaign included the following:

- The iconic shop window of Kilkenny Shop on Nassau Street in Dublin featured a striking exhibition of work designed and made by 10 leading ceramicists, including a 12 foot photographic portrait of the artisans: Isobel Egan, Adam Frew, Sinead Lough, Andrew Ludick, Lucy Meagher, Nicholas Mosse, Louis Mulcahy, Mary Neeson, Colm de Rís & Grainne Watts. This group was selected for their wonderful and original ideas and the exciting designs ranged from beautiful everyday functional-ware to exquisite sculptural decorative objects.

46 stores participated in the Celebrating Irish Ceramics campaign

- Ceramics formed the centrepiece of 'The Irish Craft Garden' at Bloom, Ireland's largest garden, food and craft festival. Adults and children alike were invited to try their hand at making their own ceramic creations and placing them in an exciting, ever-growing garden of Irish craft.
- Two significant exhibitions of Irish ceramic design took place in June at Farmleigh: Irish Craft Portfolio featured the work of many of Ireland's international stars of ceramics and craft, and Ceramics Ireland's exhibition transFORM featured the best of contemporary ceramic practice from makers at home and abroad.
- Ceramic studios all over Ireland were opened to welcome visitors to see ceramics being made, and in some cases to invite trial and participation.
- The Celebrating Irish Ceramics campaign received widespread media coverage, ranging from a three-page feature in The Irish Times magazine to a segment on TV3's Ireland AM.



■ Kilkenny shop window, Nassau Street, Dublin

BLOOM IN THE PARK 2011

Phoenix Park, Dublin
2nd – 6th June 2011

To celebrate Year of Craft 2011, CCoI developed the Irish Craft Showcase at Bloom, which featured the Irish Craft Garden designed by award winning garden designer Fiann O'Nuallain, a craft retail area and a demonstration and workshop area. President Mary McAleese visited the Irish Craft Showcase during her tour of Bloom. The event attracted almost 90,000 visitors during the five days.

The Irish Craft Garden was a showcase for the wealth of talent amongst craftspeople in Ireland. Centered on the idea of growing your garden with Irish craft, the garden featured over 70 pieces of work from 31 artists. Pieces were placed into the garden – amongst the rolling undulations, the floral features, the stunning foliage and the centrepiece courtyard – for visitors to discover and enjoy.

Over 20 makers were represented in the craft retail area in a series of hand-built wooden stands which curved around the Irish Craft Garden and the workshop / demonstration area. Beautiful contemporary work - in a range of disciplines from jewellery, millinery, prints, pottery, candles, textiles and wood – was on offer.

The workshop and demonstration areas were a hive of activity with over 750 people participating in workshops and demonstrations over the five days of the event. 430 children took part in workshops in disciplines such as

basketmaking, pottery, mosaics, textiles, feltmaking and patchwork. The Irish Woodturners Guild had a dedicated demonstration stand that drew huge crowds each day and other demonstrations were provided by the Irish Basketmakers Association, the Irish Patchwork Society, Ceramics Ireland and the Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.

The Irish Craft Garden featured 70 pieces of work from

31 *artists*

and

430 *children took part in free craft workshops*



■ Irish Craft Garden and retail area, Bloom 2011

EDMUND DE WAAL PUBLIC READING

Dublin Castle

8th June 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland was honoured to host a public reading and interview with Edmund De Waal, the world renowned potter and award winning author of *'The Hare With Amber Eyes'* in June.

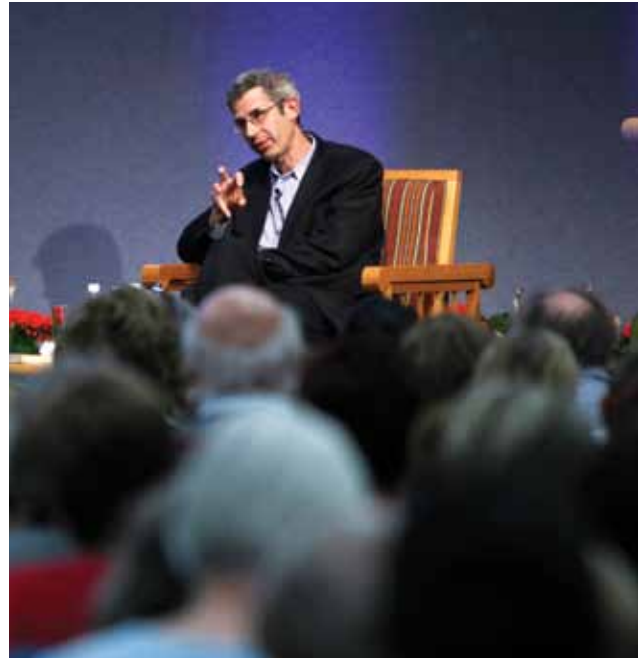
Edmund de Waal was born in Nottingham in 1964 and started to pot when he was five. Close to clay throughout his school years, he was apprenticed in Canterbury, studied in Japan and then read English at Cambridge.

De Waal is considered one of the finest ceramic artists at work today. He is best known for his groups of porcelain vessels, now in the collections of 30 international museums. Most recently de Waal has created major installations for the Victoria & Albert and Tate museums in Britain and has had a major show with the Alan Cristea Gallery in London.

De Waal describes himself as a potter who writes. *'The Hare with Amber Eyes'* traces a journey through the history of his family in objects and is his most personal book. It has won awards such as the 2010 Costa Book Awards (Biography) and the 2011 Ondaatje Prize.

Due to immense demand the public reading, which was originally scheduled to take place in City Hall, required a larger venue and was moved to the Dublin Castle Conference Centre. The new venue was packed to capacity and the audience hung on every word as de Waal read extracts from his award winning book and spoke movingly of his journey into his family's past.

The reading was followed by a public interview chaired by Eileen Battersby, literary correspondent for The Irish Times.



Public Reading with Edmund de Waal

Over
300
 people attended the
 sell out public reading
 by Edmund de Waal

YEAR OF CRAFT 2011 PUBLIC CONFERENCE

Dublin Castle

9th June 2011

To coincide with the visit to Dublin of members of the World Crafts Council – Europe for their Annual General Assembly, the Crafts Council of Ireland organised a public conference as a highlight event for Year of Craft 2011.

Craft Conscious – Re-shaping global futures in the innovation age took place in Dublin Castle and was attended by 280 delegates, including representatives of craft organisations from United Kingdom, Slovakia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Malta and Spain.

The Crafts Council of Ireland was honoured that President Mary McAleese, Patron of Year of Craft 2011, addressed the conference delegates. The keynote speaker was Edmund de Waal; world renowned potter and author of *'The Hare With Amber Eyes'*. Other speakers included Edna dos Santos-Duisenberg, Chief, Creative Economies and Industries Programme, United Nations; Leonardo Bonanni, who teaches the 'Future Craft' programme at MIT and is a world leader in sustainable design of products and supply chains; economist Finbarr Bradley, co-author of *'Capitalising on Culture, Competing on Difference'*; and Brian Keaney, designer and director at Tonfisk, Finland.

The conference addressed issues, opportunities and themes of common concern and facilitated breakout sessions provided delegates with an opportunity to share ideas on supporting craft enterprises.

An extensive programme of cultural activity was arranged around the visit, showcasing the very best of Irish craft to both the domestic and international delegates. This included visits to Wood Quay to view the 'Write on!' Irish and international calligraphic exhibition, The Design Tower in Dublin to meet the resident makers, the National Museum of Ireland – Collins Barracks, an exhibition of contemporary Croatian jewellery at the Rubicon Gallery and a visit to Farmleigh to view the Ceramics Ireland and West Cork Inspires exhibitions.

280
delegates attended
the Year of Craft Public
Conference

**Representatives of craft
organisations from 11
countries across Europe
attended the World Crafts
Council – Europe General
Assembly in Dublin**

Following the public conference, many of the visiting delegates traveled to Kilkenny where they attended an event at Castlecomer Estate Yard with Paivi Juntenaun in conversation with Eleanor Flegg and Joseph McBrinn on Kaj Franck and the Kilkenny Design Workshops and completed a tour of Island Mill in Thomastown where the Crafts Council of Ireland runs its Ceramics Skills and Design Course. The delegates' visit to Kilkenny was completed with the opening of the 21st Century Icons exhibition at the National Craft Gallery.

Coinciding with the visit of the World Crafts Council-Europe delegates, CCoI was delighted to gain the support of Dublin City Council in promoting Year of Craft 2011. Fifty Year of Craft flags were featured on flagpoles on both side of the Liffey from Liberty Hall to Dublin Corporation for six weeks from the end of May, providing a colourful welcome for visitors to the capital city.

THE IRISH TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON IRISH CRAFT

Nationwide
9th June 2011

CCoI was delighted to secure The Irish Times as a media partner for the Year of Craft 2011 programme. In addition to regular coverage and features on craft and a schedule of advertisements throughout the year promoting Year of Craft 2011 events and activities, a highlight of the media partnership was a special supplement on Irish craft.

Timed to coincide with the Year of Craft 2011 Public Conference, the 32-page special supplement was published and distributed nationwide with copies of The Irish Times on 9th June. The supplement was funded by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Fáilte Ireland and the total print run was 105,000 copies.

The supplement included a message from President Mary McAleese, profiles on established names and emerging talent in Ireland, features on incorporating handmade items into all aspects of living, a shopping guide to purchasing Irish craft, a map and information on craft trails and experiences throughout the island of Ireland, details on where to learn about craft and a feature on the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny.

105,000

*copies of a 32-page
special supplement on
Irish craft distributed with
The Irish Times*



LAUNCH OF 'HANDS ON – TRADITIONAL SKILLS AND WHERE TO LEARN THEM'

The Irish Times

February – December 2011

In celebration of Year of Craft 2011, The Irish Times asked Sylvia Thompson to write a weekly column on traditional skills and where to learn them. This was a result of the media partnership established with The Irish Times and each week Sylvia researched a different craft.

Starting with outdoor skills, the column moved on to studio-based crafts, then delved into conservations skills before focusing on stitching crafts and other home-based traditional skills.

Each column included a question and answer feature with a leading practitioner of the particular craft and included information on relevant courses.

The weekly column proved so popular that it subsequently became the basis for a book, a fitting legacy of the Year of Craft 2011 initiative. 'Hands On – The Art of Crafting' in Ireland details the history of 40 crafts and provides information on where to see them, where to learn them and what is involved. With the support of both the Crafts Council of Ireland and The Heritage Council, the book was published and launched in July 2012. It is available online through www.libertiespress.com and in leading book shops.

40

*Irish crafts are profiled
in 'Hands On – The Art of
Crafting in Ireland'*



CROATIAN JEWELLERY EXHIBITION

Rubicon Gallery, Dublin

8th – 25th June, 2011

An exhibition of contemporary Croatian jewellery took place at the Rubicon Gallery in June to celebrate the visit by the World Crafts Council - Europe to Dublin. The exhibition was presented by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia who initiated the project which saw the exhibition travel to Prague, Bratislava, Helsinki, Innsbruck, Pečuh, Baja, Bekescsaba (Hungary), Subotica, Novi Sad and Beijing before its visit to Dublin.

The exhibition was opened by Ms. Jasna Ognjanovac, Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Ireland and an opening speech was given by Ms Edna dos Santos-Duisenberg, Chief, Creative Economies and Industries Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The exhibition included 102 pieces of work from 16 artists whose focus was on unique jewellery - Rok Lumezi, Vera Dajht Kralj, Boris Pokos, Zlatko Odrčić, Mario Beusan, Stjepan Balja, Davor Šuk, Eva Lumezi Šimatović, Karolina Pernar, Max Škledar, Eta Linčir, Boris Borović, Rea Boschi Gogolja, Mara Fabijančić Borović, Luka Petrinjak and Nenad Roban.

The opening of the exhibition was attended by delegates of the World Crafts Council – Europe General Assembly.

Work of
16 *Croatian jewellers*
exhibited in Dublin as
part of Year of Craft 2011



■ World Crafts Council – Europe General Assembly delegates attend the exhibition opening

INTERNATIONAL BLACKSMITHING FESTIVAL 2011

Monaghan Town
24th – 26th June, 2011

Following their exhibition at the Leitrim Sculpture Centre in March, the Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (IABA) held an international forge-in in Monaghan Town in June. The event attracted blacksmiths from around the world who worked together to create unique sculptures using traditional blacksmithing techniques.

Over the weekend artist blacksmiths hand-forged sculptures for the town, on the final day these sculptures were assembled and exhibited together in the main square in Monaghan.

The event also included lectures, exhibitions, demonstrations and classes which were given by international master blacksmiths. The internationally renowned master blacksmiths who participated included Tom Joyce (USA), Alexander Sushnikov (Russia), Francisco Gazitua (Chile), Martin Breidenbach (Germany), Takyoshi Komine (Japan), Stephané Chavelier (France), Stephen Lunn (England) and Jim Horrobin (England). These master blacksmiths kindly designed individual panels based on the theme of "Knowledge and Learning" and each master led a group of blacksmiths in hand forging their panel design which were fitted to a forged framework structure over the weekend.

Apart from the masters, other artist blacksmiths from England, Scotland, Wales, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Luxembourg, Austria, Russia, Latvia, Moldavia, Belgium, the Czech Republic, America, Chile and Japan attended. Visitors had an opportunity to watch up close as the blacksmiths worked at four forging stations set up around the town where the sculptures were hand-forged.

The international forge-in created huge excitement in Monaghan Town and the sculpture created will serve as a reminder to all of one of the key public events that took place during Year of Craft 2011.

Following the forge-in, Norwegian blacksmiths sent out an appeal to colleagues from the event to help in creating 500 roses that would be used to create the permanent memorial to those who lost their lives in the Oslo massacre on 22nd July. In response, Irish blacksmiths created nearly two dozen iron roses which formed part of the memorial to the 77 people killed in Norway.

Over
200
blacksmiths from around the world attend Ireland's first international Blacksmithing Festival



■ Blacksmithing Festival, Monaghan

TALL SHIPS RACE, WATERFORD 2011

Waterford City

30th June – 2nd July, 2011

An Irish Craft Village featuring free, nautical-themed craft workshops and demonstrations as well as makers selling Irish crafts was central to the celebrations at the Tall Ships Race 2011 Festival in Waterford.

Dozens of Irish craftspeople showcased the best of craft Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland during the Tall Ships Race, Waterford which attracted over 500,000 people. The Irish Craft Village was in the heart of the festival just off the Quays and near Reginald's Tower where 32 craft retail stands representing over 60 makers included everything from ceramics and homewares to contemporary jewellery and accessories,

Over 2,400 children participated in a wide range of exciting craft activities in the Education Space at the Irish Craft Village. Throughout the festival, the craft village was teeming with young craft enthusiasts trying their hand at a number of different crafts and techniques in a series of nautical themed workshops and demonstrations. Hundreds of budding weavers also helped to create a giant rug on 'The Giant Loom' with textile artist Lian Callaghan and ceramist Orla Kaminska facilitated a family workshop in mosaic and completed a magnificent Tall Ship which was presented to Waterford City.

The public also had a chance to view the best of Irish textiles with the Irish Patchwork Society, traditional spinning techniques with Geraldine Murphy from the Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers and skillful

demonstrations of rope making with boat builder Tiernan Roe. The Irish Woodturners Guild were also demonstrating the craft of woodturning.

Following the official opening of the Tall Ships Race, Waterford, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny spent time touring the Irish Craft Village, meeting the participating makers. The Irish Craft Village was also pleased to welcome two of the Presidential candidates – David Norris and the future President Michael D. Higgins.

Over
2,400
*children participated
in craft activities and
32 craft retail stands
represented over 60
makers in the Irish
Craft Village*



■ Clay workshop, Tall Ships Race, Waterford

GALWAY ARTS FESTIVAL

Galway

11th – 24th July, 2011

Modern Languages at Galway Arts Festival

Dates: 11 to 23 July 2011

Venue: Galway City Museum

Curated by Katy West, Modern Languages presented the work of five international artists and designers with varying relationships to Ireland. The exhibition focused on the adoption and corruption of traditional craft practice and repositions the Irish vernacular to convey meanings that are dictated less by historic provenance and more by the personal objectives and narratives of the makers.

The exhibition features work by Ciara Phillips, Nao Matsunaga, Laura Mays, Barbara Ridland and Deirdre Nelson. From Laura Mays's reincarnations of the traditional Sligo Chair, to Nao Matsunagas' temporary structure built in homage to the curragh sea boats of the west of Ireland, this exhibition offered insightful new understandings of our oldest traditions. This exhibition was a co-production between the National Craft Gallery and Galway Arts Festival.

MATERIALpoetry at Galway Arts Festival

Dates: 11 to 24 July 2011

Venue: ABSOLUT Festival Gallery, Headford Road, Galway

Exhibition of work by Ireland's leading designer makers featured at Galway Arts Festival. Curated by Brian Kennedy, MATERIALpoetry, an exhibition of contemporary objects featuring the best of the new wave of design/craft currently emerging from Ireland, was one of the main events at the Galway Arts Festival which took place from 11 – 24 July 2011. The exhibition took place at the ABSOLUT Festival Gallery – a specially commissioned space located on the Headford Road in Galway.

MATERIALpoetry was the first in a series of exhibitions of contemporary craft and design, taking place over the next three years in Ireland and the USA under the direction of a newly created agency called STUDIO practice. STUDIO practice aims to give a voice to Irish designers and studio makers dedicated to challenging their concepts, creativity and skill to create truly new and innovative work. The show included work by ceramicists Sara Flynn, Nuala O'Donovan and Frances Lambe, furniture maker Joseph Walsh, basketmaker Joe Hogan and furniture designer makers Yaffe Mays.

Also featured were pieces created as a result of first time collaborations between Irish designers and Irish product/craft designers at a studio level including a new design by Architects O'Donnell + Tuomey which was seen for the first time at the show while the MATERIALpoetry catalogue featured a specially commissioned series of black and white photographs accompanied by a selection of contemporary Irish poetry.

Making it all look simple in Galway

22 July 2011

Read Aidan Dunne's review in The Irish Times of MATERIALpoetry and Modern Languages at Galway Arts Festival.

The artists showing at this year's Galway Arts Festival displayed a skill for taking complex ideas and presenting them in accessible, thought-provoking ways

...The most extensive of these is a showcase featuring the work of Irish makers, originally seen in New York last year. Materialpoetry, curated by Brian Kennedy, focuses on "poetic simplicity and material honesty". The latter is there for sure, though "poetic complexity" might be a better description.

The Potters Market

Galway Potters Market

Thursday 21st July 2011

Potter's market with a participatory element.

For one day, 15 potters and ceramic artists from around Ireland presented their work directly to the public in this unique event in the heart of Galway during the Galway Arts Festival. The public were able to enjoy a wide diversity of pottery and ceramics in an outdoor market setting, and also watch the potters demonstrating some of their skills and have access to information about the potter's craft.

"The artists showing at this year's Galway Arts Festival displayed a skill for taking complex ideas and presenting them in accessible, thought-provoking ways" Aidan Dunne

21st CENTURY ICONS

National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
10th June – 28th July, 2011

21st Century Icons saw established and emerging Irish jewellers and designers re-interpret the iconic forms of celtic neckpieces, torcs and lunulas for the 21st Century. Visitors had a unique opportunity to see neckpieces designed to convey contemporary Ireland to the world. The exhibition was curated by Ann Mulrooney and was selected from a mix of invited and open submission. It included work by Angela O'Kelly, Eily O'Connell, Eimear Conyard, Inga Reed, Julie Connellan, Justyna Truchanowska, Lesley Frew, Melissa Curry, Rachel McKnight, Rudolf Heltzel, Sabrina Meyns, Sonja Landweer, Tuula Harrington and Róisín de Buitléar (collaborative piece), Una Burke, Marika Miklosi Manning, Christina Brosnan, Laura McNamara, Sam Hamilton, Seliena Coyle, Erika Marks and Emma Bourke.

The work of **21** *contemporary jewellers* *was exhibited in 21st* *Century Icons*

The makers responses included inspiration from a vast array of influences including the National Museum's Bronze Age gold collection (Inga Reed); sheep's wool from Co. Waterford (Eily O'Connell); the spiritual warrior women of Irish legend (Melissa Curry); Celtic lunulas (Christina Brosnan); the Tudor style ruff (Rachel McKnight); the 21st century neckpiece, the iPod headphones (Sam Hamilton); social networking (Laura McNamara) and tangles of Irish branches and tree roots (Emma Bourke).

The opening of the exhibition at the National Craft Gallery was attended by delegates of the World Crafts Council – Europe General Assembly who travelled to Kilkenny as part of their visit to Ireland. 21st Century Icons subsequently toured to Rathfarnham Castle from 19th November to 15th April and also to Galway City Museum from 22nd April to 2nd August 2012.



■ Rachel McKnight Neck Piece from 21st Century Icons Exhibition

KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL

5th – 14th August 2011

Vessels of Memory, Kilkenny County Council Offices

This exhibition of new work by dynamic young makers Alison Lowry and Rachel Dickson explores how memories can be expressed in different materials and forms, encapsulating the fabric of our lives.

Alison Lowry is a glass artist and Rachel Dickson is a ceramist, but both makers draw their inspiration from textiles.

Rachel Dickson graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2011 with an MA in ceramics and glass. Since 2004, she has also held the post of Associate Lecturer in Foundation Studies in Art and Design at the University of Ulster. She explores ideas of memory through the medium of porcelain, paperclay and paper and has exhibited throughout the UK and North America.

Kilkenny Arts Festival Blog:

Preview: The Power of the Object with Fintan O'Toole and Daniel Miller 18th July 2011

A Kilkenny Arts Festival and Year of Craft 2011 Talk.

As part of the Year of Craft 2011, Fintan O'Toole, author of the current Irish Times series 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects' led the discussion, to explore what the Greeks called charis: the allure of objects. From a Stone Age mace head from Knowth to the silver tea urns of Georgian Dublin, The Power of the Object asked what the artefacts of earlier times have to tell us about our ancestors, our history and ourselves. As the great writer WG Sebald wrote: "Things know more about us than we know about them."

Modified Expression

National Craft Gallery

6th August - 12th October 2011

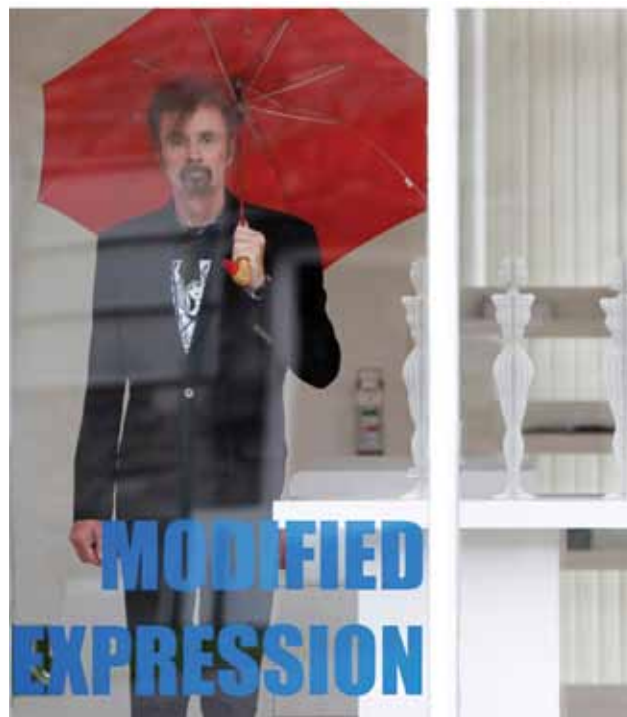
Curator Angela O'Kelly invited an exciting mix of emerging and established artists whose work was inspired by the written word, or by the physical structure of the book form, to respond to the work of authors participating in the literature strand of the Kilkenny Arts Festival.

The artists responded with a breathtaking range of techniques, manipulating and experimenting with all aspects of the works. Featuring calligraphic text, deconstructed books, intricately hand-cut paper, and recycled and re-sculptured materials, Modified Expression was a fascinating collection of artworks that demonstrated each artist's personal interpretation of the texts, transforming literary works into visual ones and creating powerful new forms of expression.

Participating artists:

Rebecca Coles (UK), Anna S. King (UK), Ferry Staverman (The Netherlands), Denis Brown (IRL), Rachel Hazel (UK), Tracey Bush (UK), Claire Brewster (UK), Anne Harrington Rees (IRL), Becky Adams (UK), Les Bicknell (UK), Jozef Bajus (USA), Stefan Saffer (Germany), Thurle Wright (UK), Brian Dettmer (USA)

As part of the exhibition's programme of events the National Craft Gallery hosted a 'Crafternoon Tea' with paper making activities with artist Caroline Ryan. The Kilkenny Active Retirement group participated and were introduced to the National Craft Gallery cultural programme, toured the exhibition and engaged in making activities. In the evening the National Craft Gallery hosted a Crafted Cabaret, an eclectic mix of music and making. Don Mescall, writer David Donohue, Pete Lawlor (REPLETE), Karen Waloch (Little Black Wren) and Jimmy O'Rourke (Southern Timber Beats) performed at the gallery to a full house.



TC Boyle at Modified Expression in the National Craft Gallery as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival

CORK CRAFT MONTH 2011

Cork City and County
August 2011

Cork Craft Month 2011 was a month long programme of applied arts and crafts events throughout Cork City and County. It celebrated the abundance of high quality craft produced in Cork and craftspeople working individually or alongside other artists presented a diverse range of high quality craft activities.

The extensive programme of events included major exhibitions, county-wide craft fairs, a fashion show, arts & crafts trails, a craft industry seminar, workshops and open studios and lots of other events where craftspeople come together to showcase and promote their work. Visitors and participants made, saw, collected and learned about contemporary craft in Cork.

Craft events took place in a variety of venues throughout the city and county including Fota House, Bantry House, CIT Wandesford Gallery, Millennium Hall @ City Hall, The Old Mill Kinsale, Designworks Coal Quay Cork, The Courtyard Middleton and many more.

Craft produced in Cork City and County was celebrated and promoted through Cork Craft Month

Cork Craft Month was organised by Cork Art and Design (representing over 200 craftspeople in Cork County) and supported by Cork County and Cork City Enterprise Boards, Cork County Council, Cork City Council, Fáilte Ireland, the Crafts Council of Ireland, SECAD (South East Cork Area Development) and WCDP (West Cork Development Partnership).

The Cork Craft Month initiative was first piloted in 2010 and has been seen as a model for other counties to promote their craft activities.



■ Lúnasa Fashion Show, CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery, Cork Craft Month

SONG OF AMERGIN

Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, Drogheda, Co. Louth
13th August – 15th September 2011

Louth Craftmark Designers Network (LCDN), in conjunction with Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery, Drogheda, hosted the premier craft event in Louth for Year of Craft 2011. Song of Amergin showcased works of exceptional design and craftsmanship and included the work of Louth Craftmark Designers Network as well as invited Irish makers.

The theme of the exhibition was Song of Amergin. The Book of Invasions which contains The Song of Amergin, has long inspired writers, artists and musicians from Louis Le Brocqy to Horseshlips. Amergin Gluingel was a druid, poet and leader of the Milesians, one of the ancient tribes that conquered Ireland around 1500 BC removing the Tuatha De Danann from power. It is said that Amergin sang an invocation calling upon the spirit of Ireland that has come to be known as the Song of Amergin and he was able to part the storm created by the druids of De Danann and bring his ship safely to land. Amergin has a unique connection with Louth as it is reported he was buried under the mound at Millmount, Drogheda.

Exhibiting artists included Claire Conway (textiles), Garrett Mallon (jewellery), Frances Lambe (ceramics), John O'Connor (painting), Sarah McKenna (ceramics), Joe Lawler (architectural furniture), Elaine Hanrahan (jewellery), John Maloney (sculpture), Fiona Kerbey (ceramics), Patricia Murphy (textiles), Breda Marron (sculpture), Mary Cowan (ceramics), Mel Bradley (textiles) and Robert Kelly (printmaking).

The work of
14 *designers, makers*
and artists from the North
East region was profiled in
Song of Amergin



■ Ceramics by Mary Cowan

CRAFTITECTURE AT ELECTRIC PICNIC

Stradbally, Co. Laois

2nd – 4th September, 2011

Five currachs came together to form an intriguing temporary pavilion at Electric Picnic 2011 in a radically different departure representing a fusion of architecture and craft. It was all hands on deck as engineers, architects and boat builders arrived in Stradbally to erect the pavilion in the Global Green. Cruth Curach was designed and specially hand crafted by architects Bucholz McEvoy and Jim Horgan of the Galway School of Boat Building to create a sheltered exhibition pavilion and performance space that can hold around 40 people and provided a unique and engaging event venue at the festival site.

Events hosted at Cruth Curach included:

Irish fashion designers Joanne Hynes and Úna Burke in conversation with stylist and Off the Rails presenter Sonya Lennon

Yarn bombing with Deirdre Harte

Live DJ sets featuring monsters and mayhem with Mick Minogue

A Sunday morning wake up call with Na Píobairí Uilleann

The story of Craftitecture - Bucholz McEvoy Architects in conversation with Jim Horgan, Master Builder, Galway School of Boat Building and ITS Global

A presentation of contemporary Irish craft from Laura Caffrey and Clare Grennan of the Irish Design Shop Gareth Sullivan and Fergal O'Leary discussing collaboration between furniture makers and architects.

Basketmaker Joe Hogan and designer Joanne Hynes discussing their collaboration for London Fashion Week

Talks by instrument makers Michiel De Hoog, Conor Russell and Noel Burke on the craft of instrument making.

During Electric Picnic, the Crafts Council of Ireland was delighted to welcome future President Michael D. Higgins to Cruth Curach where he met with the designers and architects of the structure.

Cruth Curach was the winning design in the "Craftitecture" competition organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation, in association with the Electric Picnic, Greencrafts and Cultivate. It was specially commissioned to mark Year of Craft 2011.

Following Electric Picnic, Cruth Curach toured to Merrion Square as part of Open House Dublin and then on to the University of Limerick Campus as part of Design Week 2011.

5 *Currachs came together to form an intriguing temporary pavilion at Electric Picnic 2011*



■ 'Cruth Curach', Craftitecture Pavilion, Electric Picnic

CELEBRATING IRELAND'S DESIGNER MAKERS CAMPAIGN

Nationwide

Throughout September and October 2011

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland played host to a pop-up lunch for key Irish media in September in order to celebrate and showcase contemporary Irish design. This once-off dining experience took place to launch the Crafts Council of Ireland's "Celebrating Ireland's Designer Makers" campaign throughout the month of September. Guests were seated at Irish hand crafted tables adorned with elegant linen, glassware and candles, and dined on food served on ceramic tableware, all made by craftspeople throughout the country.

The campaign – which highlighted beautiful craft products "Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland" and the talented people behind them – focused on furniture, interiors, fashion and accessories. It was promoted in 60 retail outlets around Ireland, in makers studios and through the dedicated website www.giveirishcraft.com where consumers can browse gift suggestions and view stockists of Irish craft throughout Ireland.

Reflecting the diversity of contemporary Irish craft and design, the makers featured in the campaign included Noel Whelan Furniture Design, Cushendale Woollen Mills, Jerpont Glass, Ana Faye leather bags and Edmund McNulty knitwear.

As part of the organisation's activities in promoting Irish craft and design internationally during Year of Craft 2011, the Crafts Council of Ireland supported 12 of the country's top designers to exhibit at TENT London, a prestigious, cutting-edge and progressive trade exhibition during the London Design Festival.

TENT, which took place from 22nd to 25th September, featured over 200 international exhibitors showing the very latest in contemporary interior products - furniture, lighting, ceramics, textiles, materials and accessories. Exhibiting under the name "Design Island – the Cream of Irish Design", the group of Irish craftspeople at TENT included Shane Holland Design Workshops, Stephen O'Briain Furniture, Dunleavy Bespoke and textile designer Sinéad Mitchell. Brian O'Connell, RTÉ's London Correspondent, visited the Irish pavilion and recorded interviews onsite with Irish participants which were aired on the RTÉ Six One News.

60 retail outlets
around Ireland
participated in the
*Celebrating Ireland's
Designer Makers
campaign*



■ Textiles by Sinéad Mitchell, TENT, London

LAUNCH OF RTÉ'S CRAFT MASTER

Nationwide

September and October 2011

People from a cross section of backgrounds including an organic farmer, a teacher and a financial services worker battled it out for the title of Craft Master 2011 in a new six-part TV series which hit Irish screens in September. The first episode of Craft Master aired at 7 pm on RTÉ One television on Tuesday 6th September and achieved an unprecedented audience share of 27% (over 354,000 viewers).

Craft Master, produced by Big Mountain Productions in collaboration with the Crafts Council of Ireland, captured the imagination of the nation as it brought 15 people from varying backgrounds and experience on a creative journey in ceramics, glass blowing, wood turning, textile weaving and metalwork.

Each week a professional craftsperson mentored three apprentices in a master class on their craft – the mentors were Róisín de Buitléar (glass), Colm de Rís (ceramics), Beth Moran (weaving), Glenn Lucas (wood turning) and Michael Budd (blacksmithing). The apprentices produced a piece and the winner of that heat secured a place in the final when the overall winner of Craft Master was announced. The prize was a stand in Creative Island at Showcase in January 2012.

The panel of weekly judges also included Brian McGee, Head of Market Development at the Crafts Council of Ireland and Derek McGarry, Assistant to the Head of Faculty of Design at the National College of Art and Design. The

two resident judges were joined for the final episode by two of Ireland's top designers, Louise Kennedy and Paul Costelloe.

The sixth episode was the grand final when Edward Cook (metalwork) and Caoimhe Woods (ceramics) were selected as the joint winners.

Craft Master was commissioned by the RTÉ Lifestyle programming department and received funding through the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI). This was in response to a proposal submitted to BAI by Big Mountain Productions in consultation with the Crafts Council of Ireland and with the support of RTÉ for a TV series to coincide with Year of Craft 2011. The success of the initiative paved the way for exploring other opportunities in the future for craft related programmes on TV and production commenced in 2012 on a second series of Craft Master.

Over
354,000
 viewers of the first
 episode of Craft Master



■ Sonya Lennon with Craft Master Finalists

THE SOCK EXCHANGE AT ABSOLUT FRINGE 2011

Templebar, Dublin
22nd – 25th September

ABSOLUT Fringe is Ireland's largest multi-disciplinary arts festival. It is a wholly curated festival, seeking innovative and daring work that impacts, moves and invigorates its audience. For artists, the Fringe facilitates an opportunity to innovate, to cross disciplines and boundaries and to find new ways and places to create work.

As part of Year of Craft 2011, attendees of ABSOLUT Fringe 2011 were asked to visit The Sock Exchange and darn their way out of the economic crisis. 1,200 unlikely darners visiting transformed their unloved woolly assets and were rewarded with a darning needle for life.

The Sock Exchange was brought to Dublin by Futuremenders which is fun and deadly serious art activism. It aims to futureproof our lives, preparing us for barely imaginable but plausible futures where forgotten skills are vital for survival.

Futuremenders is the lifelong project of UK artist Jonnet Middleton who took a pledge in 2008 to acquire no more clothes, ever. The monumental scale of the Futuremenders mission is to subvert our addiction to short-term shopping by spreading the joy of making and mending together.

1,200 visited *The Sock Exchange as part of ABSOLUT Fringe*



■ Futuremenders Darning Needle

CULTURE NIGHT

Nationwide

23rd September, 2011

Culture Night 2011 proved to be a night of entertainment, discovery and adventure that included many craft events around the country. On the night of Friday 23rd September 2011, locals and visitors across the island of Ireland enjoyed a free night of experiences which took place in a record 30 towns, cities, counties and islands in Ireland.

Below is a sample of just some of the craft activities and events that took place to mark Culture Night during Year of Craft 2011.

Several craft organisations ran free craft workshops, where participants could create a piece of craft using their county colours as part of the Craft Your County Colours initiative. Participating venues included Culture Box in Dublin; CORE Crafted Design in Ballinahown, Co. Westmeath; Groundworks Studios in Galway; Louth Craftmark in Drogheda; Leitrim Design House in Carrick-on-Shannon; and Workhouse Studios, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford.

The National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny offered guided tours of the Modified Expression exhibition throughout the day; Kilkenny artist Caroline Ryan helped visitors craft a 3D paper model of the city through the day and evening; James Mary Kelly (JMK) Gold and Silversmith gave a talk about his making of the 'new' Liam McCarthy Cup and the gallery hosted a number of musical acts late into the evening as part of Crafted Cabaret.

Groundworks Studios, Galway held an Open Studio Evening, sharing the work and the creative practices in textiles and ceramics by its skilled body of artists.

The Craft Granary in Cahir, Co. Tipperary held Cahir's first Culture Night event which was billed as "Eat, drink and be crafty". Food and beverages by local producers was served as craft demonstrations by Ber O'Donnell (card making) and Lesley Lynch (weaving) took place, and visitors had the opportunity to admire the work of Kilkenny makers in an exhibition in the Craft Granary Gallery.

In Dublin the Irish Design Shop & Studios invited the public to join them in an open evening; the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) offered hands-on experience with ceramics and crafts workshops, puppetry and guided tours; The Design Tower held a Meet your Makers Event; and Designyard on Nassau Street showcased the sculptural work of Irish artists, including Seamus Gill and Liam Butler.

Free craft experiences took place throughout the country on Culture Night to mark Year of Craft 2011



■ Craft Your County Colours Workshop, Culture Box, Dublin

A TASTE OF CRAFT WITH DONAL SKEHAN

Kilkenny City
29th October, 2011

A packed programme was unveiled for the 5th Annual Savour Kilkenny Food Festival for the official festival launch hosted at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny in September. One of the highlights of the exciting line up of events was a cookery demonstration by Donal Skehan which was jointly hosted by Year of Craft 2011 and Savour Kilkenny as part of the festival.

Cooking sensation Donal Skehan showcased work of local craftspeople as part of his demonstration at Savour Kilkenny

A Taste of Craft featured Donal Skehan (home cook, photographer and food writer) showcasing the work of local craftspeople as he did a cookery demonstration before a capacity crowd at The Set Theatre. Donal prepared a range of dishes and presented using local craftwork such as Nicholas Mosse Pottery, Rosemarie Durr Pottery, Jerpoint Glass, Little Hill Design and Cranmor Pottery.

Donal has a deeply held interest and love for Irish craft, and this session perfectly combined the two disciplines. He has since been using pieces of Irish craft regularly in his cookery demonstrations at events and on his TV series.



■ Donal Skehan at 'A Taste Of Craft', Savour Kilkenny

BABORÓ INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN

Galway

October 2011

Baboró; Ireland's flagship arts festival devoted exclusively to children and families.

Baboró brings the most diverse selection of the finest in performing arts from Ireland and around the world to its annual one-week festival in Galway. The festival programme varies from year to year to bring a wide diversity of exposure to the arts especially created for young audiences and their families. Celebrations for Year of Craft 2011 included a craft exhibition and craft workshops as part of their programme.

Exhibition: Objects of Memory

7th October – December 2011 at Galway City Museum.

Attendance: 23,000

Curated by artist and facilitator Kate Howard, the specially created exhibition *Objects of Memory* featured the work of two emerging Galway based artists Roisin O'Brien (Textile) and Jenny McKenna (Knit, Stitch and Macramé). Both work in textiles, both explore memories and feelings – yet the work they created was individual and unique. Small and delicate, the pieces all had a sense of the ethereal, of a fleeting memory or feeling explored. Guided tours of the exhibition and museum, and demonstration of the crafts were held during the festival.

Workshops: Exploring Craft - Felt and Clay

17th - 22nd October 2011 at Galway Rowing Club, Wood Quay.

Attendance: 574

Frances Kilcommins (Ceramic Artist) and *Vivienne Martin* (Textile Artist)

Baboró offered a limited number of craft workshops to school groups and the public to celebrate Year of Craft 2011. Two questions formed the jumping off points for these hands-on workshops in clay and felt: How do you start to work with clay? How can fabric become art?

Guided tours of the exhibition and museum, and demonstration of the crafts were held during the festival.



■ *Wire Dress* by Jenny McKenna

LAUNCH OF LEARNCRAFTDESIGN.COM

October 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCoI) launched www.learncraftdesign.com a new digital craft learning resource that supports learning through and about craft for children of all ages nationally in Ireland.

The launch of www.learncraftdesign.com was a significant development in craft education, providing easy access to a range of lesson plans, design concepts, a searchable database of craftspeople, image galleries and information about the core education programmes delivered by the Crafts Council of Ireland. The platform will provide support and information for teachers at primary and second level and for craftspeople who are delivering craft based education programmes.

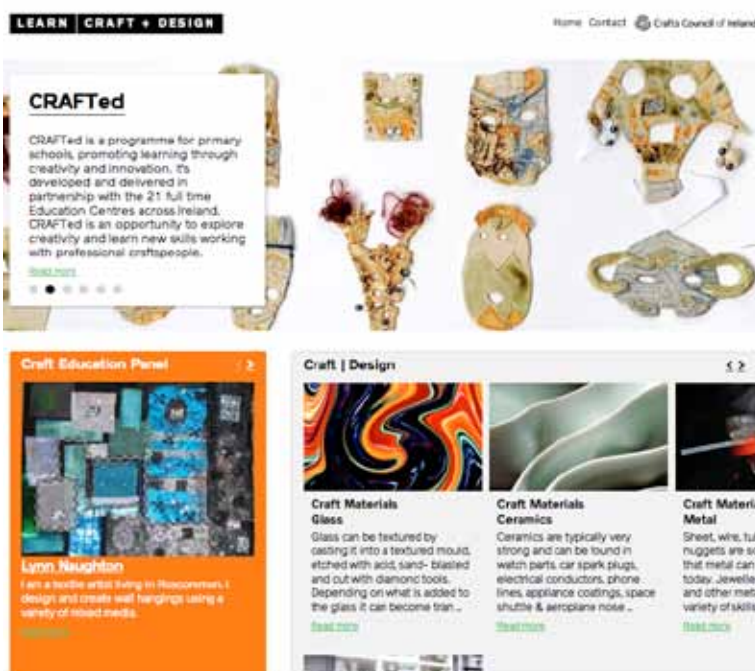
CCoI also announced details of a partnership with the network of 21 full-time education centres in Ireland. The centres will deliver CCoI's CRAFTed Learning Skills for Life programme nationally from January 2012. CRAFTed is a programme for primary schools, promoting learning through creativity and innovation. It places professional craftspeople in schools to develop collaborative projects with teachers and children.

In addition to the CRAFTed primary schools programme, CCoI worked closely with the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), and collaborated on a post

The launch of [learncraftdesign.com](http://www.learncraftdesign.com) was a significant development in craft education.

primary level research project with second level art teachers. CCoI's National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny also offers education and outreach programmes throughout the year that engage with communities, schools and the general public.

Speaking at the launch Karen Hennessy, Chief Executive of the Crafts Council of Ireland said: *"It is vitally important that we nurture and fire the imagination of children and young people to truly develop Ireland's capacity for creativity and innovation. To do this we must provide our educators and craftspeople with as many tools and resources as possible. We are delighted to be launching Learn Craft Design during Year of Craft 2011 and the essential support that it will provide for teaching and learning craft is a wonderful legacy for what has been an exciting year for the Irish craft sector as a whole."*



MODERN LANGUAGES

National Craft Gallery

21st October 2011 – 11th January 2012

Modern Languages explored the relationships between indigenous craft and contemporary, international creative practice in a time of globalisation. Five artists and designers were invited to respond to traditional Irish craft idioms. Coming from Ireland, Scotland, Canada and Japan, these artists offered new perspectives and interpretations of vernacular traditions that were far removed from Celtic cliché or preconception. Focusing on the intentional adoption or corruption of tradition, each adapted elements of the vernacular to convey meanings that are no longer dictated by geography or historic provenance but by their own research and practice.

The exhibition featured work by Ciara Phillips, Nao Matsunaga, Laura Mays, Barbara Ridland and Deirdre Nelson. From Laura Mays's reincarnations of the traditional Sligo Chair, to Nao Matsunagas' temporary structure built in homage to the curragh sea boats of the west of Ireland, this exhibition offered insightful new understandings of Ireland's oldest traditions.

Artist talks, workshops and film screenings were also held as outreach events related to the exhibition.

This exhibition was a co-production between the National Craft Gallery and Galway Arts Festival.

Modern Languages at the National Craft Gallery achieved significant media coverage including a five page feature in The Sunday Business Post's Agenda magazine on 6th November 2011; RTÉ Radio One Arts Tonight with Vincent Woods on 7th November 2011 with a one hour special on Modern Languages, the National Craft Gallery and Year of Craft 2011 and also a preview in Crafts (the Crafts Council UK's magazine).

This exhibition offered insightful new understandings of Ireland's oldest traditions.



■ Aran 0.5 Repurposed eBay Aran jumper by Deirdre Nelson

SEASCAPES

The Knitting and Stitching Show, RDS, Dublin
10th – 13th November 2011

Seascapes was an exhibition of textiles by members of the Crafts Council of Ireland at The Knitting and Stitching Show in the RDS.

Following the excellent response to 'Thread Softly' in 2010, the Crafts Council of Ireland was delighted to co-ordinate the second exhibition of textiles in conjunction with GANS (Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies) members for The Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS.



■ *Sand, Sea, Sky* by Claire Merry

The stunning work of 23 textiles artists living and working in Ireland today was on display in Seascapes.

The theme for the exhibition was the sea and the underwater world; its colour, texture, pattern and force. As an island, the sea has inspired Ireland's art and craft for centuries and the stunning work on display in Seascapes reflected the talent and imagination of textiles artists living and working in Ireland today.

The work in this exhibition was selected by Angela O'Kelly (Designer, Jeweller and Curator) and Ann Mulrooney (Manager & Curator of the National Craft Gallery). Participating craft makers; Frances Crowe, Joanna Harrington, Ann Duggan, Nicola Brown, Marika Miklosi-Manning, Carmel Creaner, Eileen McNulty, Helen McAllister, Beth Moran, Ann Kiely, Anne Harrington Rees, Ruth Doorley, Maureen Cromer, Caroline Schofield, Nicola Henley, Claire Merry, Sheila Jordan, Muriel Beckett, Terry Dunne, Tara Ní Nualláin, Ciara Harrison, Breda McNelis and Serena O'Neil.

About The Knitting and Stitching Show

For lovers of textiles in Ireland. As the name suggests, it covers knitting and stitching but so much more; felt-making, shibori dyeing, jewellery-making, card-making, mixed media... the list goes on! Hundreds of exhibitors selling specialist supplies that you can't find in the shops, galleries from leading artists and groups, plus hundreds of workshops to introduce you to lots of new subjects!

IRISH CRAFT PORTFOLIO AT RHA, DUBLIN

24th -29th November 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland held an exhibition for the first time at the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA), in Dublin. A selection of work from Irish Craft Portfolio 2011 showcased contemporary work by some of Ireland's most internationally-recognised makers. The exhibition was officially opened by art critic Gemma Tipton on Thursday 24th November 2011.

The makers in this exhibition were a selection from Irish Craft Portfolio 2011. The craftwork featured in the 2011 edition were chosen by an international selection panel. All were highly regarded and many are steadily achieving international success.

- John Lee was recently commissioned to design and make the new Presidential Inauguration Chair.
- A piece by Michael McCrory was presented to Queen Elizabeth on her visit to Ireland in 2011
- Joseph Walsh was very well received at 2010 Design Miami with his "Enignum Canopy Bed" selling for a record price.
- Many of the exhibitors were in the National Museum of Ireland's permanent collection thereby sealing their work as both contemporary collectables and future antiques.

Other makers represented in this exhibition included: Denis Brown, Jack Doherty, Dunleavy Bespoke, Peter Fulop, Karl Harron, Catherine Keenan, Frances Lambe, Sabrina Meyns, Mandy Parslow and Inga Reed.

A selection of work from Irish Craft Portfolio 2011 showcased contemporary work by some of Ireland's most internationally-recognised makers.



■ *Eye Candy, Blown Glass, by Catherine Keenan*

CELEBRATING IRELAND'S JEWELLERY MAKERS CAMPAIGN

Terminal 2, Dublin Airport
November - December 2011

Irish imagination took flight with an international exhibition of Irish made jewellery at Terminal 2, Dublin Airport. The Crafts Council of Ireland's consumer campaign focused on jewellery and was launched at Dublin Airport with a unique Irish jewellery exhibition in collaboration with the Dublin Airport Authority and House of Ireland.

Showcasing Irish jewellery design to the hundreds of thousands of holiday travellers passing through the busy hub over the Christmas period, the exhibition featured 16 of Ireland's top jewellery designer-makers and reflected the diversity of contemporary Irish design. The makers held jewellery-making demonstrations, allowing passengers to appreciate the craftsmanship behind the pieces on display.

A selection of work from the exhibition then travelled to Munich in Germany for a major international trade fair, Inhorghenta in February 2012.

The jewellery designers featured at the T2 exhibition included well established jewellers such as Alan Ardiffe, Angela O'Kelly, Rachel Swan, Inga Reed, Geraldine Murphy and Filip Vanas. The beautiful pieces, all "Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland", were available to purchase at the House of Ireland shop in T2 and were promoted on www.giveirishcraft.com.

According to Paul Neeson, Director of Retail at DAA, supporting Irish is essential. "DAA wants Terminal 2 to offer the luxury brands that passengers expect from a top airport but also with a unique Irish character that sets it apart. DAA is delighted to collaborate with the Crafts Council of Ireland and House of Ireland on this exciting and worthy initiative."

The work of 16 Irish designer makers was showcased to hundreds of thousands of holiday travellers.



■ Irish Jewellery Exhibition, Terminal 2, Dublin Airport

NATIONAL CRAFTS & DESIGN FAIR

RDS, Dublin

30th November - 4th December 2011

As one of the key consumer craft events in the run up to Christmas, the National Crafts & Design Fair plays an important role for both consumers and craftspeople. In 2011 CCol developed an exhibition/display area at the centre of the show, highlighting the work from over 200 registered craftspeople. This initiative was accompanied by a gift guide, focused on highlighting craft gift ideas to consumers.

The Crafts Council of Ireland presence at the fair was expanded to mark Year of Craft 2011, with a special *Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland* exhibition of wonderful gift ideas in the centre of the RDS Main Hall. The exhibition featured work from selected craft enterprises registered with the Crafts Council of Ireland who were participating in the fair. These makers were identifiable by the "*Imagined, Designed, Made in Ireland*" branding that was displayed on their stands. There was something to appeal to everyone including ceramics by Colm de Rís, jewellery by Alan Ardiffe, knitwear by Edmund McNulty and natural skincare products by The Handmade Soap Company.

The CCol exhibition area also featured demonstrations of some of the crafts featured on the *Craft Master* TV series which aired on RTÉ One in 2011. Visitors met the artisans and watched as they demonstrated crafts such as woodturning, ceramics and weaving throughout the five days of the fair.

CCol's presence at the fair was expanded to mark Year of Craft 2011, with a special Imagined, Designed and Made in Ireland exhibition of wonderful gift ideas from over 200 craftspeople.



■ National Crafts & Design Fair 2011, Dublin

CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS RESEARCH

December 2011

At the end of each year the Crafts Council of Ireland commissions a survey to explore the public perception of Irish craft and to gauge growing interest and awareness in Irish craft. The telephone survey was conducted by Millward Brown Lansdowne on behalf of the Crafts Council of Ireland in December 2011 with a nationally representative sample of the Irish population.

This annual survey of consumers is an important source of information in informing the direction of programmes and activities for promoting craft in Ireland and in developing relationships with partners in order to ensure that Irish craft is accessible and available to consumers

The survey revealed that awareness and appreciation of Irish craft is at an all-time high following Year of Craft 2011, with 62% of Irish consumers purchasing a craft item in 2011, compared to just 50% in 2010.

The survey of a nationally representative sample of 800 participants also showed that over half of the population, (51%), are interested in buying and owning craft product, an increase from 39% in 2010. 83% of people now see Irish craft as an ideal gift.

Reflecting intensive activity around Year of Craft 2011, 95% of those interviewed said they had seen, heard or read something about Irish craft during the previous 12 months 72% noticed something in retail outlets, 64% read about craft in newspapers or magazines and 58% saw it on TV programmes.

These high level of awareness revealed the positive impact that the Year of Craft 2011 initiative had, with over a third of respondents (37%) who noticed an increased level of activity around Irish craft in 2011.

The survey found that:

- Ceramics and pottery were the most commonly purchased craft item in 2011, with 17% of those questioned saying they had bought from this category, followed by jewellery at 14%.
- Eight out of ten people say craft items make an ideal gift. Almost the same number believe that being Irish-made is important when choosing crafts.
- While craft is predominantly perceived as a gift, one in three people surveyed say they have bought craft for themselves.

- More women than men are likely to invest in timeless Irish craft, particularly women in the 35-64 age group in the Dublin and Leinster region.
- The average spend on craft during 2011 among respondents was €78, compared to €95 in 2010. However, there is evidence that consumers were buying more craft products but at lower price points, reflecting similar reductions in spend across other product categories.

95% of those interviewed said they had seen, heard or read something about Irish craft during the previous 12 months.

YEAR OF CRAFT 2011 CLOSING EVENT

Showcase - Ireland's Creative Expo, RDS, Dublin
January 2012

Year of Craft 2011 officially came to a close at the Showcase trade show in January 2012 to thank everyone for their participation in the programme of activities celebrating Irish craft throughout 2011.

Assembled in the 'Creative Island' section were invited guests including craftspeople, GANS representatives, programme partners, sponsors and all the registered makers attending Showcase who were shown a 10 minute video montage of a selection of Year of Craft 2011 highlights. (View the video here: <http://www.craftinireland.com/news/article/year-of-craft-2011-video-highlights/>)

Showcase 2012 had been officially opened by President Michael D. Higgins who had also attended Year of Craft 2011 events during his Presidential campaign. The Year of Craft 2011 closing speech by Doireann Ní Bhriain captured both the journey and the legacy of the year.

"I hope the Crafts Council reaps the benefits of what has probably been its most public year ever. But more than that, I hope that those of you who are makers benefitted from the exposure, not only through selling more of your work – and I hope that did happen, or has begun to happen – but also through a public recognition of the value not only of your individual creations, but of the very practice of making craft."

"I hope it has raised your stock in your communities, and that people value and respect you for what you do. Of course we all hope it has helped to create jobs and attract tourism revenue, and will continue doing so. But it will only do that if we value it first. And that is what Year of Craft has done most of all, I think it has placed craft in the public eye as something which is an essential part of how we express ourselves, it has made us think about what it is and how it comes to be, and let's hope it has also encouraged us to continue supporting its creation into the future."

Year of Craft 2011 "has placed craft in the public eye as something which is an essential part of how we express ourselves, it has made us think about what it is and how it comes to be."

Doireann Ní Bhriain



■ Doireann Ní Bhriain speaking at the Year of Craft 2011 closing event

Appendix 2

Year of Craft 2011 Counties Initiative

YEAR OF CRAFT 2011 COUNTIES INITIATIVE

Year of Craft 2011 allowed CCol to introduce an exciting Counties Initiative. This new initiative was inspired by the model of Cork Craft Month, which was piloted in 2010 as a celebration of the abundance of high quality craft produced in Cork County and City. The basis of the Cork Craft Month model is whereby a number of agencies contribute similar funding amounts in order to present local, well formed working groups on the ground to work together in promoting their county through craft. Craftspeople working individually or alongside other artists presented a diverse range of high quality craft activities through exhibitions, pop-up shops, demonstrations, workshops, trails and seminars.

The purpose of the Counties Initiative was to promote and assist with countywide activities and events by strategic partners who wished to support and enhance the craft sector in their region. CCol welcomed proposals from strategic partners who have a proven track record in supporting local craft Small Medium Enterprises (SME) within tourism, economic and cultural activities. Priority was given to projects with a coordinated programme with multiple strands, to include training, publicity and retail opportunities for the benefit of craft SMEs.

CCol worked with a wide range of agencies in the 26 counties to pilot this new initiative, including County & City Enterprise Boards (CEBs), LEADER Development Companies, Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise and Local Authorities, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Fáilte Ireland. The outcomes have been overwhelmingly positive, with 21 counties directly involved in Year of Craft 2011.

Aims of the Counties Initiative:

- To promote the SME craft sector and linkages with economic, cultural, heritage and the artistic landscape at a local level
- To develop a market for craft that impact on sales
- To build networks of support
- To enhance the reputation of Irish craft on a regional, national and international stage
- To reflect the diversity, creativity, skill set and dynamism of the craft industry
- To introduce new audiences and more Irish consumers to craft and motivate them to participate
- To secure an elevated place for craft in the national consciousness



■ Sonya Lennon at 'Form Function Adorn', Kinsale, Cork Craft Month, 2011

A total of 36 projects took place across the 21 participating counties:

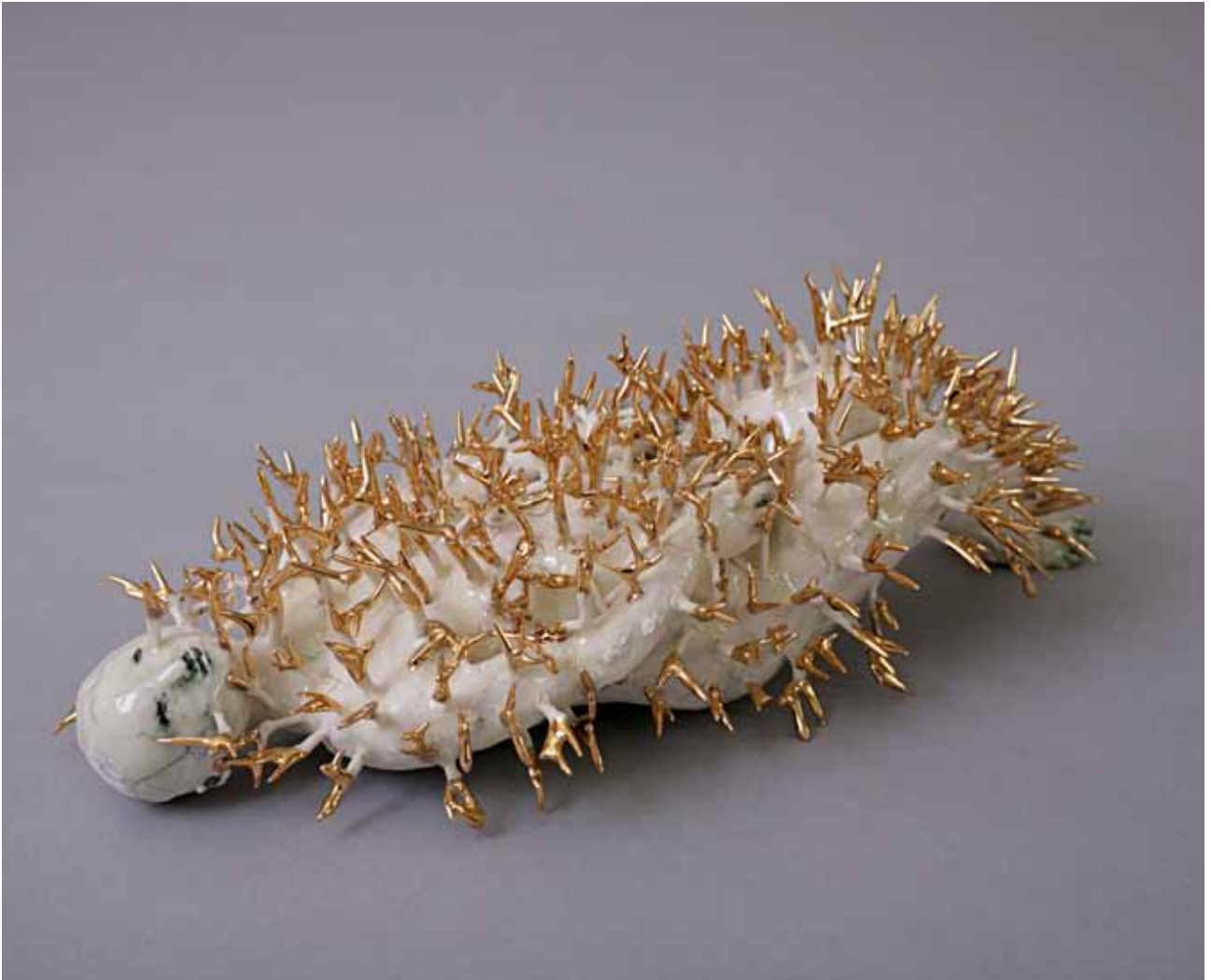
	Project	County	Project	County
			18 MADE in Kilkenny Christmas Pop-up Shop	Kilkenny
1	Creative Carlow Brochure Launch	Carlow	19 Laois Year of Craft	Laois
2	Cavan Celebrates Craft	Cavan	20 Artisan Craft Fair part of Riverfest 2011, Limerick	Limerick
3	Clare Contemporary Crafts Exhibition	Clare	21 Getting Crafty In Longford	Longford
4	Cork Craft Month	Cork	22 Louth's Year of Craft Activities	Louth
5	Designer Dublin	Dublin	23 Mayo's Year of Craft Activities	Mayo
6	Craft Means Business – Fingal's Finest	Dublin	24 International Blacksmithing Festival	Monaghan
7	The Design Corner (DLR)	Dublin DLR	25 Offaly Crafty Pop-Up Shop	Offaly
8	DLR - Summer Fair	Dublin DLR	26 Boyle Walking Craft Trail – Boyle Arts Festival	Roscommon
9	'The Heart between the Mountains and the Sea'	Dublin DLR	27 Roscommon Craft Village	Roscommon
10	Dalkey Heritage Centre Crafts Fair (DLR)	Dublin DLR	28 The Poetry of Craft – Made in Sligo	Sligo
11	Galway Craft month	Galway	29 Traditional crafts showcase at Festival Cluain Meala	Tipperary
12	The Village – as part of International Rose of Tralee Street Carnival Programme	Kerry	30 Narrative Line Exhibition - Waterford	Waterford
13	Atlantic Sessions Market: Original Kerry	Kerry	31 Halloween at Workhouse Studios	Waterford
14	West Kerry Craft Trail	Kerry	32 Westmeath Craft Workers at Self-Sufficiency Show	Westmeath
15	Original Kerry Launch Event	Kerry	33 Made in Westmeath Pop-up Shop	Westmeath
16	Culture Night – Kerry Craft Trails	Kerry	34 Launch of Made in Westmeath Network	Westmeath
17	MADE in Kilkenny Arts Festival 2011 A Maker's Journey' Exhibition & Pop-Up Shop	Kilkenny	35 Absolutely Wicklow Pop-Up Shop	Wicklow
			36 Cut From the Same Cloth	Wicklow

Key outcomes of the Year of Craft 2011 Counties Initiative:

- Total number of participating counties: 21
- Total number of projects funded: 36
- Total attendance at events: over 180,000
- Total amount in sales: over €500,000
- Total number of makers involved: 1,404

The Counties Initiative resulted in high octane, high quality craft activity throughout Ireland.

The regional/county wide partnership approach in organising, promoting, funding and championing the craft sector proved successful and effective, and was very well received by the Irish consumer and craftspeople. Based on the positive outcomes during 2011, CCol intends to maintain the Counties Initiative in the future.



■ '3x2' An Exhibition of Contemporary Clay, 'Urchin' by Claire Curneen, Galway Craft Month 2011

Appendix 3

CCoI Member Organisations Activity Reports for 2011

Reports received from Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS) following an invitation to all member organisations to provide a report about their activities during Year of Craft 2011.

BLACKSTACK STUDIO

www.blackstackstudio.com



Set up in: 2010

Number of members: 17

COMMITTEE:

Maeve Coulter

Chairperson

Ale Mercado

Sylvia Hemmingway

Aisling Noone

The Studio's aims and objectives are:

- To support craftspeople and artists by providing printmaking facilities in the South East
- To promote the use of printmaking as an art-form
- To encourage the use of environmentally sustainable printmaking methods
- To provide a forum for the exchange of views and common objectives amongst skilled artists and craftspeople
- To encourage the development of educational and training facilities
- To be affiliated to the Crafts Council of Ireland

In June, the Studio invited Derek O'Sullivan, the technician from the print department of Limerick School of Art and Design, to deliver an induction weekend for the core group of full-time members. He provided training for the day-to-day running of a print studio and technician duties.

In July, with assistance from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Network Support Scheme and Kilkenny Arts Office, Blackstack Studio invited Friedhard Kiekeben, master printmaker and leading expert in non-toxic printmaking, for 8 days of training. He provided workshops to studio members in non-toxic printmaking and mentored them in setting up and operating a Green Studio. Friedhard also delivered a public seminar entitled 'Converting to Non-Toxic Printmaking' in the Kilkenny Arts Office and delivered 3 days of workshops, open to non studio members, to promote the use of more environmentally sustainable printmaking methods.

In August, Blackstack Studio was officially launched during the Kilkenny Arts Festival and was open to the public for the duration of the Festival. The founding members were invited by the Kilkenny Arts Office to exhibit in the Watergate Theatre as part of the official Arts Festival programme.

As part of Culture Night in September, Blackstack Studio hosted an open studio evening of printmaking demonstrations and workshops. In October, the studio's autumn programme of workshops was launched, offering a range of classes from etching for beginners to bookbinding to silkscreen classes for illustrators and graphic designers.

Also in October, two members from the studio, Maeve Coulter and Vicky Cody, were invited by Kilkenny Arts Office to be Artists in Residence in the Arts Office until March 2012, to highlight Blackstack Studio and to provide an insight into the art of printmaking.

CEARDLANN - SPIDDAL CRAFT AND DESIGN STUDIOS

www.ceardlann.com



Set up in: 1984
Number of members: 10

COMMITTEE:

Andrea Rossi
Chairperson

Rob D'Eath
Gearóid Ó Murchú

The Spiddal Craft and Design Studios Network aims to work collectively to provide a high quality craft and design facility in the West of Ireland. The objective is to balance an atmosphere of craft making with a facility in which the wider public can experience and connect in some way with the process of craft making.

Events during 2011 included Féile 2011 which encouraged the public to have a go at craft making with the background of Cuban and Irish Traditional music and the exhibition entitled "The Way Home" allowed some of the members to create work around the concept of Home.



■ Rob D'Eath at work

CERAMICS IRELAND

www.ceramicsireland.org



Set up in: 1977

Number of members: 172

COMMITTEE:

Elaine Riordan

Chairperson

Gus Mabelson

Sarah Ross

Orlaith Ross

Rosemarie Durr

Sinead Glynn

Anraí O'Braonain

Fran Brosnan

Tina Byrne

Caroline Dolan

Liselott Olofsson

Gráinne Watts

Ceramics Ireland aims to foster creativity, passion and excellence, raising the standard, quality and profile of all ceramic activity in Ireland. The organisation continually pursues opportunities to promote Irish ceramics and its members, both nationally and internationally, enabling them to raise the profile of ceramics as a collectable art form.

Ceramics Ireland had another very busy year in 2011. The organisation's AGM took place in February when Deirdre McLoughlin made a presentation. Tina Byrne and Elaine Riordan attended the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference in Tampa, Florida, where they promoted the Ceramics Ireland magazine.

On the weekend of 30th April to 1st May, a workshop was delivered by Wendy Kershaw. Later in May, transFORM, Ceramics Ireland's major initiative for the Year of Craft, was installed at Farmleigh where it was officially launched on 29th May. The exhibition was hugely important for raising the Ceramics Ireland profile. transFORM travelled up to Millennium Court Arts Centre (MCAC) in Portadown where it opened on 12th August to coincide with August Craft Month.

transFORM toured to Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD) for Design Week, where it opened at the Gallery 2nd November, continuing until 24th November. LSAD was to be the final venue but transFORM proved so successful that Ceramics Ireland were invited to continue the exhibition's tour to the Source Arts Centre in Thurles, where it ran from 8th December 2011 until 27th January 2012.

Ceramics Ireland also organised a bus trip for 25 members to the International Ceramics Festival in Aberystwyth, where they took a stand in the trade hall with the Ceramics Ireland magazine and DVDs. In August, an Open Submission Members Exhibition took place at Rathfarnham Castle, showcasing the work of 46 members including students and professionals.

During 2011, Ceramics Ireland members won several awards, including Gráinne Watts who received the RDS Ceramics Ireland Award 2011 and Paula Ilecka-Jozwiak who received the Ceramics Ireland Award at the Mill Cove Gallery.

The Annual Members Selected Exhibition took place at Gallery Zozimus, 10th – 27th November. Awards presented at the Selected Exhibition in Gallery Zozimus included the Peter Brennan Award to Gráinne Watts, the Gallery Zozimus Award to Elizabeth Petcu and the Mill Cove Award to Adele Stanley.

CIT CRAWFORD COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN AND WANDESFORD QUAY GALLERY

www.cit.ie



Coláiste Ealaine agus Deartha Crawford
Crawford College of Art & Design

Set up in: 1993

The Crawford College of Art & Design is a constituent college of Cork Institute of Technology, providing education in the arts for over 200 years. The Fine Art Department (incorporating ceramics, glass and textiles) is based at the Sharman Crawford Street campus, offering programmes in Fine Art and Ceramic Design.

A highlight of 2011 was *Poetics of the Handmade*, an exhibition of handmade contemporary glass from China, which opened at CIT Wandersford Quay Gallery in May. The exhibition was a solo show by Xiao Wei Zhuang, Professor of Glass at the College of Fine Art at Shanghai University and was curated by Debbie Dawson, artist and lecturer in glass at CIT Crawford College of Art & Design. Debbie Dawson presented a public talk in May about the work and the issues involved with curating an exhibition of this stature. At the close of the exhibition, the work was re-packed, and transported to Dublin where it was exhibited in the NCAD Gallery from December 2011 to January 2012.

In July, an exhibition of contemporary ceramics, *fineEARTH*, showcased the work of 2011 Honours graduates from CIT Crawford College of Art and Design in Cork alongside past graduates, Karina Abdulbaneeva, Sara Flynn and Claire Noons. The exhibition was co-curated by the graduates and Brian Kennedy, an independent curator of contemporary craft and design.

August was a very busy month. As part of Cork Craft Month, in association with Cork Art & Design, CCAD graduate Eoin Turner exhibited his work in the Gallery for the first week in August in *Sculpture & Objets d'Art*. The Gallery hosted its first Fashion Show on 12th August 2011, featuring Irish fashion and accessories. The last two weeks of August saw the hosting of "Narrative Thread", an exhibition of textile-based artwork.

In September, Culture Night at CIT Crawford College of Art & Design is always a celebration of making. The ceramics studios were open to visitors, who had a chance to throw pots, decorate tiles, and, in 2011 the focus was on a Limerick cause, "Pitch for Shane", an art installation of terracotta clay figures.

CORE OFFALY WESTMEATH CRAFT AND DESIGN

www.corecrafteddesign.com



Set up in: 2008
Number of members: 40

COMMITTEE:
Thomas Mc Manus
Chairperson

CORE was established as a not for profit project to provide craft makers, primarily from Offaly and Westmeath, with a showcase retail outlet for their products, and to facilitate the provision of training to craft makers to develop their commercial, design and new product development skills, raising the profile of craft in the region.

CORE is a holistic project bringing makers, funders and the Crafts Council of Ireland together, providing craft, commercial and marketing skills to the enterprise. CORE contributes to the development of Ballinahown as a Craft Village. CORE promotes crafts through a series of activities including training in craft for children to provide a unique experience.

CORE's key activities during 2011 commenced with a 6-week spring exhibition of crafts incorporating the work of 6 craft makers. Each of the makers exhibited for one week and did a meet the maker day in the shop. They also hosted the launch of the MADE in Westmeath craft network with Bobby Kerr.

In-house craft demonstrations took place throughout the year. CORE coordinated the attendance of a selection of craft makers at the Tall Ships Race in Waterford and the National Ploughing Championships in Athy.

During the year CORE also coordinated 7 craft makers in travelling to Finland for a skills training craft exchange programme.

In December a winter festival took place, which was a combined effort from CORE, Celtic Roots Studio and Ballinahown Village. For 3 weeks, craft classes and demonstrations took place for adults, children, active age groups and national school children, with CORE having teamed with the rural transport system to allow the schools to participate. All the classes were delivered by CORE's own craft makers and included basketmaking, silk painting, jewellery making and much more.



■ Skills training craft exchange, Finland

CORK TEXTILES NETWORK

www.corktextiles.com



Set up in: 1998
Number of members: 70

COMMITTEE:

Sara O'Hara
Chairperson

Mary Palmer
Treasurer

Anne Kiely
Membership Secretary

Victoria Tammadge
Secretary

Carmel Creaner
GANS Representative

The key objective of the network is to provide a forum where individuals working in textiles throughout Ireland can support each other, meet regularly and share information.

"Function and Form in Textiles", a two-day conference featuring lectures and workshops from Ireland's and Britain's leading contemporary textile artists, took place in March 2011. An evening reception and exhibition was held at the Crawford School of Art and "Seamless", a juried selection of textiles, was on show at Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa.

"Now and Then", an exhibition of selected textiles from Cork Textiles Network, was showcased at Leahy's Architects offices in Cork City during Easter 2011. The work was selected by Deirdre Nelson, an internationally renowned textile artist.

"Crafting", an exhibition of new work by members of Cork Textiles Network, took place at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral in Cork in June 2011 and was viewed by 6,000 visitors to the Cork area.

"Sketchbooks for Textiles", a 2-day masterclass with weaver Fiona Hutchison from Edinburgh University was hosted in Fota House September 2011. Cork Textiles Network members were selected to showcase work at the Glucksman and Ballymaloe Craft Fairs during November and December 2011.

Cork Textiles Network took a stand at the Knitting and Stitching Show in the RDS 2nd - 6th November 2011, entitled Re:View 11. Five members of Cork Textiles Network also had work selected for the prestigious "Seascapes" exhibition, which took place at the show.

Many members of Cork Textiles Network facilitated the "Cobh Fish Exchange" community project held in the Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh where a shoal of white lace mackerel was installed in the gallery in response to the residency of Deirdre Nelson.

"The Colour of Sound", an exhibition of work by members of Cork Textiles Network at the Cork School of Music, took place from 23rd November - 20th December. Opened by Donagh Mc Artan, a founding member of the network in 1998, the exhibition showcased 30 pieces from the members.

CRAFT & DESIGN COLLECTIVE

www.craftanddesigncollective.com



Set up in: 1997

Number of members: 163

COMMITTEE:

Jill Graham
Chairperson

Rory Shearer
Vice-Chair

Karen Shannon
Treasurer

Fiona Kerr
Garvan Traynor
Gail Mahon
Heather Burgess
Heather Wilson
Karl Harron
Mark Hanvey
Rachel McKnight

The Collective aims to

- raise the profile of Craft, Applied Art and Design
- manage and facilitate the development of Craft, Applied Art and Design
- organise events to facilitate networking, social contact and sharing of experiences among Artist/Designer/Makers
- assist Artist/Designer/Makers to produce work that is innovative and of quality and to make a reasonable income

The key objectives of the Collective are to:

- make representations and lobby on behalf of the Craft, Applied Art and Design Sector
- assist members in the promotion of their activities and sharing of resources
- co-operate with statutory, private and voluntary organisations whose objectives compliment those of CDC

2011 activities of the Craft & Design Collective (CDC) included the continued development of Space CRAFT, their shop, gallery and exhibition area at the Fountain Centre in Belfast city centre, where a total of 10 exhibitions and 3 seminars/talks were hosted during the year.

CDC worked with Armagh City & District Council to develop The ART of CRAFT FAIR at the Market Place Theatre and Saint Patrick's Trian, Armagh, in May 2011. As part of MAK9 The Craft of conversation, which took place during August 2011 in various restaurants in Belfast, table centrepieces were made for restaurant or dining settings to stimulate discussion. MAK9 Exchange at the Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast in August 2011 brought together makers, arts groups and networks to get a flavour of the wide spectrum of craft activity.

CRAFT FEST, CDC's Celebration of Craft, Applied Art and Design held annually at Castle Ward in August, included a craft fair and a programme of demonstrations, workshops and exhibitions. CRAFTED 2011, their annual Christmas Craft Fair was held in November inside the House at Castle Ward, a National Trust Property.

CDC produced their e-bulletin to publicise opportunities in the Craft, Applied Art and Design Sector, and maintained both their website and their Information Library and Resource Centre at Space CRAFT.

In 2011 CDC was supported by the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Space CRAFT was supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure through the Creative Industries Innovation Fund.

CRAFT GRANARY

www.craftgranary.com



Set up in: 2000
Number of members: 100

COMMITTEE:

Clare Curley
Chairperson

Michael Anglim
Thomas Byrne
Ita Horan
Michael Moroney
Cyril Cullen
Liam Ahearne
Jack Crowe
Marie Murphy
Michael Murphy
Mary Whelan
Ciaran Cullen

Helen Shanahan
Manager

The Craft Granary, a beautifully restored 19th Century grain store, is located in Church Street, Cahir, Co Tipperary. It acts as a showcase for quality handcrafted items from the South East of Ireland. The craft centre features pottery, glassware, woodturning, occasional furniture, photography, fashion accessories, soft furnishings, handmade cards, jewellery, childrens toys with a celtic twist and local food products. All products are unique and meet a high standard of craftsmanship. The Gallery on the 1st floor features exhibitions by local craftmakers, and entry is free of charge.

Highlight events and activities during 2011 included Tipperary Taste of Craft, a series of workshops run by 28 craft workers, which were held in 6 different locations within South Tipperary. Through the workshops over 200 people learned about various crafts from soap making to wood turning and jewellery making.

South East Counties Craft Exhibitions took place, enabled through funding from the Crafts Council of Ireland's Network Support Fund. With a different region showcased each month, the exhibitions featured work by some of the South East's finest craft workers, with pieces ranging from woodwork, ceramics and glassware to jewellery and fabrics.

The Craft Granary also participated in Culture Night on 23rd September with local food producers and craft demonstrations for visitors on the night.

As well as organising craft stands at the Tall Ships Race and the National Ploughing Championships, the Craft Granary organised the craft village at Festival Cluain Meala and Cahir Norman Festival, enabling craft workers to sell direct to the public.

DONEGAL DESIGNER MAKERS

www.donegaldesignermakers.com

Set up in: 2009

Number of members: 30

COMMITTEE:

Hannah McGuinness

Chairperson

Karen O'Kane

Emer O'Sullivan

Fiona Higgins

The main aims of Donegal Designer Makers are:

- To market the brand DDM and to project an image of quality in our design and making of products
- To develop the network through promotion on a National and international level
- To encourage and support one another to use the network as a resource to do business within our own sector and the wider business community
- To attract new members
- To facilitate the development of members business and marketing skills
- To source funding for network activities
- To facilitate greater involvement between members and tourism bodies in the county

For Year of Craft 2011 Donegal Designer Makers organised an exhibition called "Snapshots" which opened in the Leitrim Design House on 4th June 2011 before it moved to the group's own exhibition space in Ardara Co. Donegal on 8th July. "Snapshots" explored the idea of capturing a moment in a lifetime with each maker producing a series of conceptual pieces based on their own personal snapshot moment.

The "Snapshots" exhibition by the group aimed to generate greater awareness of the depth of talent in the county and the quality of innovative work being produced. The work of more than 20 artists, designers and craftspeople was on display, including works in ceramics, jewellery, glass, textiles, wall pieces and furniture. Running alongside the exhibition was a pop-up retail shop where a wide range of affordable craft products were on sale to the public.

In December the group held a "Visual Feast" in Rathmullan House, Co. Donegal. During the 3-day exhibition visitors and shoppers were able to explore the walled garden and sample afternoon tea and canapés in front of a log fire in the sumptuous surroundings of Rathmullan House, which was celebrating 50 years in business.

All of the events which were organised for Year of Craft 2011 generated excitement and awareness of the quality of design in the county.

DUN LAOGHAIRE- RATHDOWN JEWELLERY DESIGNERS NETWORK

www.dlrjewellerydesigners.ie
[www.facebook.com/
dlrjewellerydesigners](http://www.facebook.com/dlrjewellerydesigners)



Set up in: 2009
Number of members: 16

COMMITTEE:
Suzanne May
Chairperson

Mary Varilly
Secretary

Ruzica Ruane
Treasurer

The Network's aims and objectives are:

- To provide a forum for the exchange of views and common objectives amongst jewellery companies located within Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
- To encourage the further development of members' businesses through focused projects, creating sales and marketing opportunities and relevant training initiatives
- To raise the profile of jewellery craft companies in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area
- To foster relationships with other State Agencies and groups

2011 was a busy year for members of DLR Jewellery Designers Network, with focused training workshops throughout the year.

February saw a trade visit to Inhorgenta in Munich. The Heart between the Mountains and the Sea exhibition and shop ran from 1st April to 22nd May and the Network launched a Pop-up Shop initiative for Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. The members of the Network sold their work on the main street of Dun Laoghaire for the first time. New work was generated by the members based on the theme of the county and the love of the area they live and work in.

The Summer Fair at Marlay House in Rathfarnham took place in June and 10 network members participated in the fair alongside other craft workers located in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. In November, 8 members participated in The Winter Fair at Dalkey Castle & Heritage Centre.

In collaboration with 11 other craft and design based businesses, 11 members of the Network participated in the second pop-up-shop of the year in Dun Laoghaire under the brand The Design Corner, which ran from 1st to 24th December.

FELTMAKERS IRELAND

www.feltmakersireland.com



Set up in: 2003

Number of members: 187

COMMITTEE:

Suzanne Phelan

Chairperson

Sheila Ahern

Secretary

Maureen Cromer

Treasurer

Gina Faustino

Newsletter Team

Anne Walshe

Newsletter Team

Clodagh Mc Donagh

Education Co-Ordinator

Holly Angle

Membership Secretary

Vicky Blomfield

Minutes Secretary

Gabi McGrath

Mary Hayes

Nessa McCormack

Elizabeth Bonner

Honorary President

The organisation's aim is to promote the craft of feltmaking throughout the island of Ireland through demonstrations and workshops.

Feltmakers Ireland embraced Year of Craft 2011 with a number of events, the main one of which was the publication of a book 'Profiles in Felt', depicting the work of forty members. The book was launched at an event in November by Sonya Lennon from RTÉ's Off the Rails.

Feltmakers Ireland also participated in an exchange with Hungarian Feltmakers in August, when the Irish group travelled to Budapest to take part in a major craft event. In return Hungarian Feltmakers travelled to Ireland and gave amazing demonstrations of their skills at a Heritage Week event in Dublin, as well as an illustrated talk in Kilkenny.

In September Feltmakers Ireland committee members and others travelled north to the Rare Breeds Show in Gosford where they held an exhibition of vessels made using rare breed wool.

October saw the internationally renowned feltmaker and fashion designer Charity Van Der Meer give a garment workshop which resulted in some amazing felt clothing for adults and children.

The Feltmakers Ireland stand at the Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS was an even greater success than usual, with the demonstrations on the stand attracting crowds.

The Feltmakers Ireland newsletter evolved into a quarterly magazine with quality colour illustrations and photographs together with articles, interviews, book reviews and hints. The website continues to be a very active part of Feltmakers Ireland's communication with members and the wider feltmaking family, with communication from as far away as the United States and New Zealand.

At the Feltmakers Ireland studio in the Phoenix Park, monthly 'Sunday Sessions' were hosted, covering a wide variety of feltmaking ideas and approaches. Feltmakers Ireland also gave demonstrations at a number of events during 2011 such as including Bloom and in various locations such as Collins Barracks and the Phoenix Park.



■ Felt Flower by Niki Collier, Irish Craft Garden, Bloom 2011

FILAMENT FIBRE ARTISTS

www.filamentfibreartists.wordpress.com

Set up in: 2007
Number of members: 8

COMMITTEE:

Tara Ní Nualláin
Chairperson

Jean McKenna
Secretary

Hilary Bell
Treasurer

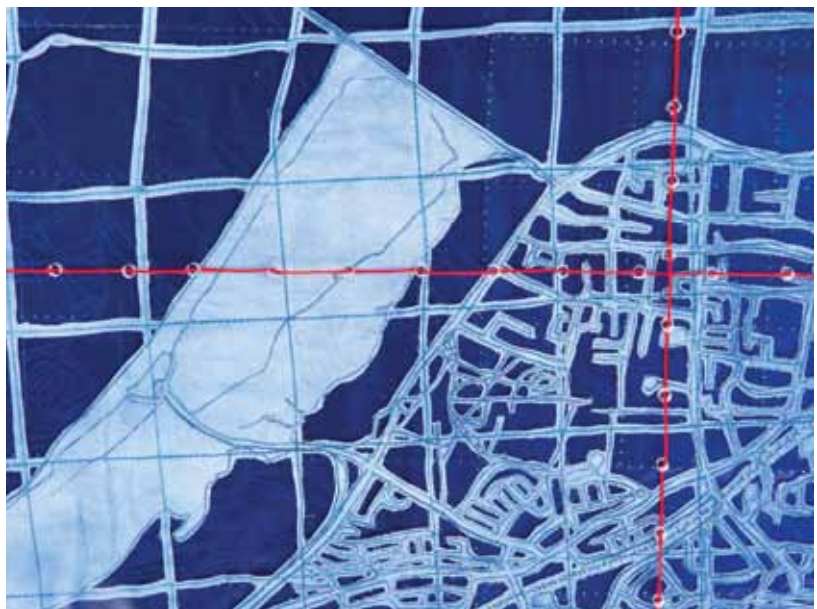
Sheila Jordan
*Crafts Council of Ireland
Representative*

Filament is an innovative group of Fibre Artists based in Ireland. The group aims to provide mutual support and to promote fibre arts through exhibitions and workshops. Filament members meet monthly to present work-in-progress; discuss new techniques, approaches and innovation in fibre arts, to invite feedback and to share advice.

Filament Fibre Artists mounted an innovative exhibition with associated workshops at Airfield, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, from 19th May to 19th June 2011 to mark Year of Craft.

Two members were prize winners at the RDS National Crafts Competition. The group had its annual exhibition at The Knitting and Stitching Show in the RDS, Dublin in November, at which three members also had work featured in the Seascapes exhibition coordinated by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

Filament Fibre Artists members ran various workshops throughout the year, including a number of workshops in schools; one involved in the Creativity in the Classroom programme was funded by the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Arts Office and another in the Crafts Council of Ireland's CRAFTed programme.



■ Seascapes, Tara Ní Nualláin

FIRE STATION ARTISTS' STUDIOS

www.firestation.ie



Set up in: 1993

Roisin Hogan

Chairperson of the Board of Directors

Clodagh Kenny

Company Director and Secretary to the Board of Directors.

Fire Station's training programme for professional visual artists takes place annually. The main aims of the programme are to support artists to diversify, up-skill and engage in critical thinking within their practice in a unique and intimate environment outside of the formal education system.

Fire Station's masterclass and training programme 2011 included well-attended highlights. The annual glass class, hosted by David Reekie (UK) and entitled 'Pushing the Boundaries' (11 – 15 April), was fully booked. The feedback received from participants was resoundingly positive. The intensive five-day workshop David Reekie devised was designed around creating ideas and experimenting with processes whilst keeping technique to a minimum. The use of materials such as clay and found objects to investigate and push the boundaries of glass as a material underlined the approach for this workshop. It was a hot glass casting workshop and each participant produced 4 pieces of work in the period, which was an impressive output remarked on by Reekie.



■ Glass workshop

HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF CORK

The Guild's aims and objectives are:

- To promote the craft of weaving and spinning through demonstrations and workshops
- To continually raise the standard of their work by learning new techniques and keeping themselves motivated

The Guild likes to have regular exhibitions so the public can enjoy viewing their work.

Monthly meetings were held throughout 2011. The main highlights were spinning and weaving workshops.

Chairperson Heather Underwood was the Irish winner of the Longest Thread spinning competition, which is held biennially in Tasmania. Her ball of yarn weighing 10 grams was 111.645 metres long. Mary Shiels also produced a ball of yarn 78.037 metres using a drop spindle.

The Guild had hoped to run a 2-day event in August but unfortunately it could not proceed because of a lack of insurance, which is a problem for a small Guild.

Set up in: 1970s

Number of members: 14

COMMITTEE:

Heather Underwood
Chairperson

Tish Canniffe
Secretary

Gerda Merz
Treasurer



■ Mary Shiels and Heather Underwood

INSTITUTE OF DESIGNERS IN IRELAND (IDI)

www.idi-design.ie



Set up in: 1972
Number of members: 260+

COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Carol Coffey MIDI
President 2011

Lorraine Egan
President Elect

Derek McGarry
Immediate Past President

John Walsh
Hon Treasurer

Deirdre Doherty
Hon Secretary

IDI is a non-profit, professional body representing the interests of Irish designers. The IDI promotes high standards of design, fosters professionalism and emphasises designers' responsibility to society, to the client and to each other. Formed in 1972, the IDI represents designers from different disciplines who practice in Ireland.

During 2011, the IDI contributed to the Pivot Dublin bid for World Design Capital 2014. In April, IDI hosted an IDI Dulux Interior Advice Stand at The Ideal Home Show and in May IDI President Carol Coffey attended the Convention Centre Dublin event for Queen Elizabeth II, where she made a presentation of an Irish designed brooch to the Queen on behalf of the IDI. The design was by outgoing IDI President Derek McGarry.

The IDI held various events in October and November to mark Design Week 2011. IDI also hosted a wide range of design related networking events for IDI members throughout the year, including Happy Monday networking events.

IDI organised, promoted and held a competition for the 2011 Graduate Design Awards and held an exhibition at the NCAD Gallery from 15th September to 5th November. The exhibition showcased a selection of the very best design work by graduates from more than 22 third level design courses in Ireland.

IDI hosted the G6 series of design lectures and organised the Frank Ryan Travel Bursary Award for student designers. In October, IDI held the 13th Annual IDI Design Awards 2011 where a lifetime achievement award was presented to Brian Stephens of Design Partners and Awards were presented for the IDI design competition. The competition was judged by an international jury and highlighted the very best of Irish Design in the following categories: Interior and Exhibition design, TV, Film and Theatre design, Fashion, Visual Communications, Multimedia and Product design.

IDA also published Best of Irish Design Handbook 09/10 and the IDI 2010 Annual Report.

IRISH ARTIST BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

www.irishblacksmiths.com



Set up in: 1998

Number of members: 75

COMMITTEE:

Joe O'Leary
Chairperson

Peter Cassidy
Michael Calnan
John Hogan
Moss Gaynor
John Joe Bowen
Donnacha Cahill
Gerard Loughran
Stephen Quinn

The Association's aims and objectives are:

- Promotion of blacksmithing amongst the public and professionals such as architects, interior designers, heritage officers etc.
- Establishment of accredited educational courses
- Sharing of knowledge amongst members
- Development of markets in Ireland and abroad
- Setting up of conservation standards for heritage ironwork

Over recent years IABA have been developing their exhibitions, believing they are an essential way of gaining the necessary skills which lead to the development of high end work, presented in a manner fit for high end galleries. IABA's exhibition in The Leitrim Sculpture Centre in Manorhamilton in March 2011 was the Association's first exhibition in a professional gallery. This gave IABA the opportunity to present their work in a truly professional setting and was a great learning experience with a view to developing future exhibitions. For 2012, IABA plans exhibitions at The Craft Granary in Cahir, Russborough House and the Titanic Quarter, Belfast.

In June IABA organised the International Forge-in in Monaghan Town. 200 blacksmiths travelled from all over the world to take part. 10 of the world's leading figures in the blacksmithing and metal art world were flown to Ireland to take part. Their task was to design a panel for the Hive of Knowledge and leading teams of blacksmiths in a master class style scenario, they over saw the creation of their panels over the course of the forge-in. The finished structure will be installed in front of the Court House in Monaghan in late 2012. (Over 500 nights were booked in local hotels and guest houses, with the Forge-in generating an estimated value to the local economy of €500,000).



■ International Forge-in, Monaghan

IRISH BASKETMAKERS ASSOCIATION

www.irishbasketmakers.ie



Set up in: 1992

Number of members: 123

The Irish Basketmakers Association aims to uphold the high standard of basket making and increase awareness of this ancient craft, as well as encouraging contact and cooperation between basket makers. They seek to achieve this by promoting courses and master classes, giving demonstrations at shows and putting their work into exhibitions.

In May the Association had a master course in straw work at The Museum of Country life in Castlebar, Co. Mayo, in which 6 members upskilled in this craft with the late Ted Kelly.

The Association was represented at Bloom 2011 by Willow Wonder, running willow workshops for a day to over 50 young participants. Cathy Hayden also demonstrated basket making.

In September, 11 members learned to make willow coffins with tutor Brendan Farren at Belmont Mills, Co. Offaly. This course was part funded by the Crafts Council of Ireland Network Support Fund.



■ Willow coffin made by Paul Finch

IRISH COUNTRYWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (ICA)

www.ica.ie



Set up in: 1910
Number of members: 11,000

COMMITTEE:

Liz Wall
National President

4 Officers

In 2011 the aim of the ICA was to involve members in a craft activity.

The main craft activities for the ICA in 2011 were their craft stands and demonstrations at national events. The main events that took place in the ICA to celebrate Year of Craft 2011 included the ICA craft stand at Bloom, the ICA craft tent at the National Ploughing Championships and the ICA craft stand at the Knitting and Stitching Show in November.

Another key event was the Association's charity event in conjunction with Volunteering Ireland and The Irish Heart Foundation called "Warming Irish Hearts". This charity event tied in with the International Year of Volunteering, the Year of Craft and the Year of Adult Education. The "Warming Irish Hearts" campaign invited the members of the ICA to knit a set of hat, scarf and mittens, which went on sale in the Kilkenny Group's stores around the country in September 2011 for the winter season.

At ICA craft stands during 2011 the crafts that were demonstrated included chicken scratching, macramé, spinning, patchwork, crochet, knitting, sewing, jewellery making, St Bridget's cross making, reversible crochet, hair pin crochet, redwork, goldwork, handbag making and stump embroidery.

IRISH PATCHWORK SOCIETY

www.irishpatchwork.ie



IrishPatchworkSociety

Set up in: 1981

Number of members: 537

COMMITTEE:

Geraldine Larkin

Chairperson

Mari Moran

Treasurer

Rita Kelly

Secretary

Ailbhe O'Callaghan

Membership Secretary

Bernadette Falvey

Editor

EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS:

Mary Hunter

CCoI Representative

Loretta O'Brien

*European Quilt Association
Representative*

The aims and objectives of the Society are:

- To promote the practice and art of patchwork, appliqué and quilting in Ireland
- To foster and encourage communication between persons interested in traditional and contemporary quiltmaking
- To promote lectures, workshops, exhibitions and other activities of interest to quiltmakers
- To publish a newsletter and to encourage publication of the aims and activities of the society
- To encourage education in and to raise and maintain standards of quiltmaking in Ireland
- To research and set up a typographical and photographic archive

The key activities of the Society during 2011 included:

- 30th Anniversary Exhibition and International Postcard Exhibition at the National Botanic Gardens
- Postcards exhibited at An Post Museum, GPO and at the Knitting and Stitching Show, RDS
- European Quilt Association Exhibition
- Exhibited at Open European Quilt Championships
- Exhibited 30th Anniversary quilts at Festival of Quilts Birmingham
- Fashion Sans Frontiere event at Festival of Quilts Birmingham
- Interactive demonstrations at Bloom, Tall Ships Race Waterford, the Knitting and Stitching Show
- Sponsored prize for best traditional quilt at RDS National Crafts Competition
- 8 Branch Exhibition through the country
- Exhibitions at a number of local libraries
- Workshops provided in all eight branches by both national and international artists
- Publication of a quarterly newsletter



■ Butterfly and flower by Eilis Watson

IRISH WOODTURNERS GUILD (IWG)

www.irishwoodturnersguild.com



Set up in: 1983
Number of members: Approx. 700

COMMITTEE:

Willie Creighton
Chairperson

Evan Petty
President

Peter Lyons
Hon. Secretary

Sean Hogan
Hon. Treasurer

Joe Laird
Development Officer

Rich Varney
Journal Editor

Tom Larkin
Hon. Membership Sec.

Laurence Moughan
Web Master

Martin Wilson
Eugene Grimley

The IWG objectives are to promote the expansion of the craft of woodturning on the island of Ireland. They do this by promoting demonstrations throughout their 19 Chapters across the country. They develop their members by bringing international woodturners to Ireland to show them new developments in the craft, both skill based and artistic developments.

Each Chapter holds regular meetings to promote woodturning, details of which are promoted through the IWG website and the individual websites of many of the Chapters. The IWG Journal is produced quarterly in full colour to report on the Guild's activities and give inspiration to its members.

Each of the IWG Chapters held monthly meetings throughout 2011. There were exhibitions in Dublin, Omagh, Bangor in Co. Down, Galway and at the Tall Ships Race in Waterford. There were many other smaller events held across the country to demonstrate to the public the craft of woodturning, including Armagh and in Co. Mayo.

The IWG Annual Seminar for 2011 was held in Killarney with demonstrators from USA, UK and Ireland. The annual seminar is one of the biggest craft education events held in Ireland each year with over 250 delegates in attendance and will take place in Killarney again in 2012.



■ Presidential candidate Michael D.Higgins with wood turner Robert O'Connor, Tall Ships Race, Waterford

LOUTH CRAFTMARK DESIGNERS NETWORK

www.louthcraftmark.com



Set up in: 2006
Number of members: 32

COMMITTEE:

Sarah McKenna
Chairperson

Rachel Tinniswood
Garrett Mallon
Edmund McNulty
Paddy Quigley
Cathy Prendergast
Gillian Callan
Mel Bradley
Frances Lambe

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 Network are relevant to the needs of its members and to develop a clear marketing vision for the craft sector in Louth.

Louth Craftmark Designers Network organised a series of "Meet the Makers" days in the Louth Craftmark retail outlet in Highlanes Gallery. These were organised to coincide with the Gallery's programme of events and included separate days for textiles, jewellery, ceramics, wood work and another cross discipline day. 16 craftspeople took part in these events.

Louth Craftmark Designers Network's exhibition "Song of Amergin", in conjunction with Highlanes Municipal Art Gallery in Drogheda, took place 13th August to 13th September 2011. The exhibition, which featured 14 exhibitors in a wide range of disciplines, included the work of Louth Craftmark Designers Network. "Song of Amergin" was very warmly received and had one of the largest attendances the Gallery had seen. During the month long run, two artists' talks and three workshops took place. This was the first collaboration between Louth Craftmark Designers Network and Highlanes Gallery, for an event of this kind. The Gallery has been interested in running a 3-year plan with the Network to have more events in the gallery.

Free "Craft your County Colours" workshops took place on Culture Night, at the Louth Craftmark retail outlet.

As part of the Creative Map initiative, craftspeople throughout Louth, Meath and Monaghan opened the doors of their studios and workshops to the public. This was publicised on local radio, local papers and online, and busses were organised to bring the public on a tour of many studios over the weekend which included free craft classes and craft demonstrations in the Louth Craftmark retail outlet.

Members participated in Bloom, 20:20 during Design Week, Dundalk Show, the National Crafts & Design Fair, Showcase, Art Ireland, the National Ploughing Championships, the Tall Ships Race Waterford and many more events and exhibitions. Louth Craftmark members also worked with Louth County Enterprise Board and Peace III to run intensive craft courses classes.

MADE IN KILKENNY

www.madeinkilkenny.ie



Set up in: 2009
Number of members: 27

COMMITTEE:

Rosemarie Durr
Chairperson

Hilary Jenkinson
Secretary

Ed Kielty
Treasurer

MADE in Kilkenny was formed in early 2009 and was set up to foster excellence in crafts in County Kilkenny, to encourage the growth of the professional craft industry and to promote the county as a shopping destination for authentic, handmade craft in Ireland.

The MADE in Kilkenny craft collective were featured in Kilkenny's St. Canice's Credit Union 2011 calendar, with each month highlighting a different maker to celebrate Year of Craft 2011.

Also the MADE in Kilkenny group hosted an exhibition of work by its members during Kilkenny Arts Festival, 5th - 14th August. "A Makers Journey" demonstrated the makers' individual creative process. From the inspiring object or image, through their personal process of design, it explored the different elements taken into consideration to create a successful, well-designed aesthetic piece of work.

MADE in Kilkenny member Inga Reed's distinctive jewellery featured on one of the special stamps issued by An Post in 2011 to celebrate Year of Craft.

At the RDS National Crafts Competition, four of the winners were members of the MADE in Kilkenny craft network - Mark Campden of Bridge Pottery won the RDS Award of Excellence Reserve for his large fish platter and he also took first prize in the Traditional Ceramics category. Carl Parker received first prize for the Precious Metals category and first in the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin Award. Jane Huston received second prize in the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin Award and Ken Foley came second in the leather work category.

The MADE in Kilkenny Christmas Pop-up Shop opened on 26th November on Rose Inn Street. The beautiful shop was well received by consumers and contained a wide selection of hand crafted gift ideas for Christmas, with some items created especially for the festive season.



MADE in Kilkenny Pop Up Shop 2011

MADE IN SLIGO

www.madeinsligo.ie



Set up in: 2010

Number of members: 15

COMMITTEE:

Tom Callery
Chairperson

Mark Heaney
Michelle Henry

Activities during Year of Craft 2011 included the following:

- Members took a large group stand at Showcase 2011
- Made in Sligo hosted "The Poetry of Craft", a group exhibition inspired by and in celebration of W.B. Yeats and his creative influence on Co. Sligo, which took place in the Yeats Building, Hyde Bridge, Sligo, during the Yeats International Summer School.
- A pop-up shop for a month at Tohers Chemist on O'Connell Street in Sligo.
- Members also participated at the National Ploughing Championships and took group stands at Ballina Salmon Festival, Demons Festival Leitrim, Galway Potters Festival and Coleman Heritage Festival.



■ Showcase, 2011

NA PÍOBAIRÍ UILLEANN

www.pipers.ie



Set up in: 1968
Number of members: 1,270

COMMITTEE:

Dave Hegarty
Chairperson

Noel Pocock
Secretary

Tommy Keane
Treasurer

Prof. Padraic Mac Mathúna
Emmett Gill
Ken Lynam
Donnacha Dwyer
Joe Crane
Wilbert Garvin
Seán Óg Potts

The aim of the Society is to develop Uilleann piping as a major world music by establishing the Uilleann pipes as the iconic instrument of Ireland. A full set of Irish Uilleann pipes has always been the product of the craftsman rather than the factory; its manufacture an art rather than an industry. There have been periods in which good makers emerged and provided well-made instruments and the degree to which the work of the Society has borne fruit is reflected in the number of pipemakers now producing instruments. Na Píobairí Uilleann are continually working to promote the craft and have recently established the Pipecraft Training Centre to deliver a three year full time training programme for aspiring Uilleann pipe makers.

Key events during 2011 included:

- Capital Craft – a celebration of the craft of Uilleann pipe making in Dublin
- International Uilleann Piping Day
- Training courses in the craft of bag, bellows, chanter making and reed making
- Regular classes in piping and reed making
- A regular programme of recitals, concerts and lectures
- The publication of books and CDs, including Pipe Up – a resource DVD for Irish Traditional Music.



■ Training course

OFFALY CRAFTY

www.offalyartsandcrafts.com



Set up in: 2003

Number of members: 25

COMMITTEE:

Cyril Stanley
Chairperson

Eilish Fogarty
Secretary

Monica Daly
Treasurer

Offaly Crafty is a mixed discipline group of craftspeople and artists based in Offaly. The aim of the group is to work together for support, development and promotional purposes.

In 2011, 11 members of Offaly Crafty worked collaboratively on 'Continuance', a 7 foot high 20 foot long, free standing, two sided sculpture. The base material is wood and the contributors added to the piece in materials as diverse as slate, glass, metal, and silk. The process was documented by video and edited into a 25-minute programme.

Offaly Crafty members meet regularly, and in recent years have worked together on projects such as a collaborative sculpture, an Offaly Crafty brochure, individual craft brochures, individual and group promotional 'pop-up' banners, three annual fairs (Birr Vintage and Arts Festival, Tullamore Christmas Fair, Birr Christmas Fair), the National Ploughing Championships and the Phoenix Festival. Group members also support each other when taking part in exhibitions such as Showcase and the National Crafts & Design Fair in the RDS. Offaly Crafty also work with Westmeath-based craft workers in supporting the CORE craft outlet in Ballinahown.



■ 'Continuance'

PEANNAIRÍ, IRISH CALLIGRAPHERS

www.calligraphy.ie



Set up in: 1987
Number of members: 35

COMMITTEE:

Noeleen Frain
Chairperson

Jane Connolly
Treasurer

Clodagh Opdebeeck

Ann Cannon
Librarian

EXHIBITION COMMITTEE:

Kevin Honan

Ann O'Clery

Noeleen Frain

Angela Ganter

Peannairí aims to foster and promote the art of calligraphy in Ireland. They hope to bring more calligraphy to schools.

In 2011 a great deal of time was spent in preparing for the Exhibition 'Write Now'. A Write-a-thon was held in Dundrum Town Centre to raise funds and to promote calligraphy. There were workshops on colour in calligraphy and card making. Demonstrations on quill cutting, cut lettering and printing were also held. A book was produced - 'Stone Memories'.

The most important event was an exhibition on Contemporary Calligraphy held in the Wood Quay Venue in June 2011, a wonderful exhibition with work not just from the members of calligraphy Ireland but also from well known calligraphers from USA, Norway, Japan, France and England.



■ 'Scrabble', Ann Cannon

PRINTBLOCK

www.printblock.tumblr.com



Set up in: 2010

Number of members: 10

COMMITTEE:

Liz Nilsson
Chairperson

Olga Tiernan
Ruth Doorley

PrintBlock is a non-profit member's co-operative whose purpose is to provide professional designers, artists and craftspeople with shared working surfaces and equipment for the production of mainly printed textiles, and other textile related techniques. No such facility exists at present in Ireland. PrintBlock, formed in 2010, is a talented group of committed and driven people who have come together to realise this project.

Key activities during 2011 included the following:

- The collective purchase of key equipment required to establish a working studio including an 8 metre print table, exposure unit, steamer and screens.
- Hosting the group's first public event, "Crossroads & Journeys", an exhibition and workshop series. Of 500 visitors to the project in 3 weeks, one-third expressed interest in membership of PrintBlock and further workshops, generating a large contact database for future membership and workshop marketing.
- Working relationships were established with Temple Bar Cultural Trust, higher education providers, Project 51 and Fumbally Exchange.
- PrintBlock contacted and visited similar successful textile groups in Sweden and the UK, to research best practice models.
- The group also looked intensively for suitable premises.



■ PrintBlock

QUILTERS GUILD OF IRELAND

www.theqgi.org

Set up in: 2001
Number of members: 300

COMMITTEE:
Ann Sheehan
Chairperson

Tracey Pereira
Web and Gazette Editor

Patricia Frawley
Secretary and Librarian

Laura Cahill
Treasurer

Robyn Fahy
*Education Officer and Retreat
Organiser*

Jane Winters
Membership Secretary

Monica Bodmer
Membership Secretary

The Quilters' Guild of Ireland provides education about patchwork, appliqué and quilting to members in Ireland as well as internationally. This non-profit association welcomes all those interested in learning about the art/craft of quilting. The Guild is a 32 county organisation, and it keeps in touch with members through a bi-monthly magazine and an active web site and blog space.

The Quilters Guild of Ireland Annual Conference and Workshops took place in March 2011, at which a National Travelling Quilt Exhibition was launched to mark the Guild's 10th Anniversary. The exhibition consisted of contemporary and traditional work, and traveled to four locations in Ireland and the UK.

The annual sewing conference consisted of workshops facilitated by American and European master quilters including Malinda Bula from the USA, Angela Madden, Barbara Barber, Chris Porter and Tracey Pereira from the UK and Irish quilter Beryl Cadman. There was a sewing room where people who did not wish to take a class could work on their own projects in the company of other patch workers.

There were also several shops with a large selection of quilting fabric and notions. Visitors were welcome to drop in and talk to award winning, expert patch workers and discuss their own projects or get advice on starting their first quilt, and to bring their "problem" projects in order to find a solution. This was a fantastic opportunity to learn about the history and heritage of one of the oldest crafts in Ireland.

SOCIETY OF CORK POTTERS

www.corkpotters.com



Set up in: 1980
Number of members: 33

COMMITTEE:
Martha Cashman
Chairperson

Cillian Gibbons
Sara Roberts

The aims and objectives of the Society are:

- To provide a framework for potters and ceramic artists, living and working in Cork, to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information, to further their development and to promote their work
- To organise Cork-based, ceramic-specific networking events, workshops, seminars, exhibitions etc. for the benefit of members and, other invited craftspeople

In June 2011 Jim Turner and Etain Hickey hosted ceramic workshops with Hungarian Ceramic Artist Mariann Bann. There were two very successful 5-day workshops held at Rossmore, with 10 attendees at the first and full capacity of 12 attendees at the second. These were "hands on" making workshops with demonstrations and slide shows from Mariann Bann, and brief slide shows from all the attendees. Jim Turner also raku fired the whistles, boxes and other work made.

In August 2011 an exhibition "Celebrating 30 Years of Cork Potters" was spread over 2 venues in Clonakilty - Etain Hickey Collections and the Buckley Gallery. August celebrated Cork Craft Month. 23 members exhibited, showing the full range of pottery from tableware to one-off sculptural pieces. Etain Hickey also showed a selection of whistles and sound based ceramics made at the Cork Potters June workshop.

The Society's new website www.corkpotters.com was set up in 2011 and showcases members' work with a biography and information on each member.



■ Jim Turner, Raku firing

THE DESIGN TOWER

www.thedesigntower.com
www.thedesigntower.
blogspot.com



Set up in: 1984
Number of members: 19

COMMITTEE:

Ayelet Lalor
Chairperson

Breda Haugh
Secretary

Roisin Gartland
Treasurer

The aims and objective of The Design Tower are:

- Mutual small business support
- Promotion of craft message within capital city
- Engagement with landlord-Trinity College, Dublin and growing Docklands Development involvement
- High quality craftsmanship

Key activities and events during Year of Craft 2011 included the following: Set up and running of The Design Tower blog page by Aisling Nelson. Updates on all events by members including monthly studio visits including interviews and images.

In May/June 2011, a number of the Design Tower studios participated in Designer Dublin, a Dublin City Enterprise and Crafts Council of Ireland initiative. Also in June, Mick Da Hoog organised a very successful free classical music recital in The Design Tower. The Altissimo Quintet was created from 5 members of the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra and each played unique instruments handmade by Da Hoog. The event was filled to capacity and attracted a lot of interest from the surrounding area. In collaboration with CCoI, The Design Tower arranged to bring World Crafts Council – Europe General Assembly delegates to The Design Tower during their visit to Dublin in June. The event was introduced by Ruairi Quinn, Minister of Education, and included a presentation by Sé O'Donoghue (Da Capo) and a guided studio tour. A bespoke hardback catalogue was created for all the delegates to receive.

In July The Design Tower introduced their first group teaching programme - The Design Tower Summer School. 7 studios offered focused tuition for all capabilities from introductions to master classes.

The Design Tower took part in Culture Night in September, with everyone happily opening their studio doors for the evening. Siobhan Riordan (Alan Ardiff) was instrumental in orchestrating interest from the surrounding area, and as a result, The Design Tower took a leading roll in the Docklands area for the event.

The Design Tower took a stand in the Art Fair, RDS, Dublin in November. This comprised a collaborative exhibition, exploring communicating the crafts message to new territories, and a new audience, with an inclusion in the official brochure. Also in November, Elizabeth O'Kane organised a day with the Friends of the National Gallery.

THE GUILD OF IRISH LACEMAKERS

The Guild of Irish Lacemakers meets every month, usually in High School, Rathgar, with workshops in Bobbin, Carrickmacross, Irish Crochet and Mountmellick.

As a result of their annual charity day in January, a cheque for €1,000 was forwarded to 'The Dublin 15 Hospice' which is part of St. Francis Hospice, the Guild's chosen charity for the year.

In February, the Guild had a visiting tutor from the Czech Republic, Anna Halikova, who gave a workshop on Contemporary Czech Lace.

As part of the Bealtaine Festival, some members displayed their lace at an exhibition in Rathfarnham Castle, Dublin.

During the summer, the Guild had a successful social day out to An Grianán, where members from all over Ireland met for the day to make lace.

As in previous years, the Guild took a stand, which was much admired, at the Knitting and Stitching Show in the RDS in November.

Number of members: 150

The Guild continues to publish 2 journals yearly with contributions from the members, which is very popular and sent around the world to other guilds.

COMMITTEE:

Rita Coyne
Chairperson

Imelda Kelleher
Rita Mooney
Ann Keller
Sarah Earle
Geraldine Clarke

THE LEITRIM DESIGN HOUSE

www.leitrimdesignhouse.ie

[www.facebook.com/
TheLeitrimDesignHouse](http://www.facebook.com/TheLeitrimDesignHouse)



Set up in: 2000
Number of members: 60

COMMITTEE:

Joe Lowe
Chairperson
(CEO, Leitrim County Enterprise Board)

Geraldine Reynolds
Leitrim County Enterprise Board

Sinead Guckian
Leitrim County Council

Erika Marks
Designer

Eddie Shanahan

Donal Fox
Leitrim Integrated Company

Siobhan O'Mally
Director, Dock Arts Centre

The aims and objectives of The Leitrim Design House (LDH) are to:

- provide meaningful support to artists, designers, craftspeople's and manufacturer
- develop a best practice solution for managing creative output
- provide a worthwhile resource for retail buyers
- provide a tourist resource through the ongoing development and maintenance of a craft trail
- provide a revenue source through LDH Membership Services, the LDH shop and associated LDH internet shop & internet based craft trail
- provide a program of community arts projects

To celebrate Year of Craft 2011 Leitrim Design House focused on organising 8 exhibitions, which were made possible by the funding allocated through the CCoI Network Support Scheme and match funding from Leitrim County Enterprise Board.

'Essence of Craft' was a series of exhibitions exploring how craft can be expressed in different material and forms. Each exhibition was widely promoted through social media, the LDH website, regional press, the Craft in Ireland website and through Visual Arts Newsletter. Each exhibition was part of a programme of activities built around the exhibition from network meetings and exhibition launches to retail events to promote the work for consumer sales.

Essence of Craft Exhibition Programme 2011:

- February "Vessels of Memory": ceramics and mixed media exhibition. This exhibition travelled to specific locations throughout Ireland.
- March: Heritage Focus - a promotion of local wood/furniture makers.
- April/May: "Contemporary Reflections" - A collective textiles exhibition.
- June: "Snapshots" - Donegal Designer collective featuring work by 15 makers from Donegal.
- July: "ADORNMENT" - Collective Jewellery Exhibition promoting work by 12 jewellers.
- August: FOCUS ON- Leitrim Makers month
- September: "Connections" - a retrospective photography exhibition
- October: "Natural3" - a collective glass exhibition with work by 6 glass artists and students from NCAD Glass Department.
- November "ONlocation" - a networking project which developed into an exhibition of wearable art by nine local artists and designers who were brought together through Leitrim Design House.
- December: "Sara Wieggersma Ceramics" - an exhibition of one-off decorative ceramics by contemporary ceramicist Sara Wieggersma

WEST CORK ARTS CENTRE

www.westcorkartscentre.com



Set up in: 1985
Number of members: 254

COMMITTEE:

Seán O'Ceallaigh
Chairperson

(17 Board members in total)

West Cork Arts Centre (WCAC) is a publicly funded arts facility that creates opportunities for the people of West Cork to have access to, and engagement with, local and global arts practice of excellence. WCAC supports a multi-disciplinary arts programme, with a focus on modern and contemporary visual art.

The West Cork Inspires exhibition celebrated the achievements of the many craft workers in the West Cork area and the launch of Alison Ospina's book *West Cork Inspires*. The book recounts the history of the craft movement in West Cork over the past 50 years and also focuses on the personal stories of some of the best known craftspeople in the area. The accompanying exhibition, curated by artist Etain Hickey, featured the work of 23 crafts workers representing a number of disciplines including jewellery making, textiles, ceramics and woodturning. An interesting aspect of the show was the display of some of the tools used by the artists, illustrating their work practices. Also featured were photographs, archival newspaper clippings and images of the artists at work.

West Cork Inspires, the book and exhibition, toured since March 2011 to a number of prestigious venues. It was first launched in Europe House, London by film-maker Lord David Puttnam and then travelled to Farmleigh in Dublin where a copy of Alison Ospina's book was presented to Britain's Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Ireland. The book and exhibition subsequently toured to Cork in January 2012.

A series of talks at West Cork Arts Centre explored aspects of the exhibition, commencing with ceramicist Cormac Boydell, speaking on the theme "Why am I an artist?". Etain Hickey and Alison Ospina spoke about planning, organising and designing a contemporary craft exhibition and printmaker Brian Lalor gave a talk on the development of co-operative print studios in Ireland and their international significance.



■ L-R: Leslie Reed, Etain Hickey, Alison Ospina, Karen Hennessy and Ann Davoren.

WEST CORK CRAFT & DESIGN GUILD

www.westcorkcraft.org

WEST CORK CRAFT & DESIGN GUILD

West Cork Craft & Design Guild organised 2 high profile exhibitions in 2 capital cities for their celebratory Year of Craft 2011 events.

“Transformations” first opened in Dublin at the National Botanic Gardens in May 2011, with the Guild patron Jeremy Irons opening the show, which continued into June. From September to November 2011 the exhibition travelled to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.

Ian Edwards, event organiser for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, invited the Guild to exhibit their work in the Gallery of their visitor’s centre “John Hope Gateway”, having viewed the West Cork Craft & Design Guild’s DVD “An Inspired Gathering.” The film was on show at both venues. Both exhibitions were well attended and generated strong sales.

Set up in: 1996
Number of members: 16

COMMITTEE:
Aoife O’Mahony
Chairperson

Michael Duerden
Sonia Caldwell



■ ‘Transformations’, Dublin

WESTMEATH CRAFT NETWORK T/A MADE IN WESTMEATH

www.madeinwestmeath.ie



Set up in: 2007

Number of members: 29

COMMITTEE:

Aileen Duffy
Chairperson

Anne Marie Griffin
Secretary

The aims and objectives of Made in Westmeath are:

- To increase the sales of members by significantly increasing exposure to the market
- To ensure that members are responsive to market demands and trends
- To provide professional training that will assist members with new product development and marketing of their products nationally
- To undertake group initiatives that will increase sales

2011 was an extremely busy craft year for the county craft network in Westmeath, which grew its membership to 29. The network re-branded as 'Made in Westmeath' and launched new promotional and point of sale material featuring professionally taken images of makers' work.

Following the rebrand, the network took group stands at events and festivals throughout spring and summer in the county including Belvedere Self-Sufficiency Show; Bloomsday Celebrations, Mullingar; Joe Dolan Music Festival; and Culture Night, Mullingar Arts Centre.

Made in Westmeath joined forces with Belvedere House and Gardens, where space was allocated for displaying and selling Westmeath crafts. There will now be a permanent display of craft in their visitors centre.

In September, Made in Westmeath hosted the winners of the RDS National Crafts Competition for a one-month exhibition. The best of Westmeath craft was also displayed alongside the national winners of this competition.

November was an extremely busy month as in addition to hosting of the Adornment Exhibition in CORE Craft & Design, the network participated in the annual Food & Design Winter Fair, which is the largest craft show in the midlands and takes place over three days. Made in Westmeath also decided to open a pop-up shop in Mullingar in late November, a project in which 13 members participated, voluntarily staffing the shop and paying a contribution from sales to the overheads. The project was due to close on 13th January 2012 but due to strong interest from craft workers and consumers it remains open and, all going well, will continue.

According to Made in Westmeath, it would not have been possible to undertake all this work in 2011 without support from the Year of Craft Counties Initiative Fund, Westmeath County Enterprise Board, network funding and the provision of a craft development specialist from Westmeath Community Development Ltd.

WORKHOUSE STUDIOS

www.workhousetudios.com



Set up in: 2010
Number of members: 17

COMMITTEE:
Claire McAlister
Chairperson

Workhouse Studios is an exciting collective of artists, designers and makers based in the Kilmacthomas Workhouse, Co. Waterford. www.facebook.com/workhousetudios provides an insight into life in the studio, the community of artists/designers and generally what members of the collective get up to on a regular basis. The collective's objective is to foster new creative businesses providing a bespoke business development programme to support and creatively grow these creative businesses.

Aside from individual members featuring in various exhibitions nationally and internationally, Workhouse Studios hosted a week-long, county-based Year of Craft 2011 Event, part funded by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

This event centred around Halloween and the history associated with the workhouse building. Several free workshops were hosted every day from Sunday-Sunday. These workshops included a two-day life-sized lantern making workshop where a group of adults had the opportunity to work with Tom Meskell. Each made a life-sized figurative lantern. Following this, workshops were held every day in the lead up to Halloween. The closing event centred on a Halloween party, staged in the eerie setting of the workhouse at night. Workhouse Studios engaged with other art forms based in the county such as fire jugglers and storytellers. The event was a huge success and Workhouse Studios are currently looking into how they can fund Halloween 2012 as they see this event becoming an annual initiative at the studio.



■ Workshops, Halloween 2011

Acknowledgements

Photographers

Glenda Choy, Claire Curneen, Diane Cusack, Willie Dillon, Trevor Hart ,
Colm Hogan, Kendall Koppe, Rob Lamb, Marina Levitina, David Mannion,
Sinead Mitchell, Anne Minihane, Pat Moore, Robbie Reynolds, Paul Sherwood,
Peter Thursfield and Dylan Vaughan.

Other images courtesy of the Crafts Council of Ireland's member organisations.

Design: Redlemonade.ie

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ISBN: 978-1-906691-29-5

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