

Embracing Technology



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Introduction by Angela O'Kelly, Curator

This year's CRAFT strand looks to new directions and dialogues in craft. Craft artists working with cutting-edge technology and materials, conceptual craft and an inclusive, interactive exhibition are some of the highlights of this year's programme.

The National Craft Gallery Two showcases the work of fourteen makers who are *Embracing Technology*. These makers push the boundaries of their craft through the inventive use of materials and technology. Combining hand-crafting with new technologies like laser-cutting, water jet cutting, rapid prototyping, motion capturing, textiles set in concrete, interactive magnetic wall coverings and site-specific textiles for walls and windows, these makers expand the potential of craft and challenge our perceptions with new ways of making dynamic forms.

Jo Angell

Jo Angell's work is inspired by nature, combining hand-crafting with new technologies. For her canopies she observed nature on a microscopic scale. Diatoms - single-celled structures encased in two-sided silica which are highly ornate - provided the perfect inspiration both for the structure and for laser-cutting patterns. Laser-cutting enables Jo to experiment with the different light-diffusing effects achieved by everything from the tiniest holes to larger, bolder shapes. Her canopies offer protection from the sun, yet retain an aura of a changeable, magical light. Each design can be customised to suit the size and material she uses.

Katie Bunnell

As a practitioner-researcher and leader of the 3D digital production research cluster at

University College Falmouth, Katie Bunnell has a fundamental urge to interrogate digital technologies using an open and experimental approach. She aims to develop new production methods that integrate digital technologies with other making processes in ways that will enable craft practice to enter new territory, developing new aesthetic qualities, new forms and surfaces and new ways of making things that exploit the communication and networking capabilities of digital data.

Vanessa Cutler

Vanessa Cutler employs the machine-like qualities of abrasive waterjet to produce work at once solid and fragile. The forms in her work are derived from geometry, architecture and the sensitivity of the material itself, while the ribbon-like qualities of glass engage the viewer. Cutler enjoys building structures that combine material and process to test the strength and fragility of glass and explore the boundaries of the material.

Tavs Jørgensen

In recent years, Tavs Jørgensen's practice has focused on the creative use of digital development tools. He believes that, in order for the creative practitioner to remain a current and relevant part of contemporary culture, it is vital to explore and utilize these new methods. However, it also takes intimate knowledge of materials and making processes to realise the full creative potential of IT tools. Accordingly, many of his projects explore the potential of merging traditional making skills with new technologies such as rapid prototyping, digitizing, motion capture and CNC milling.

Rachel Kelly

Rachel Kelly's Interactive Wallpaper Studio has an international reputation for innovative and interactive wallpaper designs. Rachel produces wall coverings ranging from laser and CAD-cut decorative wall and glass stickers to hand screenprinted wallpaper. She specialises in both traditional and innovative print processes, often combining hand silkscreen with CAD and digital printing with laser technology. She has many high-profile clients including the BBC, the Arts Council and the NHS, and this year was nominated for a Grand Designs Award for her print designs for Habitat UK Ltd.

Jenny Leary

Jenny Leary is a textile designer whose work investigates the use of magnetic materials including steel fibres, ferrite rubber, magnetic films, neodymium magnets and ultrafine iron powder. She blends these technical ingredients with traditional textile materials, and draws on processes such as embroidery and laser-cutting to invent new recipes for surface design. Her work, which sits comfortably both in artistic and scientific contexts, questions the boundaries between engineering and craft. Whether creating magnetic materials for wall coverings, hand-bound books, or apparel, Jenny seeks out uncanny surface qualities that are bound to challenge our senses.

Aoife Ludlow

Aoife Ludlow's work explores the concept of the journey and the ways in which we navigate through space, from maps and motorway lights to the near-meditative state of a long-distance runner. While grounded in a love of materials and tactility, her recent work combines technology and tradition, art and craft, using laser-cutting, digital print, animation and film alongside traditional textile techniques. A designer for Tactility Factory and co-director of design consultancy We Like Soup, she is based in Belfast.

Rachel McKnight

Rachel McKnight produces necklaces, bangles, earrings and rings to form quirky creations in plastics and rubber. The excitement of sourcing and experimenting with new materials inspires her to produce original and innovative jewellery. Working with plastics enables her to pursue her interest in transparency and opaque colour. In the last two years she has embraced new technology and with the help of laser-cutting is developing work with more intricate designs, such as the lace pattern used in some of her pieces. The idea of combining a man-made, industrial product with a delicate and traditional pattern inspires her new work. She is based in Belfast.

Justin Marshall

Justin Marshall is a practising maker and researcher based at University College Falmouth. His work on ceramic bowls was developed at Bath Spa University Ceramics Department, with support from an AHRC research grant. The project involved investigating a particular piece of 3D CAD software for its creative potential in producing ceramic forms with new surface texture. The textures of the bowls were developed through a process of 'voxelation', in which a 3D form is simplified into a series of blocks which make up an approximation of the original form. This process creates unexpected complexity and interference patterns within the complex, curved surface of the bowls.

Lynne Murray

Lynne Murray's work operates at the fractured junction where the directness of the hand drawn and the dominance of computerized design collide. Exploring new technologies, she celebrates these tensions by translating impulsive, drawn designs into refined, digital jewellery. Her research into the manipulation of computer-generated design, in partnership with handmade interventions, creates visually-engaging and technically-challenging forms of jewellery. By exploiting the glitches between these opposing processes, the work starts to function and the journey can begin.

Liz Nilsson

Liz Nilsson is an interdisciplinary textile artist. Her work *Constructed Remembrance* investigates memory and our ability to memorise experiences. Weaving together used and new fabrics, the multi-layered nature of her work represents repetition, recall and habit and refers to the way in which memories are formed. Shadows add a transient layer and symbolise memory, enabling

the viewer to experience the actual work and its memory, the concrete and the shadow, simultaneously.

CJ O'Neill

Inspired by memories and everyday ceramics, CJ O'Neill creates a visual language of silhouettes. Re-interpreting existing objects, adding a new layer of pattern over the old, she aims to embed a new story, to provoke conversation and inspire new ways of seeing objects. Though she uses industrial production processes, she aligns herself more closely to the individual craftsman and is interested in the balance between the handmade and the industrially produced. Punching old, manufactured, everyday objects with a 'newness' that refers to current mass production, O'Neill places these old objects in the spotlight and asks how their value has changed with the imposition of a new narrative.

Jill Phillips

Jill Phillips is an award-winning, multi-disciplinary designer of bespoke furniture, textiles and interiors. Her work combines old and new, antique and modern, in unique and exciting ways. Her elegantly-deviant pieces encourage the observer to construct their own visual experience. Nothing is as it seems. Subtlety is key. Drawing on aspects of cognitive science, these pieces persuade the brain and eye to connect, and re-connect, stimulating a progression of engagements that allow new forms to emerge.

Tactility Factory

In the true spirit of invention, Tactility Factory unites expertise from architecture and textiles to bring tactility into the built environment. Architect Ruth Morrow and textile designer Trish Belford combine the hard properties of concrete with the softness of textiles by designing innovative processes, using patented technology, to deliver beautiful and sensually-engaging surfaces. Though created using leading-edge technologies, each surface finish has a unique, hand-crafted, antique feel; a testament to the fact that ornament isn't crime.

Exhibition Information

7 August - 20 October

Tuesday - Saturday 10am-5pm

Open Mondays during the Festival

National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tours

Tours of the exhibitions will take place at 11am daily in National Craft Galleries.

Curator Talk

On Sunday 8 August, at 2pm, Craft curator Angela O'Kelly and the artists will give a talk on the exhibitions. Admission free.

Children's Craft Workshops

Free children's craft workshops will take place on Tuesday 10 August, Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 August in the National Craft Gallery from 2 to 4pm. These workshops will introduce children to the materials and techniques used in the exhibitions and explore jewellery, textiles and new technologies. Booking essential. Contact: +353 (0)56 779 6151.

Kilkenny Arts Festival Exhibition

7th August 2010 - 20th October 2010

Gallery 1 Mah Rana 'Jewellery is Life'

The exhibition of the work of London based jeweller Mah Rana will focus on two aspects of her work, her handmade jewellery 'Jewellery is Life' and 'Meanings and Attachments'.

Gallery 2 Embracing Technology

Embracing Technology showcases the work of makers who are pushing boundaries of their craft through inventive use of materials and technology. The artist's cutting edge designs are transformed through the use of technology and eclectic mix of materials into innovative dynamic forms which challenge our perceptions and offer new directions for craft. Makers are based in Ireland and the UK.



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Kilkenny Arts Festival - Aug 6 to 15

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Kilkenny - August 6th to 15th, 2010

If you like the idea of:

- Waiting eagerly in the crowd for Tindersticks, Damo Suzuki or Adrian Crowley to play live.
- Being transported by an incredible art installation courtesy of 2010 Turner-prize nominee Susan Philipsz.
- Hearing Robert Fisk give the annual Hubert Butler lecture.
- Singing your heart out in St. Canice's Cathedral – or listening to the breathtaking technique of young Finnish musicians like pianist Antti Siirala or string quartet Meta4.
- Seeing John Banville, David Vann, Hugo Hamilton, John Boyne, Andrew O'Hagan, and Joe O'Connor discuss their work.
- Engaging with Mali's Ballake Sissoko and his magical kora playing.
- Mesmerising children's events with Derek Landy and Liam Ó'Maonlaí.
- Watching a day of Gabriel Byrne films on the big screen.
- Being blindfolded in a wheelchair for a once-in-a-lifetime theatrical experience.

Then read on...

The Kilkenny Arts Festival stands out from other festivals with a unique programming dynamic of eight cultural curators. Working together with Festival Chief Executive Damian Downes they are all leading artists and practitioners in their areas of expertise, and this specialist knowledge is apparent in all corners of the programme. Over 23,000 people flock to this 10 day cultural extravaganza every August, and here are some of the many reasons to make the trip in 2010.

For lovers of literature

Curated by : Colm Tóibín

A wealth of literary talent is on display this year in a programme featuring John Banville & Hugo Hamilton, John Boyne & Andrew O'Hagan, Ed O'Loughlin & David Vann, Joseph O'Connor & Philip King, Michael Coady & Ciaran Carson, Paul Durcan, the celluloid career of Gabriel Byrne and some amazing archive films of the GAA in Hollywood. Irish feminism will be discussed by Nell McCafferty and Margaret MacCurtain, among others. A distinguished panel – including Teresa Ghilarducci of the New School in NY and Fintan O'Toole – will explore possible solutions to the pensions crisis. And award-winning journalist Robert Fisk will present the annual Hubert Butler Lecture.

For the indie infidels

Curated by: Matthew Nolan

This year's WIRED strand offers an eclectic blend of genres and style with Tindersticks, Adrian Crowley, Damo Suzuki, Erik Friedlander, And So I Watch You From Afar, Mick Flannery, a rare performance by Pierce Turner and a new music night in the Set Theatre, headlined by Halves, alongside Kilkenny's own Geppetto and Teffia Ki.

For theatre's true believers

Curated by: Tom Creed

In an exciting and accessible programme for hardened theatre-goers or adventurous first-timers, are seven of the most exciting Irish and international performances that curator Tom Creed has recently encountered. (And, believe us, he sees a lot of theatre). Theatre is taken out of conventional spaces, into historic buildings, pubs and bars.

Susan and Darren (Quarantine), Group Therapy for One (THEATREclub) and Victor and Gord (Una McKeivitt) put real lives on stage, telling hilarious and moving stories. A Western (Action Hero) and Where Did It All Go Right (Ponydance) stage their adventurous and interactive shows in well-known Kilkenny pubs. For the most intimate theatrical experience, the one you'll be talking about for years to come, are shows with only a single performer and a single audience member. The Smile Off Your Face (Ontroerend Goed), where you are blindfolded in a wheelchair throughout and Foot Washing for the Sole (Adrian Howells) where your feet are lovingly washed by the artist, are truly once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

For connoisseurs of classical music

Curated by: Susan Proud

With this year's focus on choral music, for the first time there will be a Kilkenny Festival Choir. Led by conductor Fergus Sheil, amateur choral singers will participate in workshops and rehearsals culminating in a performance in St Canice's Cathedral with celebrated singers Christopher Lemmings, Raitis Grigalis and Bridget Knowles, alongside featured Festival performers pianist Finghin Collins and Irish-American soprano Aileen Itani. Other choral events include The Cardinal's Musick performing masterpieces from the Tudor period and

the Choir of St Peter's Cathedral, Belfast.

Other highly anticipated performances will come from Finnish pianist Antti Siirala - winner of the 2003 AXA Dublin International Piano competition and recognised as one of the outstanding pianists of his generation; the magnificent lute playing of Thomas Dunford; Dutch baritone Maarten Koningsberger; Canadian pianist Rachel Andrist; young Kilkenny musicians guitarist Mark Anthony McGrath, and organist Christian Wilson; violinist Maria Ryan, recently appointed leader of London's Southbank Sinfonia, performing with pianist Ciara Moroney; Finnish string quartet Meta4; Lendvai String Trio; and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra with mezzo-soprano Anne Marie Gibbons. Music and poetry can be a wonderful combination. Actor Barry McGovern performs and David Brophy conducts in 'Façade' – Edith Sitwell's poems set to William Walton's music and composer Ellen Mandel's settings of poems by Seamus Heaney, W.B. Yeats, Dylan Thomas, e.e. cummings and others, will be sung by baritone Robert Gildon.

For art aficionados

Curated by : Oliver Dowling

surface & reality will have eleven artists exhibiting in five Kilkenny venues in an exhibition that will run as a pathway through the city using film, paintings, photographs, installation and sound. The relaxed Festival atmosphere will allow viewers to enjoy this journey through the work of some very fine artists indeed. There is no single exhibition theme, yet none of the artists presents work that is necessarily obvious on the surface. What is pictorially simple and straightforward might not be and what is abstract might be straightforward. Nothing can be taken for granted; these artists continuously push boundaries. Geographical boundaries are also pushed, with Irish artists Declan Clarke, Ciaran Walsh and Eoghan McTigue all living in Berlin, as does Scottish 2010 Turner prize nominee Susan Philipsz. Stephen Loughman, Dennis McNulty, Fergus Martin and Michael Coleman are all based in Dublin. Two time Turner nominee Willie Doherty lives in Derry; Dublin's Eithne Jordan lives mainly in France and Co. Tyrone's William McKeown lives in Edinburgh.

For the true music maniacs

Curated by: Gerry Godley

If you had to choose just one gig in this lineup, make it St Canice's for the double bill of Calcutta slide guitarist Debashish Bhattacharya and his brother Subashish on Indian percussion, followed by cellist Vincent Segal and the exquisite Malian kora player, Ballake Sissoko.

The Ale Möller Band bring many different traditions together into a sum greater – and groovier – than its parts. Konono No.1 create irresistible, magnetic trance music from Kinshasa, and The Innisfree Céilí Band do what it says on the tin. It doesn't get any more local than The County Session, an exposition of all that's great about traditional music in Kilkenny. Evan Christopher, Michael Buckley, Andy Irvine, Tarab, Fídal and the Dublin City Jazz Orchestra with Honor Heffernan will all vie for your attention, as some truly great music makes the Festival swing.

For craft connections

Curated by: Angela O'Kelly

Two exhibitions at the Craft Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny.

Gallery One will host London-based jeweller Mah Rana's exhibition Jewellery is Life showcasing her conceptual jewellery, and Meanings and Attachments, an interactive exhibit of written and photographic images of individuals with their jewellery. Kilkenny audiences are invited to participate. Think about the jewellery you are wearing today, and the stories you could tell about how those pieces came to be in your life.

Gallery Two showcases 14 makers who are Embracing Technology. Combining hand crafting with new technologies like laser cutting, water jet cutting, rapid prototyping, motion capturing, textiles set in concrete, interactive magnetic wall coverings and site-specific textiles for walls and windows.

For the most fabulous of family events

Curated by: Joe Brennan

Wonderful clowning in The Magic Cube will open the children's programme. On-Off is a beautiful piece of theatre that develops from connecting up lights into a love story. The 'Children's Book of the Festival', will be Dark Days from the Skulduggery Pleasant series by Derek Landy, recently voted Irish book of the decade. There are two shows about the sea - Blenny, the Waterdaughter and Whispering Waves. Puppetry is a popular feature with Miriam Lambert's retelling of The Gingerbread Man and The Billy Holiday Show, featuring a diva goat. Parapapel will perform a gorgeous piece of dance theatre, and the musician Liam Ó'Maonlaí has created a special family musical experience.

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