



Crafts Council of Ireland
Annual Report 2009

Comhairle Cheardaíocht na hÉireann
Tuarascáil an Chathaoirligh 2009

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OUR VISION

THAT IRISH CRAFT IS RECOGNISED AND VALUED WORLDWIDE FOR ITS EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN DESIGN AND PRODUCTION.

OUR MISSION

THAT THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND IS THE MAIN CHAMPION OF THE CRAFT INDUSTRY IN IRELAND, FOSTERING ITS GROWTH AND COMMERCIAL STRENGTH, COMMUNICATING ITS UNIQUE IDENTITY AND STIMULATING QUALITY, DESIGN, INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2009 WAS ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR FOR PEOPLE WORKING IN CRAFT IN IRELAND. IN PARALLEL WITH OTHER PARTS OF IRISH SOCIETY MONEY WAS TIGHTER THAN USUAL AND PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WAS DENTED. FEEDBACK FROM OUR CLIENTS EMPHASISES THAT PEOPLE WANT TO BE ABLE TO EARN A LIVING FROM THEIR CRAFT. THEREFORE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT JOBS THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND HAS TO DO IS TO CREATE THE CLIMATE WITHIN WHICH IRISH CRAFT CAN FLOURISH.



Since becoming Chairman, I have been struck not only by the level of innovation, but also by the commitment and enthusiasm that exists here to craftmaking. I believe it is these qualities, based on years of preserving and nurturing our craft heritage, that will help us survive and develop over the coming years.

A new Strategy has been devised for the period 2010 – 2012, which focuses on channel development, building craft awareness, and closer linkages between craft retailers and consumers. The forthcoming 2011 Year of Craft will provide a national platform to progress the common themes of craft, craftmaking and sustainable innovation. Plans are already in place for this significant event in Ireland's national calendar.

Creativity and innovation amongst our craftmakers is important not just to those involved in craft in Ireland, but to the Irish economy as a whole. The Government Taskforce on Innovation has identified the role of innovation and creativity in creating a new future for Ireland. While much of the commentary has focused on research & development and high-tech industries, there is now a recognition of the role of culture in attracting industry and visitors, in shaping the image of Ireland as innovative and creative, and in developing economic ties between nations.

The crafts sector is also ideally placed to build on the global interest in sustainability. Its emphasis on skills acquired over time and intuitively learned is core to many craftmakers and reflects the considerable contribution made by many in the sector to maintaining our craft heritage.

We welcome the recent Government initiatives in the area of culture – the nomination of Gabriel Byrne as Ireland's

Cultural Ambassador, the focus by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport on the creative industries and the support provided by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation to growing and developing small enterprises. The output of the craft sector is estimated to be worth €498m to the Irish economy with a potential to grow to €703.5m. It employs 5,771 with exports valued at over €124.5m.¹ Our target must be to increase the amount of Irish craft being purchased at home and abroad.

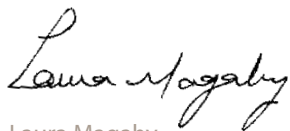
Throughout the coming year we will be working with people involved in craft – from students, to emerging and established makers, from craft suppliers to craft retailers and craft enterprises. Our active campaign of promoting and raising awareness of craft with mainstream consumers and collectors will continue. Our continuing focus through these activities will be on strengthening and growing the sector and on promoting the cultural identity of Ireland through craft.

This work will, I believe, not only ensure that craftmakers continue to express their true creativity and innovation through their products, but will also ensure that the sector is recognised in Ireland and worldwide as an industry which has an important role in providing employment, driving economic value, encouraging tourism, strengthening cultural linkages and ultimately contributing in a very real way to the longterm economic strength and vitality of our country.

In conclusion I would like to thank An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, for her support to the Crafts Council of Ireland and people working in craft during 2009 in her role as Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. I look forward to working with Minister Batt O'Keeffe, and to continuing the excellent working relationship we have with all the team in the Department. I would like to express our gratitude to our main funders, Enterprise Ireland.

¹ Economic Significance and Potential of the Crafts Sector in Ireland, Indecon International Economic Consultants, 2010

I would like to thank my fellow Board members and the Executive Team of the Crafts Council of Ireland for their work during 2009. Retiring Board members, JP Donnelly and Anne Montgomery showed huge commitment and service to the Crafts Council of Ireland during their time on the Board. In particular, I would like to thank Gerry Wycherley for his dedication as Chairman over the last three years. During his term Gerry oversaw the further development of the Crafts Council of Ireland, which included a major change in the structure of the organisation. He also led the development of the 2007 – 2009 Strategic Plan which identified a number of new initiatives and projects aimed at developing the crafts sector and raising awareness of the strength of design and creativity in Irish handmade craft products. Major strides have been made in this regard and I hope over the coming three years we will see the bar raised further and Irish craft being recognised nationally and internationally as something inherently Irish, unique and designed with passion.



Laura Magahy
Chairman

*'Occasional chair' by furniture designer
Sandy Hyland, Generation,
National Craft Gallery, 2009*



TUARASCÁIL AN CHATHAOIRLIGH

BLIAIN DÚSHLÁNACH EILE BA EA 2009 DO NA DAOINE I MBUN OIBRE SA CHEARDAÍOCHT IN ÉIRINN. COSÚIL LE CODANNA EILE DE SHOCHAÍ NA HÉIREANN NÍ RAIBH AN OIREAD CÉANNA AIRGID AR FÁIL AGUS A BHÍONN DE GHNÁTH AGUS BHÍ DAMÁISTE DÉANTA DO MHUINÍN AN PHOBAIL. LEAGANN AISEOLAS ÓNÁR GCLIAINT BÉIM AR AN GCAOI GO DTEASTAÍONN Ó DHAOINE A BHEITH IN ANN MAIREACHTÁIL ÓNA GCUID CEARDAÍOCHTA. DÁ BHRÍ SIN CEANN DE NA DUALGAIS IS TÁBHACHTAÍ ATÁ AG COMHAIRLE CHEARDAÍOCHTA NA HÉIREANN NÁ AERÁID A CHRUTHÚ INAR FÉIDIR LE RATH TEACHT AR CHEARDAÍOCHT NA HÉIREANN.



Ón uair a ceapadh i mo Chathaoirleach mé, bhíos tógtha ní hamháin le Leibhéal na Nuálaíochta, ach leis an tiomantas agus díograis atá i láthair maidir leis an gceardaíocht chomh maith. Creidim gur iad na tréithe seo, bunaithe ar bhlianta atá caite ag caomhnú agus ag cothú ár n-oidhreacht cheardaíochta, a chabhróidh linn teacht slán agus forbairt sna blianta atá le teacht.

Tá Straitéis ceaptha don tréimhse 2010 – 2012, a dhíríonn ar fhorbairt chainéal, feasacht cheardaíochta a mhéadú, agus nascálacha níos dlúithe idir mhiondíoltóirí agus thomhaltóirí ceardaíochta. Soláthróidh Bliain na Ceardaíochta 2011 atá le teacht ardán náisiúnta ar a bhféadfar na téamaí coiteanna de cheird, de cheardaíocht agus de nuálaíocht inbhuanaithe a chur chun cinn. Tá pleananna i bhfeidhm cheana féin don imeacht suntasach seo i bhféilire Náisiúnta na hÉireann.

Tá cruthaitheacht agus nuálaíocht i measc ár gceardaithe tábhachtach, ní hamháin dóibh siúd atá bainteach le ceardaíocht in Éirinn, ach do gheilleagar na hÉireann ar an iomlán. Tá ról na nuálaíochta agus na cruthaitheachta i gcruithú todhchaí nua d'Éire aitheanta ag Tascfhórsa an Rialtais ar Nuálaíocht. Cé gur dhírigh mórán den tráchtairacht ar thaighde & forbairt agus ar thionscail ardeicneolaíochta, aithnítear anois ról an chultúir maidir le tionscal agus daoine a mhealladh, íomhá a chruthú d'Éire mar áit nuálaíoch agus cruthaitheach agus naisc gheilleagracha a fhorbairt idir náisiúin.

Tá sé de chumas chomh maith ag earnáil na ceardaíochta an spéis domhanda san inbhuanaitheacht a fhorbairt. Tá an bhéim a leagtar ar scileanna a ghnóthaítear le himeacht ama agus a fhoghlaimítear go hiomasach tábhachtach do mhórán ceardaithe agus léiríonn sé go ranníocaíocht suntasach déanta ag a lán acu san earnáil i leith cothabháil ár n-oidhreacht cheardaíochta.

Fáiltimid roimh thionscnaimh úrnua an Rialtais i réimse an chultúir - ainmniú Gabriel Byrne mar Ambasadóir Cultúrtha na hÉireann, díriú na Roinne Turasóireachta, Cultúir agus Spóirt ar na tionscail chruthaitheacha agus an tacaíocht arna sholáthar ag an Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta i leith frontair bheaga a fhás agus a fhorbairt. Meastar gur fiú aschur na hearnála ceardaíochta agus €498m do gheilleagar na hÉireann leis an bhféidearthacht aici fás go €703.5m. Fostaíonn sí 5,771 duine agus seasann luach a cuid onnmhairí ag os cionn €124.5m.¹ Ní mór go mbeadh sé mar chuspóir againn méid na ceardaíochta Éireannaí atá á cheannach sa bhaile agus thar lear a mhéadú.

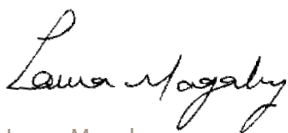
I gcaitheamh na bliana atá le teacht beimid ag obair le daoine atá bainteach le ceardaíocht - ó mhic léinn, go ceardaithe atá ag teacht chun cinn agus ceardaithe bunaithe, ó sholáthraithe ceardaíochta go miondíoltóirí ceardaíochta agus frontair cheardaíochta. Leanfar ar aghaidh lenár bhfeachtas gníomhach ag cur na ceardaíochta chun cinn agus ag múscaill feasachta i leith na ceardaíochta i measc thomhaltóirí agus bailitheoirí príomhshrutha. Leanfaidh ár gcuid airde, trí na gníomhaíochtaí seo, ar an earnáil a neartú agus a fhás agus ar aitheantas cultúrtha na hÉireann a chur chun cinn trí mheán na ceardaíochta.

I mo thuairim féin, ní hamháin go gcinnteoidh an obair seo go leanann ceardaithe ag cur a bhfíor-chruthaitheacht agus a bhfíor-nuálaíocht in iúl trína gcuid táirgí, ach sa bhreis air sin cinnteofar go n-aithnítear an earnáil in Éirinn agus ar fud an domhain mar thionscal le ról tábhachtach aige i leith soláthar fostaíochta, luach gheilleagrach a thiomáint, turasóireachta a spreagadh, nascálacha cultúrtha a neartú agus ag cur faoi dheoidh ar bhealach réadach le neart gheilleagrach agus beogacht fadtéarmach ár dtíre.

¹ Tábhacht agus Cumas Geilleagrach na hEarnála Ceardaíochta in Éirinn, Indecon International Economic Consultants, 2010

Mar fhocail scoir, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis An Tánaiste, Mary Coughlan, as ucht a cuid tacaíochta do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus do na daoine i mbun ceardaíochta i rith na bliana 2009 ina ról mar Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus Fostaíochta. Táim ag súil le bheith ag obair leis an Aire Batt O'Keeffe, agus leanúint leis an gcaidreamh oibre iontach atá againn le foireann uile na Roinne. Ba mhaith liom ár mbuíochas a ghabháil lenár bpríomh-fhoinsé maoinithe, Fiontraíocht Éireann, toisc nach mbeimis anseo gan iad.

Ba mhaith buíochas a ghabháil le mo comhaltaí Boird agus leis an bhFoireann Feidhmiúcháin as ucht a gcuid oibre i rith na bliana 2009. Léirigh na comhaltaí Boird atá ag imeacht ar scor, JP Donnelly agus Anne Montgomery, seirbhís agus tiomantas ollmhór do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i gcaitheamh a gcuid ama ar an mBord. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil ach go háirithe le Gerry Wycherley as ucht a thiomantas mar Chathaoirleach le trí bliana anuas. I gcaitheamh a théarma rinne Gerry maoirseacht ar bhreis fhorbartha Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann, lena áiríodh mórathrú i struchtúr na heagraíochta. Sa bhreis air sin, threoraigh sé forbairt an Phlean Straitéisigh 2007 – 2009 a d'aithin réimse tionscnamh agus tionscadal nua dírithe ar an earnáil cheardaíochta a fhorbairt agus feasacht a mhúscailt ar neart an dearaidh agus na cruthaitheachta i dtáirgí ceardaíochta lámhdhéanta na hÉireann. Tá dul chun cinn suntasach déanta ina leith seo agus tá súil agam go bhfeicimid a thuilleadh dul chun cinn sa trí bliana atá le teacht agus go n-aithneofar ceardaíocht na hÉireann go náisiúnta agus go hidirnáisiúnta mar rud atá Éireannach ó dhúchas, rud ar leithligh agus rud atá deartha le paisean.



Laura Magahy
Cathaoirleach

*'Eye candy, green and red' – blown glass
by glass artist Catherine Keenan
Breaking Out, National Craft Gallery, 2009*



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

2009 WAS A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR IRISH CRAFT BUSINESSES, WITH SOME ENTERPRISES FORCED TO CUT COSTS, LET STAFF GO, OR ULTIMATELY, CLOSE DOWN. IT WAS A YEAR WHEN CRAFT ENTERPRISES RETURNED TO BASICS WITH TIGHTER MANAGEMENT OF COSTS AND CASHFLOW, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME DEVELOPING CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH RETAILERS AND OTHER CHANNELS TO DELIVER A COST EFFECTIVE PRODUCT FOCUSED ON THE CHANGING NEEDS AND DISPOSABLE INCOME OF THE CUSTOMER.



Throughout 2009, the Crafts Council of Ireland worked hand in hand with craftmakers, adapting programmes and craft initiatives to meet the changing environment and to provide support to their businesses. A core part of this strategy involved cooperating and partnering with a wide range of businesses and organisations throughout Ireland. These included craft retailers, the County & City Enterprise Boards (CEBs), FÁS, the Fulbright Commission, various educational institutes, Culture Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the National Museum of Ireland amongst others.

It also involved meeting with a wide range of craftmakers and representatives of the craft sector. Regional networking events were held in various locations around the country in order to discuss the issues facing the sector and to identify future actions. I also had the opportunity over the last 12 months through various exhibitions, visits to craft studios and attendance at events, to meet with many makers at an individual level. I would like to thank all of you for your time and your valuable inputs.

At an international level linkages were enhanced with the World Crafts Council-Europe, the Crafts Council UK and with Craft Northern Ireland. This was the first year that CCoI exhibited at COLLECT in London. We were also pleased to welcome the Norwegian Ambassador, who opened the Constructions exhibition at the National Craft Gallery.

During the year our Strategic Plan for the period 2010 – 2012 was developed. This plan has taken into account the significant economic changes over the last two years. It incorporates input and feedback from craftmakers all around the country and through an ambitious programme of activities, seeks to support them in maintaining and growing this important sector.

Looking forward, plans for the forthcoming 2011 Year of Craft are underway. The year will aim to celebrate and raise awareness of Irish craft, involve the general public in craft and craft activities, develop the sector, leave a legacy and show Ireland positively through craft. We would like as many as possible to be involved in the programme of events, which will take place around the country. Further details on this will be available over the coming months.

Despite the difficult conditions of 2009, much has been achieved across all our programmes. Outlined below are the highlights of our 2009 activities.

Craft Education, Training and Development

Craft Education, Training and Development is particularly important in the face of the challenging economic conditions. Our focus has been on providing business skills training as well as ongoing craft skills development to the craft sector.

In 2009 CCoI launched the first comprehensive review of the current provision of craft education and training in Ireland. The study, *Creative Pathways – A review of Craft Education and Training in Ireland*, provides a starting point to address key issues around craft training in Ireland. It has been presented for discussion to Government and is being used to influence our education and training policies and plans for the future.

CCoI's Craft Education, Training and Development activities extend right across the lifetime of the craftmaker, starting at primary level with *Craft in the Classroom*. 31 schools and 868 school children participated in this initiative in 2009, which having been reviewed during the year will be developed further in 2010.

The Crafts Council of Ireland's new Education & Outreach programme was implemented in the National Craft Gallery and other locations over the last 12 months. At primary level, over 200 children attended workshops and activities in the Gallery during Kilkenny Arts Festival week; over 40 2nd level students participated in a Design Challenge in cooperation with the Institute of Designers in Ireland; and also at 2nd level CCoI exhibited in the Higher Options Fair, for the second year. This event, which attracts over 25,000 students, teachers and career guidance counsellors, is an important platform in communicating with students around craft as a career option.

At 3rd level a number of new initiatives were launched, including the Future Makers Awards and Grants scheme and the Emerging Maker Award, in conjunction with Irish Arts Review. At the same time the highly established RDS National Crafts Competition in partnership with the Crafts Council of Ireland continued as did the House and

Home/Crafts Council of Ireland 'Student Design Awards'. The talent we have seen through these awards and the enthusiasm for craft as a career bears testament to a healthy future for the industry.

During the year the Crafts Council of Ireland put in place a number of strategic partnerships for education and development with the National Museum of Ireland, The National College of Art and Design, the Second Level Support Service, Norske Kunsthåndverke, The Ulster Museum, and the National Council for Guidance in Education. We also received funding through the European Leonardo Mobility Programme for a Craft Skills Work Placement Programme.

The CCoI skills training schools continued in 2009 with delivery of the Ceramics Design & Skills Training Course and the Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design Training Course. The Jewellery students graduated in 2009 with a critically acclaimed exhibition in the National Craft Gallery, while the Ceramics Design & Skills students also mounted an exhibition as part of the "Savour Kilkenny" Food Festival.

In 2009 we appointed a Skills Advisory Panel for the purposes of reviewing both CCoI courses, and to ensure that skills delivered continue to be reflective of best national and international practice.

We continued to provide support to craft enterprises through conferences, seminars, workshops and mentoring. Mentoring support was provided to 37 enterprises. This programme was reviewed and a new scheme will be launched in 2010.

A welcome development was CCoI entering into a partnership with the National College of Art & Design and the Fulbright Commission for the purposes of providing a seminar series on aesthetics and design to selected craft enterprises and NCAD MA students. The seminar series was facilitated by Fulbright Scholar Mary Bayard White and plans were put in place for a symposium in 2010.

Finally, the two-year *Making it in Business Programme* reached its culmination in 2009 with some positive outcomes for the participants including; the opening of three retail outlets (Irish Design Shop - Dublin 2; Sinead

Lough Ceramics - Dingle; AMOC Jewellery - Greystones, Co Wicklow), the setting up of nine studios, increased sales and National Awards.

Market Development

2009 was a busy year for our market development area and was the first year of our three year plan to develop Showcase, Ireland's largest international craft trade fair. Despite the current environment 190 craftmakers exhibited at the fair with 4,475 buyers. The Fair saw a renewed focus on Irish crafted design. New features included the launch of *Stories in the Making*, a series of short films profiling craftspeople and a new craft directory for retailers.

The Christmas retail campaign *Imagined. Designed. Made. With passion in Ireland.* achieved significant attention with the launch of www.buyirishcraft.com, advertising, point of sale and designated windows in Kilkenny Design Centre, House of Ireland and Designyard, Dublin.

CCoI's cooperation with regional outlets continued with support for CORE Crafted Design, Leitrim Design House and Louth Craftmark. Also at a retail level we were delighted to support a visit by a group of American retail buyers of craft and gift to Ireland organised by the North American Celtic Trade Association (NACTA).

2009 saw nine exhibitions taking place in the National Craft Gallery including two from overseas. Touring exhibitions included two to the US; one to the SOFA fair in Chicago, and a second was the continuation of the tour of *The Light Fantastic* stained glass exhibition to various locations in the US; a CCoI stand at COLLECT, UK, in the Saatchi Gallery, London (for the first time); and an exhibition at the Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, UK. CCoI's curator supported "The Design Tower" network with their exhibition *Wunderkammer* at the Waterways Visitor Centre, Dublin during Design Week.

Also, *Irish Craft Portfolio* was reviewed and revised with 38 craftmakers selected by an international panel from 100 entries. Their works will form a touring exhibition in 2010.

Domestic and international craft tourism is an important new area of opportunity for craft. During 2009 CCoI began

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working closely with Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland in developing a Craft Tourism Strategy. At SOFA in Chicago, CCol promoted collectible craft tours and continued discussions with the distinguished James Renwick Alliance, of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington regarding a tour to Ireland, supported by Fáilte Ireland.

At a domestic level, for the first time CCol participated in the annual tourism trade event *Meitheal* and has been working with Fáilte Ireland on craft trails in various locations around the country.

In addition to the mainstream consumer market, the Collector market makes an important contribution to creating awareness of Ireland worldwide. During 2009, CCol continued to work with the National Museum of Ireland to ensure the continued development of the Craft Collection Purchase Fund as well as the ongoing purchase of Irish Craft by the Department of Foreign Affairs for Irish embassies around the world. I am pleased to say this resulted in the selection of over 21 pieces of craft by 16 makers across both collections.

Finally, congratulations must go to the recipients of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Irish Craft Bursary Award 2009. Róisín de Buitléar (glassmaker) was the overall winner with two merit awards going to Terry Dunne (weaver) and Frances Lambe (ceramicist).

Public Affairs & Communications

Engaging with the public and ensuring they are aware of the richness and diversity of Irish craft is an important aspect of the activities of CCol. Equally important is an understanding of consumer needs, their level of awareness of craft and identification of any barriers to how they access craft.

During 2009 CCol, together with Millward Brown Lansdowne, carried out its annual omnibus survey to track public perception of craft. This is an important input into the planning of future activities. Interest in buying and owning craft marginally increased on 2008. Much has been done to raise awareness of craft in 2009. This will be continued further in the coming year.

As the national design and economic development organisation for the crafts industry in Ireland, it is critical that CCol has up to date statistics for the industry. These facts and figures are particularly important in discussions with Government and policy makers in relation to support and other initiatives for the sector. Research to provide a comprehensive picture of the crafts sector in Ireland and its economic impact was commissioned in 2009. It will help in forming a comprehensive picture of supply and demand of crafts in Ireland and the potential for the development of the craft sector in Ireland.

Throughout 2009 an extensive PR campaign was conducted to ensure visibility of craft and to increase consumer awareness. This campaign generated a large amount of publicity across all the major TV, radio and press, as well as interior magazines and journals. It resulted in an approximate value of €600k of publicity for Irish craft.



'Large stone-set ring (Wildflower Collection)'
by Garrett Mallon Jewellery

CCoI's work at raising awareness for craft led to participation at a number of events across the country. These included Kilkenny Arts Festival, where CCoI was an official partner for the first time and included a 'Craft Strand'; and participation at Bloom with almost 60,000 visitors to the show. Both Bloom and the Kilkenny Arts Festival resulted in significant TV and general media exposure for craft and craftmakers. CCoI also participated in The National Craft & Design Fair and the Interior Design & Art Fair both held in the RDS in Dublin.

A core part of our PR strategy is developing partnerships with media in Ireland and abroad. This has led to a wide-range of articles and initiatives in relation to craft, particularly with Irish Arts Review.

For all businesses, e-communications and web technology are essential components in any communications strategy. I am delighted to say that use of these technologies and the website continued to increase this year. A new microsite, www.buyirishcraft.com was set up to support our retail initiatives. This has proved very successful in providing consumers with an on-line listing of craft retailers participating in the campaign.

Our main website, www.ccoi.ie, is primarily about information exchange. Over 1,700 of our craft clients have an individual page on the website. These pages not only promote registered clients, but also facilitate communications between different member organisations. We have plans to do a major overhaul of the website in 2010.

Finally, as we turn the corner into 2010 preparations are underway for what is shaping up to be a very special year in the craft calendar. We have designated 2011 as the Year of Craft in Ireland. It is also the year in which the World Crafts Council – Europe will hold their General Assembly in Ireland. The last time this happened was in 1983 and before that in 1970, after which the Crafts Council of Ireland was established. Extensive planning is underway for the Year of Craft and we are looking forward to an exciting nationwide programme of craft awareness and activity.

Members and Clients

CCoI is a membership based organisation which also works with clients, registered as craft enterprises or associates. Membership of the Crafts Council of Ireland is at 53 organisations as at year end 2009. We were particularly delighted to welcome a new member organisation, the Art & Craft Collective @ Sulis Design Centre, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan which joined in June 2009.

In 2009 our register of craft enterprises continued to grow moving from 1,701 at the end of 2008 to 1,962 at the end of 2009 - a 15% increase. Associates grew by 64% from 512 to 838. We will continue to work on encouraging increased membership and registration with the Crafts Council of Ireland throughout 2010.

Summary

2009 has been a year of increased activity across all our programme areas. Our new organisation structure developed in 2008 was implemented in 2009 and resulted in a considerable increase in our ambition, plans and activity. We also developed a new Strategic Plan to be launched in 2010 and focused on growing the industry through targeted initiatives with retailers, consumers and key stakeholders.

A number of organisations have been important in supporting the Crafts Council of Ireland throughout the year. I would like to thank, in particular, our key funder Enterprise Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, as well as Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, the County & City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) and FÁS.

I would also like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and support of the crafts sector to their industry and to CCoI. In this my third year as Chief Executive I continue to be struck and impressed by the dedication and commitment the sector has to their respective craft. I am equally encouraged by their drive in achieving recognition of the skill, creativity and innovation which goes into every product.

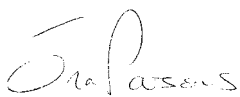
I would also like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the executive team in Kilkenny, as well as the significant contribution made around the country

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by so many of our member organisations through the Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies.

We have had changes in the executive team during the year. I would like to welcome those who joined in 2009 and express my sincere thanks to our colleagues who left, including Vincent O'Shea, Annette Keating, Genevieve Murphy and Joanne Lawlor. I would also like to pay tribute to the many volunteers amongst our members, clients and associates who have contributed so generously of their time and expertise.

Finally, I would like to thank former Chairman Gerry Wycherley for his support over the last three years and to welcome Laura Magahy as Chairman to CCoI. I look forward to working with her and the Board during the coming years. The Board and various committees have proved invaluable to the Crafts Council of Ireland during 2009 and have selflessly given of their time, which is much appreciated. 2010 will continue to be a year of challenge for the crafts industry and for Ireland in general. I am confident, however, that the nature of commitment, determination and love of craft that is apparent throughout the sector will ensure that the industry will thrive in these difficult times and will be best placed to grow and develop over the coming years.



Úna Parsons
Chief Executive



'Pair of double hipped vessels - porcelain'
by ceramicist Sara Flynn

TUARASCÁIL AN PHRÍOMHFHEIDHMEANNAIGH

BA BHLIAIN Í INAR A DHÍRIGH FIONTAIR CHEARDAÍOCHTA AR NITHE BUNÚSACHA LE BAINISTIÚ NÍOS DAINGNE AR CHOSTAIS AGUS SREABHADH AIRGID, AGUS AG AN AM CÉANNA AG FORBAIRT DLÚTHCHADREAMH LE MIONDÍOLTÓIRÍ AGUS BEALAÍ EILE CHUN TÁIRGE COST-ÉIFEACHTACH A SHOLÁTHAR ATÁ DÍRITHE AR RIACHTANAIS ATHRAITHEACHA AGUS IONCAM INDIÚSCARTHA AN CHUSTAIMÉARA.



I gcaitheamh na bliana 2009, d'oibrigh Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann in éineacht le ceardaithe, ag cur clár agus tionscnaimh cheardaíochta in oiriúint chun freastal ar an timpeallacht athraitheach agus tacaíocht a thabhairt dá ngnóthaí. Bhain cuid lárnach den straitéis seo le comhoibriú agus dul i gcomhpháirtíocht le réimse leathan gnóthaí agus eagraíochtaí ar fud na hÉireann. Ina measc seo bhí miondíoltóirí cheardaíochta, Boird Fiontar Cathrach agus Contae (BFC), FÁS, Coimisiún Fulbright, institiúidí oideachais éagsúla, Cultúr Éireann, Tourism Ireland, Fáilte Éireann, an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann.

Mar chuid de seo freisin bhí cruinnithe le réimse leathan ceardaithe agus ionadaithe de chuid na hearnála cheardaíochta. Tionóladh imeachtaí líonraithe i suímh éagsúla mórthimpeall na tíre chun na ceisteanna ag tabhairt aghaidh ar an earnáil a phlé agus gníomhaíochtaí na todhchaí a aithint. Bhí an deis agam freisin bualadh le mórán déantóirí ag leibhéal aonair le 12 mhí anuas trí thaispeántais éagsúla, cuairteanna ar stiúideonna ceardaíochta agus freastal ar imeachtaí. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil libh go léir as ucht bhur gcuid ama agus bhur n-ionchur luachmhar.

Ag leibhéal idirnáisiúnta feabhsaíodh nascálacha leis an gComhairle Cheardaíochta Domhanda, Comhairle Cheardaíochta na Ríochta Aontaithe agus Ceardaíocht Thuaisceart Éireann. Ba í seo an chéad bhliain inar thaispeáin CCoI ag COLLECT i Londain. Ba chúis áthais dúinn é chomh maith fáilte a chur roimh Ambasadóir na hIorua, a d'oscail an taispeántas Tógála sa Dánlann Náisiúnta Ceardaíochta.

Forbraíodh ár bPlean Straitéiseach don tréimhse 2010 – 2012 i rith na bliana. Tá na hathruithe geilleagracha suntasacha le dhá bhliain anuas curtha san áireamh ag an bplean seo. Ionchorpraíonn sé ionchur agus aiseolas ó cheardaithe mórthimpeall na tíre agus déanann sé iarracht tacú leo agus iad ag cothabháil agus ag fás na hearnála tábhachtaí seo trí chláir gníomhaíochtaí uailmhianach.

Ag féachaint ar aghaidh, tá pleananna do Bhliain na Ceardaíochta 2011 le teacht faoi lán seoil. Beidh sé mar aidhm ag an mbliain seo feacht ar cheardaíocht na hÉireann a mhúscailt agus í a cheiliúradh, go mbeadh

an pobal i gcoitinne bainteach le ceardaíocht agus le gníomhaíochtaí ceardaíochta, an earnáil a fhorbairt, leagáid a fhágaint inár ndiaidh agus Éire a léiriú go dearfach trí mheán na ceardaíochta. Ba mhaith linn go mbeadh an líon is mó daoine agus is féidir bainteach leis an gclár imeachtaí, a bheidh ar siúl mórthimpeall na tíre. Beidh tuilleadh sonraí ar seo far fáil sna míonna atá le teacht.

In ainneoin dálaí deacra na bliana 2009, tá a lán bainte amach inár gclár uile. Tugtar breac-chuntas anseo thíos ar bhuaicphointí ár ngníomhaíochtaí sa bhliain 2009.

Oideachas, Oiliúint agus Forbairt Cheardaíochta

Tá Oideachas, Oiliúint agus Forbairt Cheardaíochta tábhachtach go háirithe nuair atáthar ag tabhairt aghaidh ar dhálaí geilleagracha dúshlánacha. Táimid dírithe ar oiliúint scileanna gnó a sholáthar chomh maith le forbairt leanúnach scileanna ceardaíochta don earnáil cheardaíochta. Chomh maith leis sin, tá iarracht déanta againn clár agus tionscnaimh nua a fhorbairt, a mheallfaidh déantóirí nua agus a thacóidh le smaointeoireacht chruthaitheach.

In 2009 sheol an CCoI an chéad athbhreithniú cuimsitheach ar sholáthar reatha an oideachais agus na hoiliúna ceardaíochta in Éirinn. Soláthraíonn an staidéar, Cosáin Chruthaitheacha – Athbhreithniú ar Oideachas agus Oiliúint Cheardaíochta in Éirinn.

Síneann gníomhaíochtaí Oideachais, Oiliúna agus Forbartha Ceardaíochta an CCoI thar saolré an cheardaí, ag tosú ag leibhéal na bunscoile le Ceardaíocht sa Seomra Ranga [Craft in the Classroom]. Ghlac 31 scoil agus 868 dalta scoile páirt sa tionscnamh seo sa bhliain 2009, a ndéanfar tuilleadh forbartha air in 2010 tar éis athbhreithniú i gcaitheamh na bliana.

Cuireadh clár nua Oideachais & For-rochtana Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i bhfeidhm sa Dánlann Náisiúnta Ceardaíochta agus i suímh eile le 12 mhí anuas. Ag leibhéal na bunscoile, d'fhreastal níos mó ná 200 leanbh ar cheardlanna agus gníomhaíochtaí sa Ghaillearaí i rith seachtain Fhéile Ealaíon Chill Chainnigh; ghlac níos mó ná 40 dalta dara leibhéal páirt i nDúshlán Dearaidh i gcomhar le hInstitiúid na nDearthóirí in Éirinn; agus ag

leibhéal na meánscoile freisin, chuir an CCol taispeántas ar siúl in Aonach na Roghanna Níos Airde, don dara bliain. Is ardán tábhachtach í an imeacht seo, a mheallann níos mó ná 25,000 dalta, múinteoir agus treoirchomhairleoir, chun cumarsáid a dhéanamh le daltaí i leith na ceardaíochta mar rogha gairme.

Sa 3ú leibhéal seoladh roinnt tionscnamh nua, lena n-áirítear scéim Dámhachtainí agus Deontas Future Makers agus Dámhachtain an Déantóra atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn, i gcomhar le Irish Arts Review. Ina theannta sin, leanadh ar aghaidh le Comórtas Ceardaíochta Náisiúnta clúiteach an RDS i gcomhar le Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus le 'Student Design Awards' de chuid Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann agus House and Home. Léiríonn na buanna atá feicthe againn trí na dámhachtainí seo agus an díograis i leith na ceardaíochta mar ghairm, go bhfuil todhchaí sláintiúil i ndán don tionscal.

I rith na bliana chuir Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann roinnt comhpháirtíochtaí straitéiseacha i bhfeidhm le haghaidh oideachais agus forbartha in éineacht le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann, an Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha, an tSeirbhís Tacaíochta Dara Leibhéal, Norske Kunsthåndverke, Músaem Uladh, agus an Chomhairle Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas. Fuarthas maoiniú chomh maith trí Chlár Soghluaisteachta Leonardo na hEorpa le haghaidh Cláir Socrúcháin Oibre um Scileanna Ceardaíochta.

Leanadh le scoileanna oiliúna scileanna an CCol sa bhliain 2009 le seachadadh an Chúrsa Oiliúna Scileanna & Dearaidh Criadóireachta agus an Cúrsa Oiliúna Scileanna & Dearaidh Órcheardaíochta & Seodra. Bhain na mic léinn Seodra a gcáilíochtaí amach in 2009 le taispeántas a fuair árdmholadh ó na léirmheastóirí sa Dánlann Náisiúnta Ceardaíochta, fad is a chuir daltaí na Scileanna & Dearaidh Criadóireachta taispeántas ar siúl chomh maith mar chuid d'Fhéile Bia "Savour Kilkenny".

In 2009 cheapamar Painéal Comhairleach Scileanna chun athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an dá chúrsa CCol, agus chun a chinntiú go leanann na scileanna a sheachadtar ag tabhairt léargais ar dhea-chleachtas náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.

Leanamar orainn ag tabhairt tacaíochta d'fhiontair cheardaíochta trí chomhdhálacha, seimíneáir, ceardlanna

agus meantóireacht. Cuireadh tacaíocht mheantóireachta ar fáil do 37 fiontar. Rinneadh athbhreithniú ar an gclár seo agus seolfar scéim nua in 2010.

Mar chuid d'fhorbairt spreagúil, chuaigh CCol i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an gColáiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha agus Coimisiún Fulbright d'fhonn sraith sheimineár ar aeistéitic agus dearadh a sholáthar d'fhiontair cheardaíochta roghnaithe agus do mhic léinn Máistreachta NCAD. D'éascaigh an Scoláire Fulbright, Mary Bayard, an tsraith sheimineár agus beidh sompóisiam mar bhuaicphointe aige in 2010.

Ar deireadh, tháinig deireadh leis an an gClár dhá bhliain Making it in Business sa bhliain 2009 le roinnt torthaí dearfacha ann do na rannpháirtithe, lena n-áirítear trí asraon miondíola á n-oscailt (Irish Design Shop - Baile Átha Cliath 2; Sinéad Lough Ceramics - An Daingean; AMOC Jewellery - Na Clocha Liatha, Co Chill Mhantáin); naoi stiúideo á gcur ar bun, méadú ar díolacháin agus Dámhachtainí Náisiúnta.

Forbairt Mhargaidh

Ba bhliain ghnóthach í 2009 dár réimse forbartha margaidh agus ba í an chéad bhliain dár bplean trí bliana chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar Showcase, an t-aonach ceardaíochta idirnáisiúnta is mó in Éirinn. In ainneoin na timpeallachta reatha, thaispeáin 190 ceardaí a gcuid táirgí ag an aonach le 4,475 cuairteoir trádála i láthair ann. Bhí díriú athnuaithe ar dheardh ceardaíochta na hÉireann le feiceáil ag an Aonach. I measc gnéithe nua bhí seoladh Scéalta á nDéanamh [Stories in the Making], sraith scannán gearra ag tabhairt cuntais ar cheardaithe agus foclóir ceardaíochta nua do mhiondíoltóirí.

Mheall feachtas miondíola na Nollag Dearaí Samhlaithe Déanta le Paisean in Éirinn [Imagined Designed Made with Passion in Ireland] aird suntasach le seoladh www.buyirishcraft.com, fógraíocht, díolphointe agus fuinneoga ceaptha i Kilkenny Design, House of Ireland agus Designyard, Baile Átha Cliath.

Lean comhoibriú an CCol le hasraonta réigiúnacha le tacaíocht do CORE Crafted Design, Leitrim Design House agus Louth Craftmark. Chomh maith leis sin, ag leibhéal miondíola bhíomar an-sásta tacú le cuairt ó ghrúpa ceannaitheoirí miondíola de cheird agus bronntanas

ó Mheiriceá go hÉireann, eagraithe ag Cumann Trádála Ceilteach Mheiriceá Thuaidh (NACTA).

Tharla naoi dtaispeántas sa Dánlann Náisiúnta Ceardaíochta in 2009, lena n-áirítear dhá thaispeántas ó thar lear. I measc na dtaispeántas taistil bhí dhá cheann chuig na Stáit Aontaithe, ceann amháin chuig aonach SOFA i Chicago, agus ba leanúint é an dara ceann le turas an taispeántais gloine dhaite iontach The Light Fantastic chuig láithreacha éagsúla sna Stáit Aontaithe; seastán CCol ag COLLECT, an Ríocht Aontaithe, i nGailearáí Saatchi, Londain (don chéad uair); agus taispeántas i Músaem agus Gailearáí Hastings, an Ríocht Aontaithe. Thacaigh coimeádaí an CCol leis an líonra "The Design Tower" lena dtaispeántas Wunderkammer ag Ionad Cuairteoirí Uiscebhealaí, Baile Átha Cliath i rith na Seachtaine Dearaidh.

Chomh maith leis sin, rinneadh athbhreithniú agus athcheartú ar Phunann Ceardaíochta na hÉireann agus roghnaigh painéal idirnáisiúnta 38 ceardaí ó 100 iontráil. Beidh a gcuid oibreacha mar chuid de thaispeántas taistil in 2010.

Is réimse nua deise le haghaidh na ceardaíochta í turasóireacht cheardaíochta Intíre agus Idirnáisiúnta. I rith na bliana 2009 thosaigh CCol ag obair go dlúth le Fáilte Éireann agus Tourism Ireland chun Straitéis Turasóireachta Cheardaíochta a fhorbairt. Ag SOFA i Chicago, chuir CCol turasanna ceardaíochta inbhailithe chun cinn agus leanadh ar aghaidh ag plé le Comhaontas dearscnaitheach James Renwick, ó Mhúsaem an Smithsonian i Washington maidir le turas ar Éireann, le tacaíocht ó Fáilte Éireann.

Ag leibhéal intíre, ghlac CCol páirt don chéad uair san imeacht trádála turasóireachta bliantúil Meitheal agus táthar ag obair le Fáilte Éireann ar rianta ceardaíochta i suímh éagsúla ar fud na tíre.

I dteannta leis an margadh tomhaltóra phríomhshrutha, cabhraíonn an margadh Bailitheora go mór chun feachtas a mhúscailt ar Éire mórthimpeall an domhain. I rith na bliana 2009, lean an CCol ag obair le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann chun forbairt leanúnach ar an gCiste um Cheannach Bailiúcháin Ceardaíochta a chinntiú, chomh maith leis an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha ag leanúint le

Ceird na hÉireann a cheannach le haghaidh ambasáidí na hÉireann ar fud an domhain. Táim sásta a lua gur roghnaíodh níos mó ná 21 píosa ceardaíochta déanta ag 16 ceardaí ón dá bhailiúchán mar thoradh air seo.

Ar deireadh, caithfear comhghairdeas a dhéanamh le faighteoirí Duais-sparánacht Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann 2009. Ba í Roisín de Buitléar (déantóir gloine) an buaiteoir iomlán agus bronnadh dhá dhámhachtain fiúntais ar Terry Dunne (fíodóir) agus Frances Lambe (ceirmeoir).

Gnóthaí Poiblí & Cumarsáid

Is gné thábhachtach de ghníomhaíochtaí an CCol í dul i dteagmháil leis an bpobal agus a chinntiú go bhfuil siad feasach ar shuibhreas agus éagsúlacht cheardaíochta na hÉireann. Tá sé díreach chomh tábhachtach riachtanais an tomhaltóra agus leibhéal a gcuid feachtas a thuiscint agus aon bhacainní ar conas a thagann siad ar cheird a aithint.

I rith na bliana 2009 chuir an CCol, in éineacht le Millward Brown Lansdowne, a ollshuirbhé bliantúil i gcrích chun braistint an phobail i leith na ceardaíochta a rianú. Is ionchur tábhachtach é seo i bpleanáil gníomhaíochtaí na todhchaí. Tháinig méadú beag i líon na ndaoine a bhfuil spéis acu ábhar ceardaíochta a cheannach agus a bheith acu i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2008. Rinneadh mórán chun feachtas ar cheardaíocht a mhúscailt in 2009. Leanfar sa bhreis leis seo sa bhliain atá le teacht.

Mar an eagraíocht um fhorbairt gheilleagrach agus dearaidh náisiúnta don cheardtionscal in Éirinn, tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhfuil staitisticí suas chun dáta ag an CCol don tionscal. Tá na fíricí agus figiúirí seo tábhachtach go háirithe i ndíospóireachtaí leis an Rialtas agus le lucht déanta beartas maidir le tacaíocht agus tionscnaimh eile don earnáil. Rinneadh coimisiúnú ar thaighde chun léargas cuimsitheach ar an earnáil cheardaíochta in Éirinn agus a tionchar geilleagrach a sholáthar in 2009. Cabhróidh sé chun léargas cuimsitheach den soláthar agus éileamh ar cheardaíocht in Éirinn agus cumas forbartha na hearnála ceardaíochta in Éirinn a fhoirmiú.

I gcaitheamh na bliana 2009 seoladh feachtas PR fairsing chun infheictheacht na ceardaíochta a chinntiú agus

(CONTINUED)

feasacht tomhaltóra a mhéadú. Ghin an feachtas seo a lán bolscaireachta sna mórchláir teilifíse, raidió agus sna meáin, chomh maith le hirisí agus irisleabhair na hearnála. Mar thoradh, b'ionann é agus luach bolscaireachta de thart ar €600k do cheardaíocht na hÉireann.

Glacadh páirt i roinnt imeachtaí ar fud na tíre de bharr obair an CCol ag múscailt feasachta. Ina measc seo bhí Féile Ealaíon Chill Chainnigh, áit a raibh CCol ina chomhpháirtí don chéad uair agus ina raibh 'Craft Strand'; agus rannpháirtíocht ag Bloom, áit ar thug beagnach 60,000 cuairt ar an seó. Tugadh poiblíocht suntasach teilifíse agus na meán ginearálta do cheardaíocht agus ceardaithe mar thoradh ar Bloom agus Féile Ealaíon Chill Chainnigh. Ghlac CCol páirt san Aonach Náisiúnta Ceardaíochta agus Dearaidh agus san Aonach Ealaíne & Dearaidh Intí a tionóladh san RDS i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Is cuid lárnach dár straitéis PR í comhpháirtíochtaí a fhorbairt leis na meáin in Éirinn agus thar lear. Tá réimse leathan alt agus tionscnamh maidir le ceardaíocht tagtha chun cinn dá bharr seo, go háirithe leis an Irish Arts Review.

Do ghnóthaí uile, is cuid lárnach d'aon straitéis chumarsáide iad r-chumarsáid agus teicneolaíocht ghréasáin. Cuireann sé áthas an domhain orm a lua gur lean úsáid na dteicneolaíochtaí seo ar fad agus an suíomh gréasáin ag méadú i mbliana. Cuireadh micrealáithreán nua, www.buyirishcraft.com ar bun chun tacú lenár dtionscnaimh miondíola. Tá sé seo fíor-rathúil i leith tomhaltóirí a sholáthar le liostú ar líne de na miondíoltóirí ceardaíochta ag glacadh páirt sa bhfeachtas.

Is faoi mhalartú faisnéise ár bpríomhshuíomh gréasáin, www.ccol.ie. Tá leathanach ar leith ar an suíomh gréasáin ag os cionn 1,700 dár gcliaint ceardaíochta. Ní hamháin go gcuireann na leathanaigh seo cliaint chlárúithe chun cinn, ach éascaíonn siad cumarsáid idir bhalleagraíochtaí éagsúla freisin. Tá sé beartaithe againn ollchóiriú mór a dhéanamh ar an suíomh gréasáin in 2010.

Ar deireadh, faoi mar a thugaimid aghaidh ar an mbliain 2010, táthar i mbun ullmhúcháin do bhliain an-speisialta sa bhféilire ceardaíochta. Tá 2011 ainmnithe mar Bhliain na Ceardaíochta in Éirinn. Is í an bhliain chomh maith ina

dtionólfaidh an Chomhairle Cheardaíochta Domhanda – An Eoraip a gComhthionól Ginearálta in Éirinn. An uair dheireanach a tharla sé sin ná sa bhliain 1983 agus i 1970 roimhe sin, agus bunaíodh Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann ina dhiaidh sin. Táthar i mbun pleanála fairsing do Bhliain na Ceardaíochta agus táimid ag súil le clár náisiúnta spreagúil de ghníomhaíocht agus feasacht ceardaíochta.

Baill agus Cliaint

Is eagraíocht bunaithe ar bhallaíocht í CCol a oibríonn le cliaint chomh maith, atá clárúithe mar fhiontair ceardaíochta nó comhpháirtithe ceardaíochta. Tá 53 eagraíocht mar bhaill de Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann (deireadh 2009). Bhíomar an-sásta fáilte a chur roimh bhalleagraíocht nua, an Art & Craft Collective in Ionad Dearthóireachta Sulis, Carraig Mhachaire Rois, Co. Mhuineacháin a tháinig ar bord i Meitheamh 2009.

In 2009 lean ár gclár d'fhiontair ceardaíochta ag fás, ó 1,701 ag deireadh na bliana 2008 go 1,962 ag deireadh na bliana 2009 – méadú 15%. Tháinig méadú 64% ar líon na gcomhpháirtithe, ó 512 go 838. Leanfaimid orainn ag spreagadh ballraíochta agus clárúithe méadaithe le Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i gcaitheamh na bliana 2010.

Achoimre

Ba bhliain í 2009 lán de ghníomhaíocht mhéadaithe inár réimsí clár uile. Cuireadh ár struchtúr eagraíochta nua a forbraíodh sa bhliain 2008 i bhfeidhm in 2009 agus tháinig méadú suntasach ar ár gcuid uailmhian, pleananna agus gníomhaíochta dá bharr. Sa bhreis air sin d'fhorbraíomar Plean Straitéiseach nua atá le seoladh in 2010 agus díriodh ar an tionscal a fhás trí thionscnaimh shonraithe le miondíoltóirí, tomhaltóirí agus príomh-gheallsealbhóirí.

Bhain tábhacht le líon áirithe eagraíochtaí a thacaigh le Comhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i gcaitheamh na bliana. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil, go háirithe, lenár bpríomhfhoinsé maoinithe Fiontraíocht Éireann agus an Roinn Fiontar, Trádála agus Nuálaíochta, chomh maith le Fáilte Éireann, Tourism Ireland, Boird Fiontar Cathrach & Contae (BFC) agus FÁS.

Ba mhaith liom díograis agus tacaíocht na hearnála ceardaíochta dá tionscal agus do CCol a

aithint chomh maith. Is é seo mo thrú bliain mar Phríomhfheidhmeannach agus táim de shíor tógtha le tiomantas agus díograis an tionscail i leith a gceardaíocht faoi seach. Táim díreach chomh spreagtha ag a dtiomáint chun aitheantas den scil, cruthaitheacht agus nuálaíocht atá i ngach táirge a bhaint amach.

Tháinig athruithe ar ár bhfoireann feidhmiúcháin i rith na bliana. Ba mhaith liom fáilte a chur rompu siúd a tháinig isteach in 2009 agus buíochas ó chroí a ghabháil lenár gcomhghleacaithe atá imithe uainn, lena n-áirítear Vincent O'Shea, Annette Keating, Genevieve Murphy agus Joanne Lawlor. Ba mhaith liom freisin moladh a thabhairt do na hoibrithe deonacha iomadúla i measc ár mball, ár gcliant agus ár gcomhpháirtithe a bhí thar a bheith flaithiúil ag tabhairt a gcuid ama agus saíneolais.

Ar deireadh, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an iar-Chathaoirleach Gerry Wycherley as ucht a chuid tacaíochta le trí bliana anuas agus fáilte a chur roimh Laura Magahy mar Chathaoirleach ar CCoI. Táim ag súil le bheith ag obair léi agus leis an mBord sna blianta atá le teacht. Bhí an Bord agus na coistí éagsúla fíorluachmhar do Chomhairle Cheardaíochta na hÉireann i rith na bliana 2009 agus thug siad a gcuid ama go neamhleithleach, agus táim an-bhuíoch as sin. Leanfaidh 2010 ar aghaidh mar bhliain dúshlánach don earnáil cheardaíochta agus d'Éire go ginearálta. Táim muiníneach, áfach, go gcinnteoidh nádúr an tiomantais, diombháilteachta agus grá don cheardaíocht atá le feiceáil ar fud na hearnála go n-imeoidh an tionscal ó neart go neart sa tréimhse dheacair seo agus go mbeidh sí réidh fás agus forbairt a dhéanamh sna blianta atá le teacht.

Úna Nic an Phearsáin

Úna Nic an Phearsáin
Príomhfheidhmeannach

'Grey knit dress with bow detail'
by Heather Finn Knitwear



OUR INDUSTRY

CRAFT IN IRELAND COVERS THE SPECIALISMS OF TEXTILE MAKING & CLOTHING, POTTERY & CERAMICS, JEWELLERY, GLASS, WOODWORKING & FURNITURE, METALWORKING & BLACKSMITHING, GRAPHIC CRAFTS (INCLUDING PAPER WORKING, CALLIGRAPHY, LITHOGRAPHY, PRINTMAKING, BOOKBINDING & GRAPHIC DESIGN), STONEMAKING, HERITAGE & RURAL CRAFTS AND BASKETMAKING AMONGST OTHERS.

'Bowl - bog oak' by woodturner Kieran Higgins



KEY IRISH CRAFT SECTOR STATISTICS²

IN NOVEMBER 2009, THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND COMMISSIONED THE RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE PICTURE OF THE CRAFT INDUSTRY IN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND. TO ACHIEVE THE BROAD SCOPE REQUIRED, THE RESEARCH FEATURED SURVEYS OF THE FULL CRAFT INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN INCLUDING:

1. CRAFT ENTERPRISES - 500

including a representative sample of active craft enterprises in the Republic of Ireland (including both those registered and non-registered with the Crafts Council of Ireland). The survey respondents were owner/managers or managers in the case of larger craft enterprises.

2. CRAFT RETAILERS AND GALLERIES - 150

The respondents were owner/managers or buyers responsible for the sourcing of craft products in the case of larger retailers.

3. CRAFT INDUSTRY SUPPLIERS - 50

including a representative sample of craft supply businesses active in selling to craft enterprises in the Republic of Ireland. This included businesses based on the island of Ireland and those based in Great Britain with active sales activities in the Republic of Ireland.

4. CONSUMERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY PURCHASED CRAFT PRODUCTS - 200

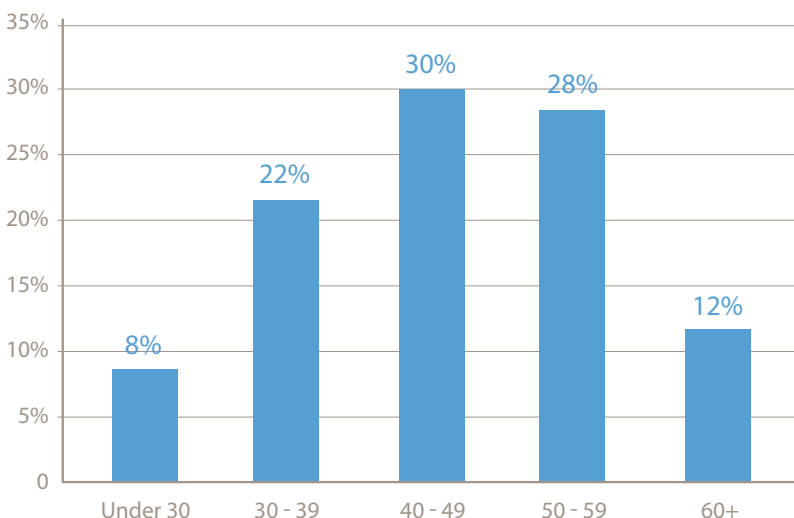
The research focused on the mainstream craft purchaser with a representative sample of the entire population of craft purchasers.

In addition, the research also quantified the role of education within the craft industry as a key input into the on-going health and development of the industry.

This research project has resulted in a report from The Research Perspective – Research on the Craft Industry in the Republic of Ireland – which will be released by the Crafts Council of Ireland in the summer of 2010. Some key statistics from this research are outlined below.

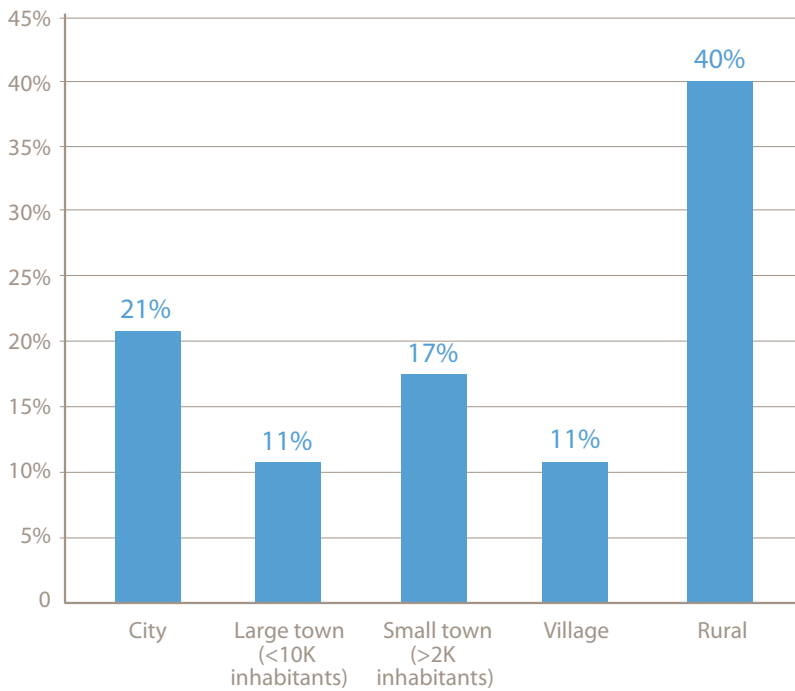
CRAFT ENTERPRISES

Age Distribution of Craftspeople

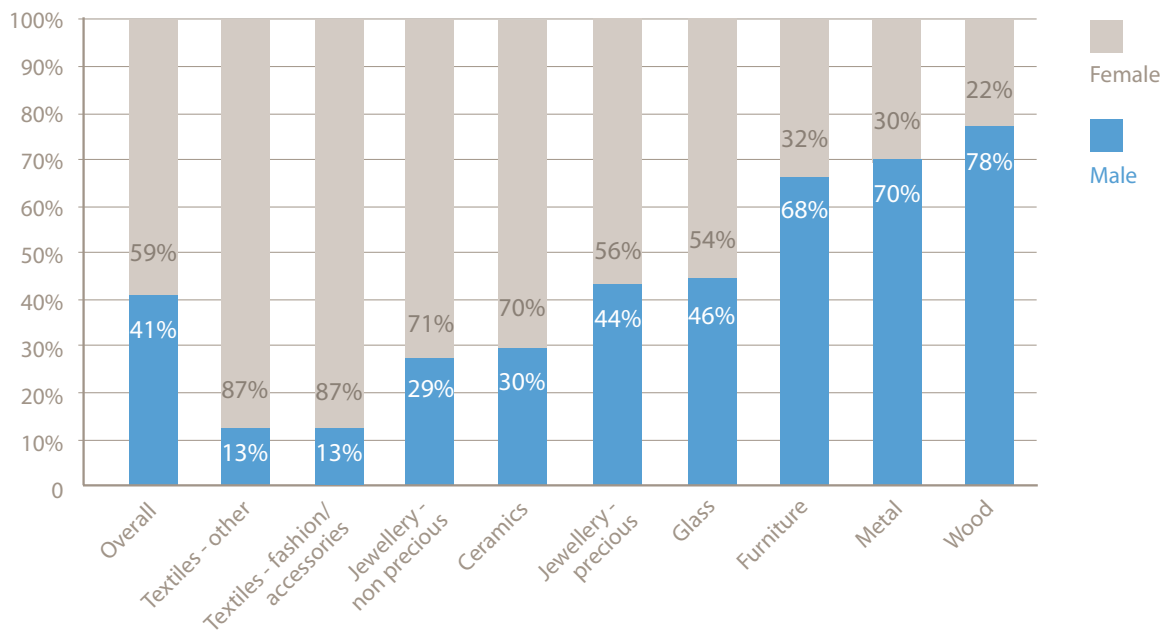


² Research on the Craft Industry in the Republic of Ireland, The Research Perspective, 2010

Location of craft enterprises

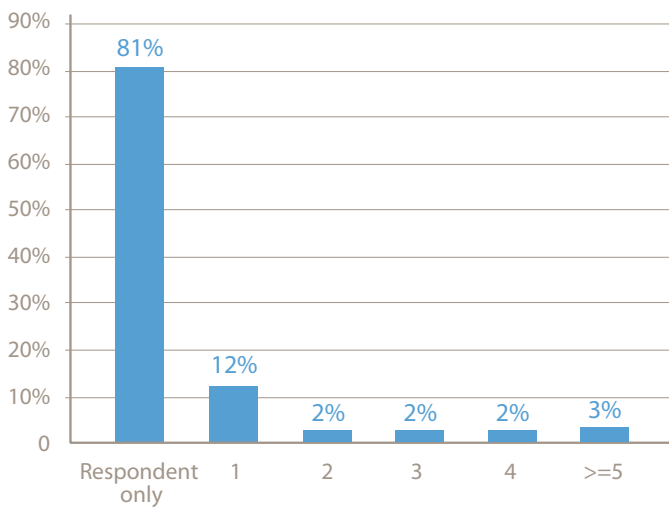


Gender split of craft owner/managers overall and by speciality

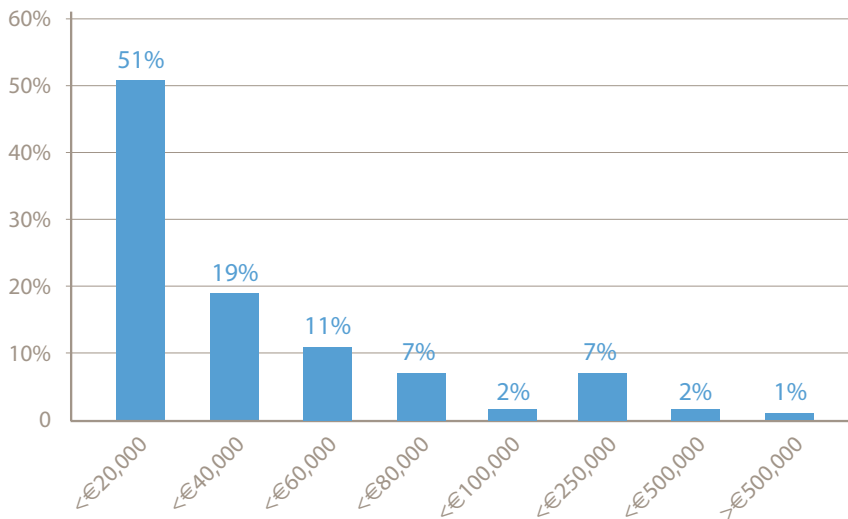


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**Number of employees in crafts businesses
(based on responses to craft industry survey)**

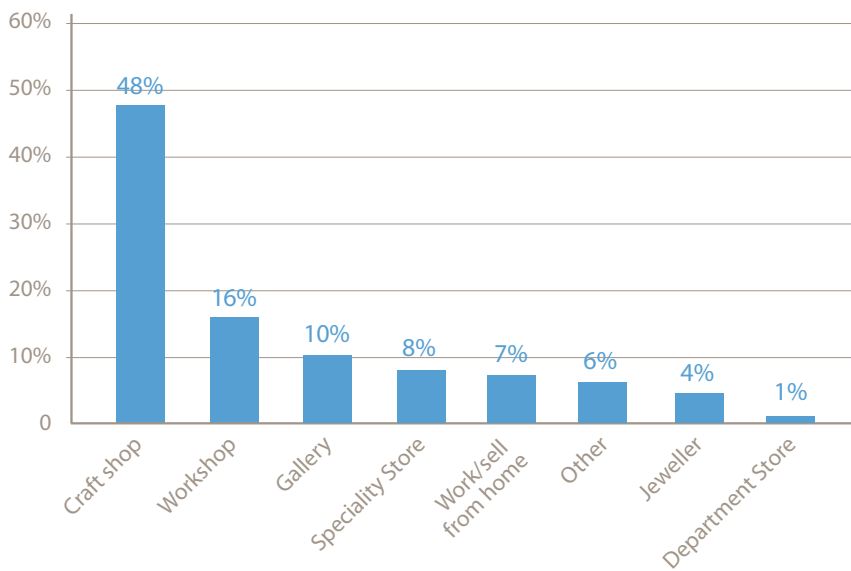


Distribution of total reported sales among craft enterprises for 2009

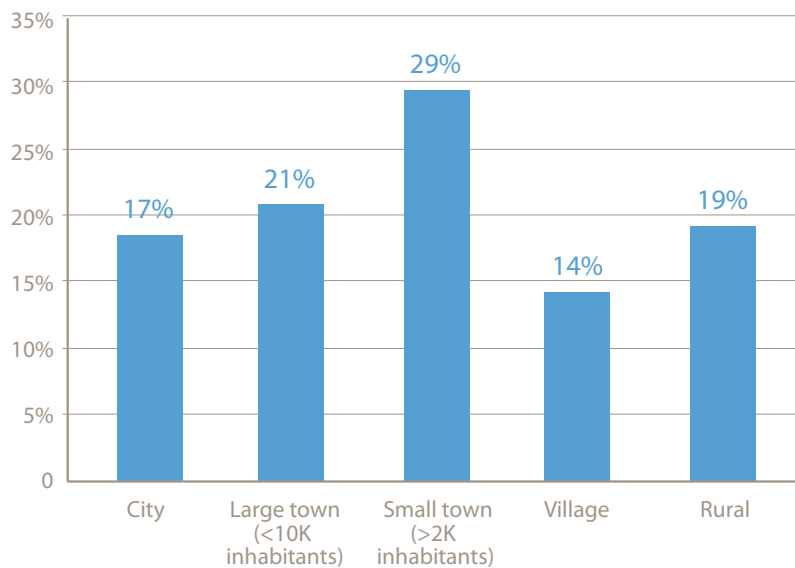


CRAFT RETAILERS

Description of craft retailers

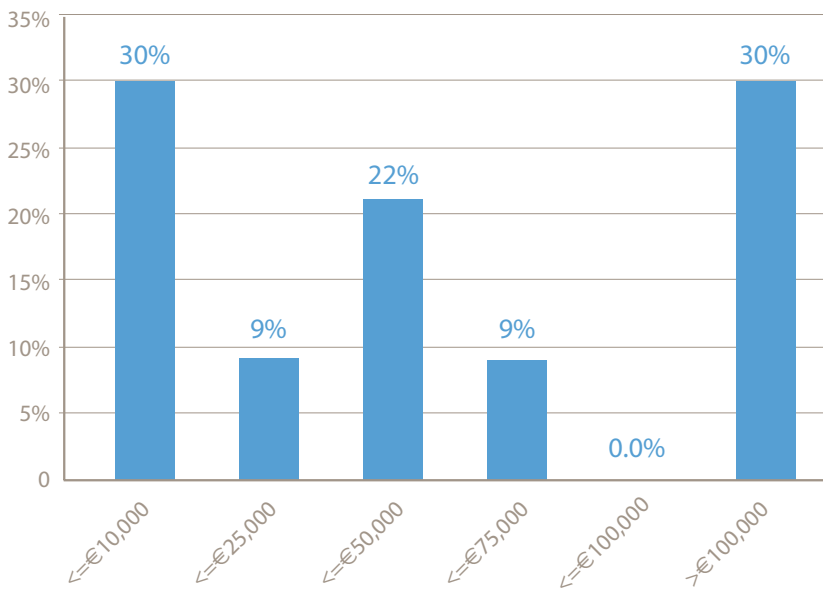


Location of Craft Retailers



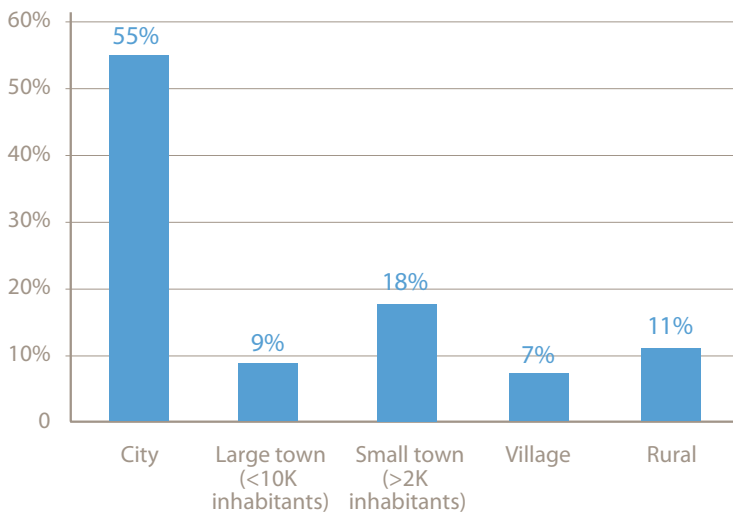
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Distribution of Sales by Craft Retailers

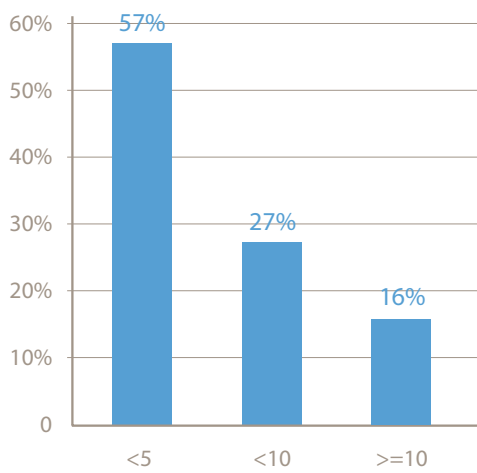


CRAFT SUPPLIERS

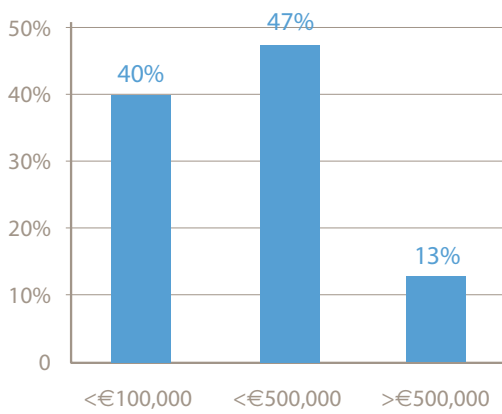
Location of craft suppliers



Number of employees in craft supply businesses



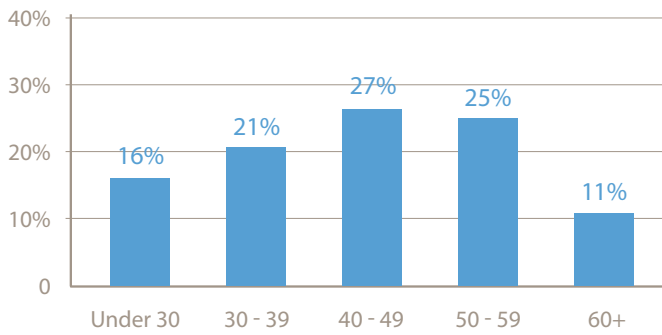
Distribution of Annual Sales from Craft Supplies



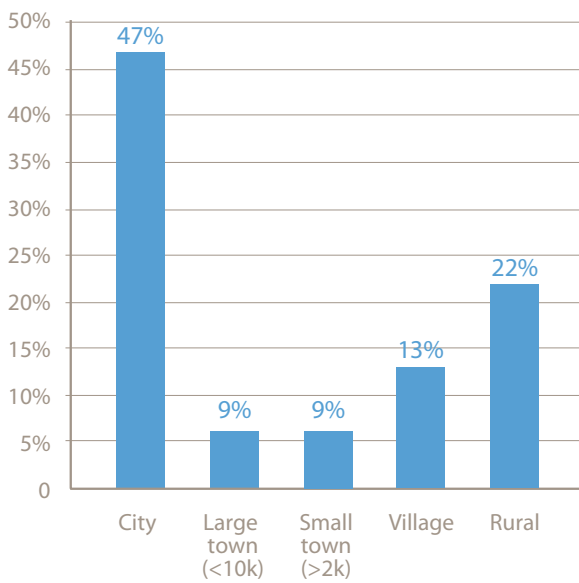
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CRAFT PURCHASERS

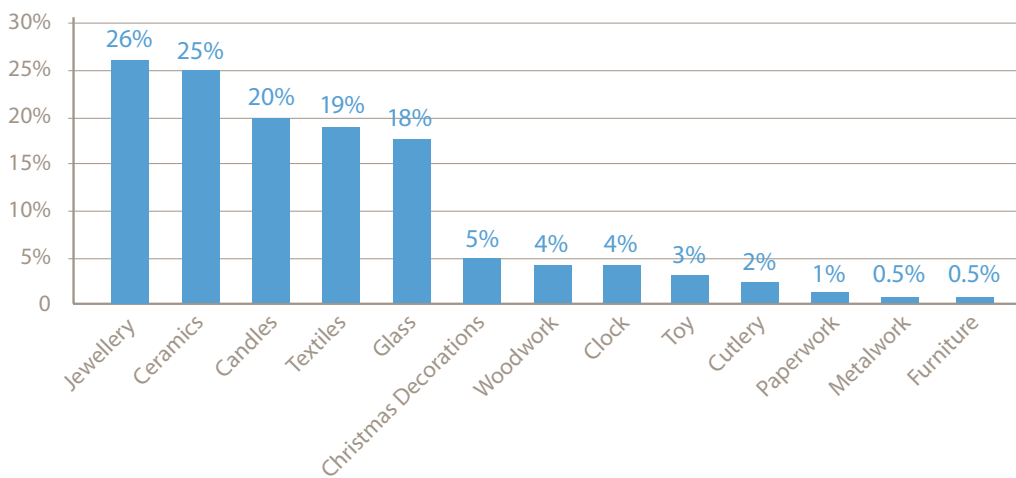
Age Distribution of Craft Purchasers



Location of Craft Purchasers

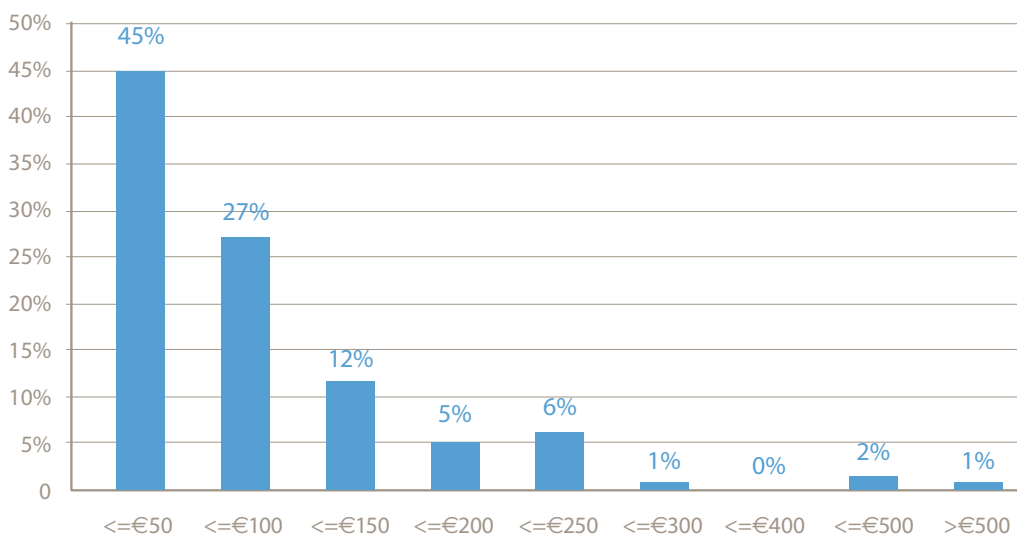


Craft Purchases by Speciality



Note: This table shows the percentage of craft purchasers who bought craft products from each of the outlined speciality categories in the last 12 months. Some craft purchasers bought from more than 1 category which leads to the combined results exceeding 100%.

Average Purchase Price of Craft Products



A SUMMARY OF CRAFT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT IRELAND IN 2009

(IN ADDITION TO CCoI PROGRAMMES)

CRAFT ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT 2009 WAS REMARKABLY ENERGETIC DESPITE THE RECESSION AND IN GENERAL, IRELAND'S ENTERPRISING AND VERSATILE CRAFT PRODUCERS HAVE MANAGED TO STAY IN BUSINESS.

The atmosphere of doom and gloom that overhung the sector at the beginning of the year gradually lifted and by December there was a general optimism that craft would survive the economic downturn.

The view that craft does well in hard times is not unfounded and it is to be hoped that a swing back towards the intimacy and longevity of handmade objects will work in craft's favour.

Those who have kept their businesses small may be better placed to negotiate the inevitable cutbacks and changes in the way that craft is bought and sold. The "mend-and-make-do" ethos, which received little kudos in the boom years, is back in fashion and an increased interest in DIY craft was popularised by television programmes like the Channel 4 series, *Kirstie's Homemade Home. Craft*, as shown by the recent Vodafone advertisement featuring knitting, has become young and cool. This change in mindset is fuelled by the North American crafter movement that celebrates homemade craft and makes handmade objects available through websites like Etsy.com. The annual **Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS** felt the benefit of the resurgence of interest in the homemade, and many craftspeople around the country have tapped into the zeitgeist by offering DIY courses. Nigel Barnes of *Old Chairs* in Kilrush, County Clare, experienced intense demand for his two-day course that taught participants how to give a new lease of life to worn-out pieces of furniture, while Alison Ospina's book **Green Wood Chairs (2009)** shows a range of furniture-making projects that the reader can undertake using natural branch wood and stems and basic tools. Ospina is part of the **Hands on Creative Workshops** which brings a number of West Cork craftspeople together to market courses in craft disciplines ranging from woodcarving and pottery to jewellery and glass-fusing.

Across the country the regional craft centres showed a consistent rate of activity working with many new enterprises to showcase the work of local makers and help them turn their talent into viable enterprises.

Leitrim Design House launched a New Product Development Programme to enable designers and makers to develop new suites of products or additions to existing ranges. In June 2009 the organisation hosted a series of 'Meet the Maker' days where a range of craftspeople made themselves available to the public to talk about their work. This was followed by the launch of 'Supports for Women', a year-long creative learning project that aims to offer new skills to women living in the north of the country whose lives have been impacted by conflict. Despite cutbacks, **Louth Craftmark** secured a further €570,000 in funding from the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) for the development of its €1.7m creative hub in Dundalk. The new hub (*Louth Creative Community Hub*) will encompass workshop space and creative training facilities. It is expected to be complete by the summer of 2011. Louth Craftmark also hosted a weekly 'Meet the Makers' programme at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda and participated in Design Week 2009 with an educationally focussed exhibition inspired by the works of Gerard Dillon and Nano Reid, featuring a Pecha Kucha style event. During the summer, Louth Craftmark also ran a series of children's craft classes with Highlanes Gallery.

Members of the **Louth Craftmark Designers' Network** participated in 'Art in Action', the annual three-day festival of art and craft classes, demonstrations and displays that runs on the June bank holiday weekend at Townley Hall near Slane. The Network also published a Creative Map of County Louth and organised bus tours to participating venues. In November, Louth Craftmark hosted its international partners (Finland, Italy, Spain & UK) as part of its Leonardo 'Sustainable Craft Networks' project, which included a conference 'Creative Regions: Creative Economies' and visits to craft studios and galleries in the county.

In County Offaly, **CORE Crafted Design**, a regional craft outlet, brought 16 local makers through a New Product Development Programme. The outlet is becoming a hub of craft-related activity, providing services and support to makers in the midlands who had hitherto been working in considerable isolation. The Laois Craft Centre opened in Emo in May 2009. The showroom, craft centre and workshop are situated at the entrance to the heritage site of Emo Park Wood. The craft centre has met with great support and positive feedback from the local community,

who appreciate the opportunity to buy items that have been made locally. In Ennis, **Glór**, which has provided a culture and entertainment centre in County Clare since 2001, has opened a new craft shop and gallery representing makers working across the country. In Gweedore, Donegal, **An Clachán**, an artist led initiative, offering an exhibition and studio space, showed a combination of art and craft by upcoming and established artists. In Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan **Sulis Art and Craft Collective** added the Sulis Gallery to their retail outlet which featured "Elemental Strands", an exhibition of Carrickmacross Lace and textiles in November.

Northern Ireland in general showed a consistent rate of craft activity in 2009, with the re-opening of the Ulster Museum, after extensive refurbishment, as one of the highlights of the year. **Craft Northern Ireland's August Craft Month** focused on ceramics and included an exhibition of Northern Ireland Contemporary Ceramics in Belfast. The exhibition included work by Peter Meanley, Diane McCormick, Derek Wilson, Adam Frew and Stephen Farnam. *Our Objects: Contemporary Ceramics In Context*, a touring exhibition, showed the work of innovative international makers like Anders Ruhwald and Richard Slee at Hillsborough Courthouse. *Creative Peninsula*, the Ards Borough Council event aimed at promoting visual artists and craftspeople living and working in the Ards Peninsula, enjoyed its eighth year of exhibitions and open studios, as well as the *Craft in the Square Day at Newtownards* at the end of July. Also part of Craft Month, *Beyond Traditional Boundaries* at University of Ulster, showed work from participants in Craft NI's business incubation programme, *Making It*, and the young silversmith, Samantha Moore, was announced the winner of the third annual *Craft NI Craft in Business Award*. In Belfast, the new Salamander Gallery took its place on the Lisburn Road gallery trail, housed in a former Victorian church and offering a range of fine and applied art.

'Long honeycomb coat'
by Linda Wilson Knitwear



(CONTINUED)

Fine art galleries displayed an encouraging willingness to embrace work in craft media in 2009. Among the best of these, *Microcosmos*, an exhibition of new work by the ceramic artist Frances Lambe, was shown in the **Millennium Court Gallery, Portadown**, as a key feature of August Craft Month; the new **F.E. McWilliam Gallery** in Banbridge, County Down, ran *Designers & Makers*, an exhibition of fine craft and design featuring the work of 45 designers from Ireland and the UK, in December 2009 along with a craft lecture series. *Sculpture in Context* has been an annual event since 1985 and the 2009 outdoor exhibition in the National Botanic Gardens continued its fine tradition of effortlessly merging the fine and applied arts. **The RHA 179th Annual Exhibition** included five makers whose work is associated with craft: Ed Byrne, Alison Kay, Sonya Landweer, Nuala O'Donovan, and Christy Keeney.

In the south of the country, the **Wexford Arts Centre** ran a Christmas exhibition of applied art, *Gifted '09*. The exhibition included a number of small and affordable pieces. Makers are becoming more market aware in the recession and are creating pieces to match desired budgets. In Dublin the **DesignYard gallery**, Nassau Street, ran an exhibition, *100 @ DesignYard*, in November. This initiative also placed an emphasis on affordability, comprising new work by established and emerging artists with each piece retailing at €100 and made in a limited edition of 100 pieces. The new high-end craft gallery, **Gallery Below**, situated at Ine Anish, the popular country furniture store in Leap, West Cork, shows the work of leading Irish makers including Sara Flynn, Kathleen Holland and Liam Flynn, but also favours accessibly priced and smaller works.

Other makers are taking advantage of empty business premises by creating pop-up shops. **MADE in Kilkenny**, a collective of 26 local craftspeople ran in an unused retail outlet in Kieran Street, Kilkenny in December 2009. This short term project made the work of a group of local makers available to shoppers in the weeks before Christmas. In a similar initiative, Jonathan and Mark Legge opened a pop-up shop, in William Street Dublin for a few weeks in December, selling a carefully curated selection of craft and design objects from Ireland and abroad. **Irish Design Shop**, which started as an online business running

occasional pop-up shops in 2008, expanded in 2009 and set up shop in a retail and studio space on Bow Lane in Dublin's city centre. **The Crafty Market**, a new arts and crafts market in Newmarket Square, Dublin, was set up in May 2009 by Ailbhe O'Connell and Louise Gambrell, a pair of Dublin-based artists who were finding it hard to sell their art without paying high commission rates. The market was set up to include 45 stalls, to change on a regular basis and to include a wide selection of handmade items ranging from paintings to jewellery, hats and handbags. Since stalls rental began at €30 the Crafty Market offered a way that craft enthusiasts might explore the possibility of selling their work without making a serious commitment or a heavy investment.

Artists, designers, and craftspeople continued to promote their work online through **RiseCreatives**, a subscription-based website that offers its members online portfolio web space and support PR. RiseCreatives was established by Nina and Hanorah Lyons in 2007 in response to their realisation that many makers lacked their own website and were losing out on promotional opportunities for this reason. Other makers are grouping together to share workspace and promotional opportunities. In Waterford, a dynamic group of craftspeople – Sabrina Meyns, Claire McAlister and Eily O'Connell (jewellery designers), Ann Nolan (textile designer), Aisling Cook and Maggie Cashman (glass designers) – officially launched **Workhouse Studios** in the historic Kilmacthomas Workhouse.

Craft fairs were strong in 2009 with a range of new and existing events around the country. In June 2009, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council Enterprise Board inaugurated the first **summer craft fair at Marlay House**, Rathfarnham. The two-day retail fair gave the public an opportunity to connect with local craftspeople and to buy their work. It follows a successful series of winter fairs at Dalkey Castle. **The 2009 Winter Fair**, which ran at Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre in November, showcased the work of nearly 40 makers and designers. The second **Glucksman Gallery Craft Fair** ran in November 2009, showing the work of 50 makers working in textiles, furniture, woodturning and jewellery. As part of the programme the organisers asked four leading Cork ceramicists – Cormac Boydell, Sara Flynn, Jim Turner and

'Reflect' by metalworker Cianan Doyle
Generation, National Craft Gallery, 2009



Robert Lee – to show their work in the Sisk Gallery and asked them each to invite another ceramicist whose work deserved to be profiled as part of the event. Both the **City Hall Crafts Fair in Cork** and *The National Craft and Design Fair*, Dublin reported a substantial increase in visitor numbers with many makers finding it as good a fair as they had in any of the boom years.

The traditional link between craft and tourism was underlined by several new enterprises in 2009, including a new seasonal crafts and tourist information centre, **Ionad Bhalor**, which opened on Tory Island in June. It is hoped that this will offer a retail outlet to the craftspeople working on the island. It will also provide a series of classes which will help to develop the existing skills of the island's craft workers and introduce newcomers to craft. This year **Belleek Pottery** celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Visitor Centre, one of the region's most popular tourist attractions. Visitors to the historic pottery enjoy

a 30 minute tour of the factory, finishing with a visit to the museum where pieces from Belleek's 150-year-old manufacturing history are on display. Donegal County Enterprise Board launched a new craft trail – **Donegal Creative Craft Trail** – with the aim of introducing the visitor to the people and the studios behind the work. A similar project, the **South Wexford Craft Trail** was initiated by the Wexford County Enterprise Board and a collaborative group of ten local craftspeople.

The traditional crafts have kept their place in the heart of the nation. *Féile na Tuaithe*, a two-day celebration of Irish country life and traditions took place at the **National Museum of Ireland – Country Life** in May and featured a strong craft element both in terms of market stands and a series of craft demonstrations that ran continuously during the festival. **Jerpoint Glass Studio** celebrated its thirtieth birthday in 2009 by joining with the **Irish Patchwork Society** to run *Reflections of the Southeast*,

(CONTINUED)

an exhibition of patchwork quilts and glass in its Glass Attic Gallery, Jerpoint Studios. The Irish Patchwork Society, founded in 1981, now has more than 500 members many of whom have extended the traditional craft to become an expressive art medium. Blacksmithing is a traditional craft that seems to be gaining popularity and is finding a contemporary context in Ireland, with practitioners like Pawel Guba of **Global Sculptures and Metal Art** in Castlebar, County Mayo, seeing a rise in commissions over the year. The Irish Artist Blacksmiths' Association reported a good year and put plans in place to launch an informative website in 2010 to increase awareness of their craft.

The year saw a number of craftspeople winning awards that were also open to artists and designers. The furniture maker, Stevan Hartung, was announced winner of the **Golden Fleece Award**, an annual prize worth approximately €20,000. Hartung was also one of the exhibitors to participate in a new group stand, **The Cream of Irish Design**, at the Interior Design & Art Fair, in May 2009. This group also went on to exhibit at **100% Design in London**. The display marked a stronger presence of contemporary Irish design at the show than in previous years and in general reflected the contribution of a strong and coherent group of designers. The overlap between craft and cutting edge design was seen at the **2009 IDI Design Awards**, where winners included Garvan de Bruir who

won the accessories section for Satchels, a robust satchel bag in rawhide leather that requires a minimal amount of construction and is designed to appeal to both men and women. De Bruir was also commended in the furniture section for his Poised Table & Chairs. In October the **Frank Ryan Travel Bursary Award for 2009** was awarded to Kevin Callaghan, a student at the Crawford College of Art and Design and a graduate of the Crafts Council of Ireland Ceramics Design & Skills Course. Callaghan will use his award to travel to attend a pottery workshop at the Experimental Sculpture Factory and Pottery Workshop, Jingdezhen, China.

The precipitous closure of **Waterford Crystal** in January was one of the low points of the year. The demise of one of our last great craft-based industries took with it the jobs of a great number of highly skilled craftspeople who will struggle to find a new context for their expertise. It is very positive that in June 2010 the factory and visitor centre will open under new management and in a new location in the Viking Quarter of Waterford City.

'Small bronze bowls'
by metalsmith Mary Neeson





'Parachuter leather bag'
by leather & furniture designer
Garvan de Bruir

Despite many struggles, craft in general is proving resilient in hard times. 2009 was a slow year for Irish retailers, but an increase in business activity in the last quarter of the year went a long way to make up the shortfall. Larger businesses predicted and were able to plan for the drop in sales, while smaller craft outlets, especially those with low overheads and an established local market, experienced trading as usual in 2009.

At both ends of the spectrum retailers reported an increased demand for value for money hand in hand with a gradual growth in increased awareness of what is

Irish and a desire to keep money circulating within the Irish economy. The last word on this goes to ceramicist Lynda Gault who commented to the *Sligo Weekender* that, although people were more discerning about their purchases in a recession, the drop in sales wasn't as bad as she had anticipated. 'People will always want to have something nice, even if it's just a mug,' she said, 'something that's handcrafted and unique to them – not throwaway stuff.'



OUR BUSINESS

OVER THE YEARS, THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND HAVE EVOLVED AND GROWN TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE INDUSTRY AND ENSURE ITS CONTINUED GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

'Meniscus – silver' by silversmith Cara Murphy



THE HISTORY OF THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND (CCoI) IS THE NATIONAL DESIGN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION FOR THE CRAFT INDUSTRY IN IRELAND. ITS ACTIVITIES ARE FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INNOVATION VIA ENTERPRISE IRELAND. IT IS A MEMBERSHIP BASED ORGANISATION WHICH ALSO WORKS WITH CLIENTS REGISTERED AS CRAFT ENTERPRISES OR AS ASSOCIATES.

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

In 1976 CCoI became a Limited Company. Funding was received from the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Justin Keating and from the Industrial Development Authority and it employed a staff of two at Thomas Prior House, Ballsbridge. Its brief was to work for the improvement of standards in craft and the welfare of

craftspeople and to act as advisors to the Government in matters concerning crafts. In 1977, Showcase began as the National Crafts Trade Fair with 34 exhibitors.

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

Crafts Council of Ireland Headquarters
Castle Yard, Kilkenny



National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny
 Jack Doherty (Ceramics Exhibition), 2009



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

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

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

Over the years, the aims and objectives of the Crafts Council of Ireland have evolved and grown to meet the needs of the industry and to ensure its continued growth and development. CCoI's third Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 clearly outlined its policy objectives and mapped out activities until the end of 2009. During 2009 CCoI's Board and Executive Team commenced development of the Strategic Plan 2010 - 2012.

KEY DATES IN OUR HISTORY

- 1971 Crafts Council of Ireland set up in Dublin under the auspices of the RDS
- 1976 Became a limited not-for-profit company
- 1976 Showcase Ireland Trade Fair started
- 1986 Moved to Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, Dublin
- 1990 Started the Ceramics Design and Skills Course
- 1993 Started the Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course
- 1997 Moved from Dublin to Castle Yard, Kilkenny
- 2000 Opened National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny

CLIENT PROGRAMMES & SUPPORTS 2009 AT A GLANCE

DEVELOPING & SUPPORTING CRAFT ENTERPRISES

- Business & Product Development - Training, Workshops, Seminars, Mentoring & Support
- 'Making it in Business' two-year programme
- Retail Promotions & Supports - Retail Craft Access Programme
- 'Imagined, Designed, Made with Passion in Ireland' Christmas Campaign
- Craft Tourism Supports Programme
- Collector Market Programmes - Irish Craft Portfolio
- International Promotions & Events – COLLECT, London; SOFA (Sculpture, Objects and Functional Art), Chicago
- Assistance in CCoI Education & Outreach projects
- Insurance Schemes

INDUSTRY RESEARCH & INFORMATION

- Industry Statistics - Consumer & Retailer Research
- Trend & Industry Seminars
- Online Information Resources: CCoI websites – www.ccoi.ie, www.buyirishcraft.com, www.futuremakers.ie, www.showcaseireland.com
- Publications: Stoppress magazine, National Craft Gallery catalogues, Irish Craft Directory for Retailers
- Reports: Creative Pathways – a Review of Craft Education and Training in Ireland

AWARDS & ASSISTANCE

- Future Makers Awards & Grants
- Irish Arts Review/CCoI Emerging Maker Award
- Irish Arts Review/CCoI Critical Writing Award in Irish Craft
- RDS National Crafts Competition in partnership with CCoI
- RDS Crafts Council of Ireland Purchase Prize
- House and Home/CCoI Student Design Awards
- EU Leonardo Mobility Programme – Craft Skills Work Placement Programme

- Craftsmanship Award at Showcase
- New Product Awards at Showcase
- Essence of Ireland Awards at Showcase
- Irish Craft Bursary Award
- Research Missions
- GANS Network Support Scheme
- Regional Craft Outlets Support
- Stories in the Making Movies
- Craft Collection Purchase Fund

EVENTS

- Trade Fairs – Showcase - Ireland's Creative Expo, RDS
- Information Stands – The National Crafts & Design Fair, The Interior Design & Art Fair, Meitheal, Higher Options Fair
- Key Public Events – Bloom in the Park, Kilkenny Arts Festival
- Regional Networking Events
- GANS Networking Workshops

EDUCATION

- 1st & 2nd Level Craft Education Programmes
- 3rd Level & Future Makers Programme
- Fulbright/NCAD/CCoI Seminar Series
- Education & Outreach Programme
- Ceramics & Jewellery – Design & Skills Training, Kilkenny

NATIONAL CRAFT GALLERY, CASTLE YARD, KILKENNY

- National & International Touring Exhibition & Events Programme
- Collectors/Friends Events - Gallery Outreach Programme

KEY CLIENT STATISTICS

BREAKDOWN OF REGISTER OF CRAFT ENTERPRISES BY COUNTY AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009. REGISTRATION CONFERS ACCESS TO ALL CCoI SERVICES, PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES.

REGISTER BY COUNTY

Republic of Ireland

Dublin	340
Cork	236
Galway	107
Kilkenny	93
Kerry	79
Wicklow	78
Waterford	67
Clare	65
Donegal	64
Mayo	64
Wexford	57
Kildare	51
Meath	50
Tipperary	47
Louth	42
Sligo	39
Limerick	38
Offaly	36
Westmeath	34
Carlow	31
Leitrim	31
Monaghan	25
Laois	24
Cavan	18
Roscommon	14
Longford	10
1,740	

Northern Ireland

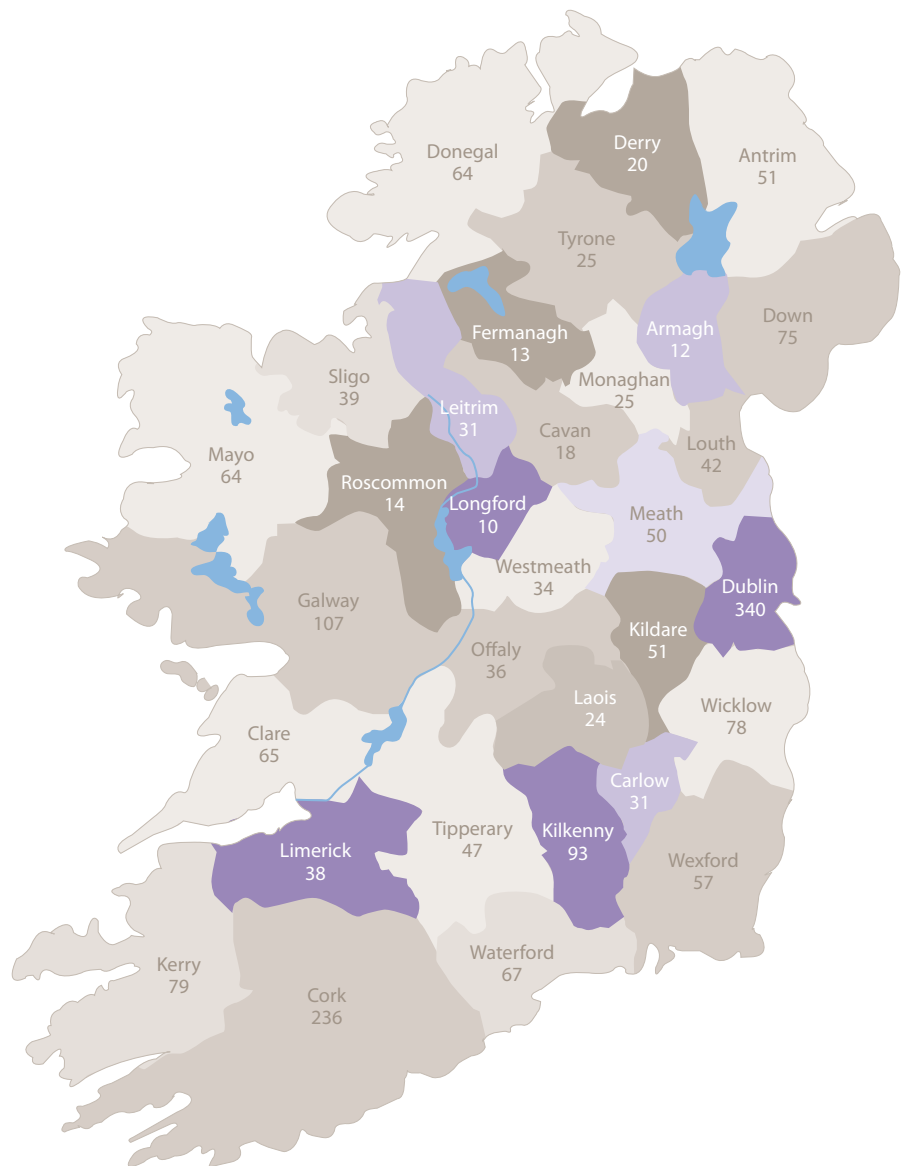
Down	75
Antrim	51
Tyrone	25
Derry	20
Fermanagh	13
Armagh	12
196	

International 26

TOTAL end 2009 1,962

TOTAL end 2008 1,701

% increase 15%



(CONTINUED)

REGISTER BY DISCIPLINE		ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	
Textile Making/Clothing	420	Students	477
Ceramics	360	Hobbyists	209
Jewellery	288	Craft Lecturers	92
Glass Making	167	Temporarily Inactive/Retired	38
Woodworking	164	Employees of Registered Craftspeople	22
Furniture Making	140		
Metal Working/Blacksmithing	72	TOTAL end 2009	838
Paper Working	60	Total end 2008	512
Stoneworking	53	<i>% Increase</i>	64%
Mixed Media Construction	49		
Basketry	33		
Printing	33		
Candlemaking	20		
Musical Instrument Making	19		
Silversmithing/Halloware	19		
Leather Working	18		
Toymaking	12		
Soapmaking	8		
Paper Making	7		
Bookbinding	5		
Lettering	4		
Spinning	3		
Thatching	3		
Fresco Painting	2		
Horology	2		
Bookmaking	1		
TOTAL	1,962		

KEY PROGRAMME STATISTICS

LISTED BELOW AT A HIGH LEVEL IS SOME SUMMARY INFORMATION INCLUDING FIGURES ON THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN CCoI PROGRAMMES DURING 2009. THIS IS FOR INDICATIVE PURPOSES AND IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST.

PROGRAMME AREA	QTY. PARTICIPATING
Education, Training & Development Programmes	
• Students in 1st level Education programmes	1,368
• Students in 2nd level Education programmes	740
• Students in 3rd level & Graduate programmes	112
• Students in Skills Training Schools (incl summer workshops)	75
• Numbers in Enterprise Programmes	233
TOTAL	2,528
Market Development Programmes	
• Number of craft enterprises in Christmas Retail Campaign	296
• Number of craft stands at Showcase	192
• Number of CCoI clients at Bloom	30
• Number of makers in NCG exhibitions	236
TOTAL	754
Public Affairs & Communications	
• Value of media coverage (incl. Showcase)	€600k

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN 2007 - 2009

THE PERIOD OF THE 2007 – 2009 PLAN HAS SEEN DRAMATIC CHANGES IN THE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT IN IRELAND. THE CRAFT SECTOR, SIMILAR TO OTHERS, HAS EXPERIENCED THE EFFECTS OF THESE CHANGES INCLUDING THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMER INCOME AND THE DECLINE IN RETAIL SALES OVER THE PERIOD.

There are however, areas of opportunity, including the demand by consumers for a more durable, crafted design Irish product, which represents value for money and the growing area of craft tourism. Much of the activity of the Crafts Council of Ireland over the period of this Strategic Plan was working with craft enterprises and selected partners to promote the industry and to assist in its maintenance and growth in the light of the significant economic challenges.

The 2007 – 2009 Strategy identified four main work streams:

1. **Stimulating market-led craft**
2. **Making crafts accessible to consumers**
3. **Developing craft enterprises and raising awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level**
4. **Positioning of Irish craft as an attractive and valued alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland**

These streams were addressed as follows by the Programme teams in CCoI:

- **Education, Training and Development**
To create a greater awareness of Irish craft at 1st, 2nd and 3rd level to help sustain the industry into the future. To work with craftspeople to facilitate the growth of their businesses in a way that fulfils their creative and commercial ambitions.
- **Market Development**
To stimulate the creation of Irish craft that directly relates to consumer needs and preferences in terms of product design, quality and craftsmanship. To make craft products more accessible to consumers. To encourage and promote retail outlets selling craft and to identify and target other channels to bring more volume and variety of craft to consumers.

- **Public Affairs & Communications**

To promote Irish craft and design as an attractive and valuable alternative for the consumer and as an expression of contemporary Ireland. Through a dedicated Public Relations Programme CCoI aims, over time to increase public awareness of the Irish craft offerings, its uniqueness, the story behind the work and maker and where to find Irish craft.

The strategic objectives of the Crafts Council of Ireland continue to be supporting craft enterprises in maintaining and increasing their turnover, developing effective relationships between retailers and craftmakers and raising awareness with mainstream consumers and collectors of the variety, quality and choice in Irish craft.

This means understanding, not only consumer trends and needs, but also the needs of retailers and their customers, and how to leverage on-line channels and develop market segments, such as the tourism market. It also involves raising awareness of Irish craft and culture internationally, particularly, with the craft collector market. The market development and communications areas have been very active over the 2007 – 2009 period resulting in greater awareness with all target groups. This activity will be further developed over the next number of years.

Whilst the market development activities focus, by their nature much of the time on existing craftmakers, CCoI programmes also aim to provide support across the full career path of the craftmaker. This ranges from raising awareness at Primary level in schools, to 2nd and 3rd level activity and education outreach programmes, to support for Future Makers and finally, to business skills training and professional development for established makers. CCoI Education, Training & Development has been very active over the period, with the launch of a number of new activities, programmes and awards.

Development of strategic partnerships with organisations, agencies and other bodies throughout Ireland has been a core part of the 2007 – 2009 strategic plan. In addition, CCol's member organisations, made up of guilds, associations, networks and societies also play an invaluable role in raising awareness of craft, generating interest and preserving our cultural heritage. Looking forward, these partnerships will continue to be essential in enabling the full breadth of CCol aspirations for its 2010 – 2012 Plan. This new Strategic Plan has just been developed and will be launched in July 2010.

CCol also actively engages at a policy level, representing the crafts industry with key decision makers. Over the period of this plan considerable progress has been made with regional and national bodies, as well as at Government level. In order to support and represent the crafts industry appropriately, CCol annually commissions consumer and industry research, as well as specific studies, such as the *Creative Pathways* education study presented to Government in 2009. This industry research was conducted in 2009 and will be published in 2010.

Further information on the 2009 CCol programmes and initiatives follow in the Programme reports for each area.

The 2007 – 2009 Strategic Plan laid out an ambitious programme for developing and supporting the craft sector in Ireland. The 2010 – 2012 Strategic Plan is no less challenging, particularly given our current environment.

Following a review of the Crafts Council of Ireland's organisation structure and its ability to best support and develop the craft sector, deliver on its strategic objectives and work more efficiently and effectively, a new organisation and staffing structure was put in place in 2009. A key focus was to develop the capability and competencies needed within the organisation rather than outsourcing much of the programme work. This revised structure is essential to enable the Crafts Council of Ireland develop the craft sector now and into the future during these challenging times.



'Copper and bronze vase & copper and iron flower set'
by metalsmith Paddy McCormack

PROGRAMMES 2009

CRAFT EDUCATION, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

KEY OBJECTIVES

- TO CREATE A GREATER AWARENESS OF IRISH CRAFT AT 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD LEVEL IN ORDER TO HELP SUSTAIN THE INDUSTRY INTO THE FUTURE
- TO WORK WITH CRAFTSPEOPLE TO FACILITATE THE GROWTH OF THEIR BUSINESSES IN A WAY THAT FULFILS THEIR CREATIVE AND COMMERCIAL AMBITIONS

POLICY INPUT

CREATIVE PATHWAYS – A REVIEW OF CRAFT EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN IRELAND

In 2009, following a major research study by Hibernian Consulting, CCol produced a report: Creative Pathways – A Review of Craft Education and Training in Ireland. The report was launched by Batt O’Keeffe T.D., Minister of Education and Science in July 2009 and was followed by a national conference in September 2009 which brought together all major stakeholders to discuss its findings. The main recommendations included:

- Partnerships should be developed at all levels of the education sector in order to provide career development paths and develop the next generation of makers
- Crafts should form part of the national curriculum at primary and second level
- Teacher education and support is critical to promoting and developing craft education
- A strategic alliance should be formed between CCol and one or more 3rd level institutions to jointly develop 3rd level and continued professional development opportunities

- A forum to influence national policy on craft education and training should be developed by CCol
- A partnership approach to training for craft enterprises with national providers including the County & City Enterprise Boards and FÁS should be adopted
- Information on all craft education and training opportunities needs to be made available to all craftspeople
- Further education and third level programmes need to reflect both the craft discipline and the business and enterprise skills required to develop craft on a commercial basis
- An evaluation of gaps in provision of craft education and training should be carried out so as to determine the nature of future courses and programmes and to ensure they reflect best national and international practice
- Consultation with key stakeholders on the concept of developing National Excellence Clusters for Craft Education and Training should take place

The report has been disseminated to national bodies responsible for craft education and training and its findings are being used to inform CCol future strategic direction for craft education and training. The full report and executive summary are available on-line under the publications section of www.ccol.ie.

CCol was invited to participate at a number of national conferences addressing the creative industries, in particular craft in 2009. These fora enable CCol to inform other stakeholders on the role and potential of the craft industry in Ireland and how it can contribute to Ireland’s economic renewal.

Former Minister of Education Batt O’Keeffe T.D., Úna Parsons (CEO of CCol) and Jim Dunne (CCol Board Member) at the launch of Creative Pathways, Dublin, 2009



1. CRAFT EDUCATION & AWARENESS

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2009

FIRST LEVEL

Craft in the Classroom is a CCol national initiative designed to support the primary school curriculum through engaging students, teachers and makers in the creative process using craft based methodologies. In the period 2008-2009 Craft in the Classroom worked with 31 schools and facilitated 868 school children. In 2009 CCol embarked on a research project to further develop Craft in the Classroom. An assessment was carried out of Craft in the Classroom's impact on students, teachers and makers over the five years it had taken place. The outcomes of this study will inform the future direction of CCol's Craft in the Classroom initiative in the years to come.

Craft at Kilkenny Arts Festival

During Kilkenny Arts Festival the Crafts Council of Ireland initiated its education and outreach programme at the National Craft Gallery with a series of children's workshops and gallery tours. This was the first year that the Festival developed a craft strand as part of its overall programme.



Laura Kennedy from Kilkenny
at a children's craft workshop during
the Kilkenny Arts Festival

Bloom 2009 "Engage in Craft at Bloom"

A number of hands-on education workshops were held over three days at Bloom 2009 with 500 children participating in craft making. The workshops were offered on a drop in basis and crafts covered included pottery, fabric and fibre, felt making, jewellery making, paper making and mixed media.

SECOND LEVEL

Craft as a Career

In 2009, the Crafts Council of Ireland developed and disseminated 'Craft as a Career' packs containing information sheets on opportunities for a career in craft and profiling craftspeople who have developed careers in glass, ceramics, wood, metals and textiles. Over 3,000 were distributed throughout 2009.

Higher Options (Career and Jobs Fair) RDS, 2009

For the second year, the Crafts Council of Ireland took an education information stand at the Higher Options Fair, which each year attracts over 25,000 students, teachers and career guidance counsellors. 2009 was its twenty-third year and the Fair is recognised as being the definitive and centralised forum for third level choices for Irish students. CCol participated at the fair with a stand and distributed Craft as a Career packs during the event. Textile artist Logan McLain gave live demonstrations of embroidery using his digital embroidery machine and Brenda Aherne from "Electronic Sheep" gave a talk on Craft as a Career. The stand was manned by students from the CCol Ceramics Design & Skills Training Course and Dublin Institute of Technology students, as well as CCol staff.

Institute of Guidance Counsellors Annual General Meeting, March 2009

The Crafts Council of Ireland presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. The presentation was entitled *Craft as A Career – Creativity as the Driver for the new European Economy*. During the Conference, which was attended by 400 delegates, links with the National Council for Guidance in Education were developed.

(CONTINUED)

Education and Outreach

A series of Education and Outreach activities for 2nd level students was held during 2009. These included:

Four workshops in the National Craft Gallery as part of Kilkenny Arts Festival attended by approximately 200 2nd level students. The workshops gave young people the chance to work with materials used by craft professionals, to look at recycled materials to create new craft items and to work alongside professional artists and makers.

A series of interactive education events during the 'Generation' exhibition attended by over 300 2nd level students and members of the public. The programme, gave a greater insight into craft and design thinking and processes through conversation and interaction with Emerging Makers and Institute of Designers award winners who were part of the *Generation* exhibition.

A Design Challenge in partnership with the Institute of Designers in Ireland. Forty students participated in four different team based challenges, working directly with emerging designers and craft makers. The challenges included developing the uniform of the future, rebranding the GAA, designing a new arts centre for Kilkenny and creating a new corporate gift that represents contemporary Ireland.

Cultural Rucksack, March 2009

Jointly organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland and Norske Kunsthandvererke

Cultural Rucksack is a national programme providing cultural education to all children aged 6 - 19 in Norway. In 2000, the Norwegian Prime Minister made access to and provision of cultural education for all children in Norway part of Government policy. The conference was held in conjunction with the 'Constructions' exhibition at the National Craft Gallery. Presentations were made by five international speakers and four speakers from national organisations in Ireland. A total of 37 delegates were in attendance.

THIRD LEVEL

Future Makers

Future Makers replaced CCol's Third Level Award scheme and represents a significant investment by the Crafts Council of Ireland in the future development of the next generation of makers in Ireland. Worth over €25,000, the awards and grants provide assistance in a range of areas including further training, research and development, studio set-up and exhibitions assistance. Awards are assessed on the basis of creativity, innovation, skill and craftsmanship and are intended to reward and benchmark excellence.

In 2009 the student awards went to **Úna Burke**, completing a Masters Degree at the London College of Fashion specialising in leatherworking and **Zbigniew Srtzebonski** a 3rd year apprentice at Wedge Furniture in Dublin. Student grants were awarded to **Dearbhla Ní Ailin** and **Kerstin Reuter**, Grennan College; **Helen Faulkner** and **Kate Murtagh Sheridan**, CCol Ceramics Design & Skills Course; **Fiona Byrne**, NCAD; **Helen Moore**, University of Ulster; **Emma Bourke** and **Karen Donnellan**, NCAD.

Practitioner Grants were awarded to **Earthworks Ceramics Studio**, **Rachel Swan** (Jewellery), **Claire McAlister** (Metalwork), **Sabrina Meyns** (Metal/paper), **Renata Pekowska** (Glass), **Suzanne White** (Gilding), **Thomas Riordan** (Jewellery), **Florence Harmelin** (Textiles/Weave), **Ann Nolan** (Textiles) and **Gail F. Mahon** (Sculptural Ceramics).

*'Retreat' by leather designer Úna Burke,
Future Makers Award Winner 2009 - Student category*



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

The Crafts Council of Ireland's *Emerging Maker Award* in partnership with Irish Arts Review was announced at the 'Generation' exhibition. The overall winner in 2009 was Orlaith Ross who recently graduated from NCAD. Her ceramic work involves a delicate process of photographic printing onto paper-thin porcelain panels. In order to create the work Orlaith had to undertake in-depth research of the process involved and develop a new system using specialised printing screens and oxide compounds.

The award is worth €5,000 and includes a two page article in Irish Arts Review. Short-listed applicants were provided with the opportunity of exhibiting in the 'Generation' exhibition alongside winners and runners up of the Irish Design Awards 2009.

'Landscape of Aesthetics and Design' seminar series is a partnership between The Crafts Council of Ireland, the National College of Art and Design and the Fulbright Commission, Ireland.

Launched in 2009 the 'Landscape of Aesthetics and Design' seminar series offered a bi-monthly forum for twelve CCoI registered craft enterprises and eight NCAD craft based MA students to explore together the nature of aesthetics, design and perception in relation to their own work and to develop their skills as makers through critical thinking and writing practices. The seminar series was facilitated by Fulbright Scholar Mary Bayard White and took place one day per week in NCAD for the academic year, September 2009 – May 2010. The series culminates in a symposium organised by facilitators and participants in 2010.

RDS National Crafts Competition *in partnership with the Crafts Council of Ireland*

In 2009 significant changes were made to the RDS National Crafts Competition. The changes included the development of an on-line application system, purchase of new display cases and plinths and the use of professional expertise for the design and layout of the exhibition. Two new awards in the 2009 Competition included a prize of €250 which was awarded in the woodturning category sponsored by The Irish Woodturners Guild, and a prize of €300 sponsored by The Irish Patchwork Society and The Quilters Guild of Ireland for an outstanding entry using traditional techniques. The competition received 567 applications in 2009 and 67 awards were made (see

Stoppress Autumn 2009 for full details of award recipients). The prizewinners' exhibition toured to Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, and the Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh, Co. Cork. In 2009 the Award of Excellence went to Diarmuid Murphy, a student at GMIT for his study desk furniture piece called 'Smaoineamh'.

The RDS National Crafts Competition is open to craft workers and designers in Ireland and Irish craft workers based abroad. At €30,000 it has one of the largest prize funds for craft in Europe. Winners of the different categories within the RDS National Crafts Competition are also eligible for the Crafts Council of Ireland Purchase Award. In 2009 work purchased by the Crafts Council of Ireland included:

Garvin de Bruir, *Bow-fronted Bookcase* (furniture category), **Elaine Burke**, *Vessel IV, Willow* (Rod, rush, straw & alternative materials category), **Nuala O'Donovan**, *Teasel – Stretched*, (Ceramics – contemporary category) and **Patricia Belford**, *Girli Concrete - Stitched concrete* (multimedia textiles category)

'Neckpiece' by Justyna Truchanowska (feltmaker / jeweller)
1st prize winner, RDS National Crafts Competition, 2009
- felting category (alternative materials)



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

This award was established by *House and Home* magazine in 2004 to reward excellence in student design talent. In 2009 CCoI became the co-sponsor of the awards. Applications were accepted from all levels of students studying craft and design in Ireland. The recipient of the 2009 award was Jens Kosak, a 2nd year furniture design student at GMIT, Letterfrack for his lightweight and easy to assemble flat-pack table in three pieces made from oak-veneered birch plywood. The other finalists were Rory Brown, a second year furniture student at South West College, Omagh Campus; Colleen Sands, a third year student of interior design in Coláiste Dhulaigh, Coolock; Zbigniew Strzebonski, an apprentice furniture maker with Wedge Design in Dublin and Ciara O'Sullivan a ceramics student in Limerick School of Art & Design.



Jens Kosak (2nd year furniture design student, GMIT, Letterfrack)
winner of the House and Home / CCoI Student Design Awards, 2009

EU Leonardo Mobility Programme

In 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland received funding through the EU Leonardo Mobility Programme for a Craft Skills Work Placement Programme (CSWP).

CSWP is a work placement and training partnership between the Crafts Councils of Ireland and Norway and the Ulster Museum in Northern Ireland. The programme provides mobility work placements for recent Irish graduates and people in the labour market to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies. The programme aims to address the Continued Professional Development (CPD) needs of participants who are working or aim to work in small and medium sized craft enterprises. It will facilitate the mobility and placement of four craftspeople in Norway for a two week period and two people in Northern Ireland for a one month period. The selection process for placements commenced in 2009.

2. SKILLS TRAINING

Ceramics Design & Skills Training Course

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Ceramics Design & Skills Training Course is a two-year course and takes place in Island Mill in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny.

The 12 students completed their intensive skills based first year of training in July 2009. Competency in throwing, workshop management, glazing and firing is required by the end of the year and all 12 successfully progressed into the second year of the programme.

Study trips to Ceramic Art London in March and the International Festival of Ceramics at Aberystwyth University in July ensured the students were given first hand exposure to the very best of international work, demonstrations and lectures. Combined with Ceramic History and Professional Practice modules within the course the study trips enable the students to become fully aware of opportunities in the craft sector both here and abroad.

Josie Walter, U.K. potter, author and lecturer gave a series of Master Class demonstrations to the students in September. She also gave a well attended public lecture and demonstration to undergraduate ceramic students and professional practitioners at the CCoI facility in Thomastown.

In October, in conjunction with four Kilkenny chefs the students designed and produced four ranges of tableware. An exhibition of their final work was mounted in the Castle Yard during the Kilkenny Food Festival, 'Savour Kilkenny' and was extremely well received.

Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course is a two-year course and takes place in the Castle Yard in Kilkenny. It continues to maintain its international reputation through its strong links with the industry. The final months of the 2009 graduating cohort were busy with visiting trainers delivering specialist master classes in engraving, gemmology and stonemasonry. The graduates completed a ring project in 18 carat gold which was exhibited at Showcase in January and at follow-on show at the National Craft Gallery at the same time as the 'RememberRing' exhibition.

Their graduation show was exhibited in the National Craft Gallery in July. The high standard of craftsmanship on display was recognised by the industry and all trainees successfully secured subsequent employment. Three trainees graduated with distinction. The eight students who graduated in 2009 were: Cathal Barber, Loretta Haughey, Kevin McDonald, Veronica Roden, Thomas Riordan, Michelle Doyle, Gregory Lafford and Marie Therese Walker.

Looking forward demand for training continues to be high with 66 applications for the 2009-2011 Jewellery Course, of which 12 trainees were selected. These trainees completed a joint project of 12 significant Kilkenny buildings in silver in their first few months which will be put on display at Showcase in 2010.

During the summer of 2009 a number of short course workshops were held including:

- Two kiln building workshops, led by Gus Mabelson, Course Manager, Ceramics Design & Skills Training Course (25 participants);
- Workshop in Surface Decoration, led by Robert Campbell Legg, Silversmith & Master Engraver (10 participants);
- Enamelling workshop, led by Jane Shortt, Enameller (8 attendees).



'Gold ring' by Michelle Doyle
- student on CCol's Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course, 2009

Skills Review

In line with CCol's Strategic Plan and in order to ensure that the skills delivered by CCol are reflective of best national and international practice, a review of both CCol courses was conducted in May 2009. A Skills Advisory Panel was appointed which included representatives of both the jewellery and ceramics sectors.

The key responsibilities of the panel included ensuring that the programmes equip learners with particular knowledge, skills and competencies set and support excellent design. They were also asked to make recommendations on the course structure and format based on best international practice.

A report on the panel's findings was presented to the CCol Board.

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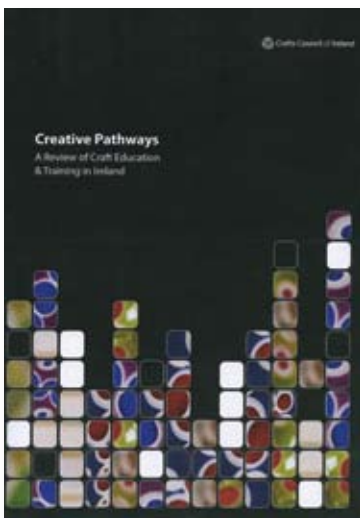
3. ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2009

Conferences and Seminars

Conferences and Seminars are important in disseminating learning and stimulating debate within the craft industry. During 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland ran two such events. The first, entitled New Trends and Themes in Education took place in March. This seminar covered an analysis of developments in craft education bringing together key thinkers and speakers in the area including Professor Chris Mc Kintyre, Dean of Faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries at the University of Hertfordshire. The seminar was attended by over 50 people.

The second seminar was held in September 2009 following the launch of the Crafts Council of Ireland's *Creative Pathways: A Review of Craft Education & Training in Ireland*. The study is the first comprehensive review of current provision of craft education and training and provides a starting point to examine and address key issues and recommendations. It was attended by approximately 50 people representing a range of organisations and senior managers involved in national policy development for craft education.



Creative Pathways:
A Review of Craft Education & Training in Ireland

Continuing Professional Development Training & Workshops

In 2009 consumer focused training programmes tailored to suit the business needs of craftspeople were run nationwide. Five successful workshops were run with 75 craft enterprises benefiting from the training. Topics covered included:

- Costing and pricing your craft product (two workshops)
- Debt collection for craft enterprises
- Innovation and new product design
- Selling craft and the role of branding in challenging times

The Making it in Business Programme (2008-2009)

The Making it in Business Programme is a two year high potential craft enterprise development programme that has had a very positive impact on the sustainability and growth of craft enterprises. The second year of this programme concentrated on specialised mentoring in production, design and marketing for the eleven participants.



Helena Malone Goldsmith
*Cornelian necklace
with silver catch*

The Mentoring Programme

The CCol Mentoring Programme provides craft businesses with professional development advice in production and business through 'one to one' mentoring sessions with key craft business people. During 2009 these sessions targeted craft businesses seeking to access the mainstream retail and collector markets and supported 37 craft businesses through mentoring.

Development of a new mentoring strategy was carried out during the year. This has involved a review of best practice models from other agencies and an identification of what best fulfils the needs of craft enterprises. This new mentoring scheme is to be launched in 2010.

PROGRAMMES 2009

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

KEY OBJECTIVES:

- TO STIMULATE THE CREATION OF IRISH CRAFT THAT DIRECTLY RELATES TO CONSUMER NEEDS AND PREFERENCES IN TERMS OF PRODUCT DESIGN, QUALITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP
- TO MAKE CRAFT PRODUCTS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO CONSUMERS
- TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE RETAIL OUTLETS SELLING CRAFT AND TO IDENTIFY AND TARGET OTHER CHANNELS TO BRING MORE VOLUME AND VARIETY OF CRAFT TO CONSUMERS

1. RETAIL MARKET



Christmas Campaign 2009: *'Imagined. Designed. Made. With passion in Ireland.'*

A national Christmas campaign was launched in December 2009 to encourage consumers in Ireland to "Buy Irish Craft".

The campaign consisted of in-store "point-of-sale", a four page sales brochure, advertising and a new website – "buyirishcraft.com".

CCoI's strategy was to create a strong and positive 'master brand' message for Irish craft, by creating a striking and stylish consumer campaign. A new message of *'Imagined. Designed. Made. With passion in Ireland.'* captured the unique selling proposition that Irish Craft has to offer.

Nationwide 31 retail outlets and 25 craftmaker studios participated with a total of 300 Irish craft makers and their products were promoted throughout the course of the campaign.

Campaign Highlights

- The 4-page brochure was inserted into with The Gloss magazine (135,000 circulation) and distributed with The Irish Times on 3rd December 2009
- A 30 second radio ad was produced with 56 slots over Radio 1, Lyric FM and Today FM – with a listenership of 326,000
- www.buyirishcraft.com had 76,000 hits leading up to Christmas

- 5,000 pieces of point of sale were produced and distributed
- 30,000 postcards were distributed to 4 and 5 star hotels in Dublin
- Special windows were created in several retailers, including 'Kilkenny Design Centre', 'House of Ireland' and 'Designyard'.



Imagined. Designed. Made. With passion in Ireland. Christmas Campaign 2009 Kilkenny Design Centre (front window store display)

Campaign Metrics

The Christmas Campaign was very well received by craftspeople, retailers and consumers.

- 100% created extra space for Irish craft during the campaign
- 84% of retailers believed that the campaign had a positive impact on their sales in 2009
- 96% of retailers advised that the campaign message was very effective
- 92% of all retailers used CCoI Point of Sale material in their store window
- Over 60% of stores said that Irish craft performed the same or better than other brands in the same categories.

Furthermore, positive results from consumer perception research (carried out by Milward Brown Lansdowne on behalf of CCoI in December 2009) showed a significant improvement in the key brand equity measures of quality, appeal, affinity and authenticity of Irish craft with interest in buying crafts increasing since 2008. This positive change in consumer attitudes towards Irish craft since 2008 shows the impact the 2009 Christmas campaign has had on consumer awareness and attitudes. With such encouraging feedback and results from all the participating parties, CCoI plans for an even bigger and more effective campaign for Christmas 2010.

(CONTINUED)

Showcase 2009

Showcase, Ireland's largest gift and craft trade show, is held annually every January in the RDS, Dublin. At Showcase 2009 there were 449 exhibitors (190 of whom were craftmakers) and 4,475 visitors.



Showcase 2009

Key features at Showcase 2009 included:

- **New Craftsmanship & Product Awards**

The *Crafts Council of Ireland Craftsmanship Award* was presented by President McAleese and won by Mark Hanvey, Woodturner and Furniture Maker. Other Awards included the *New Product Awards* and the *Essence of Ireland Award*.

The *New Product Awards* covered four categories - Knitwear and Accessories; Jewellery; Craft & Gift; and Tabletop and Interiors. The overall winner for Best New Product and winner of the Fashion Knitwear and Accessories category was Anna Vahey and her company, Ana Faye, for her innovative approach to leather handbags. Other winners were Martina Hamilton, Jewellery; Mark Hanvey, Craft & Gift category; and Jerpoint Glass Studio for the Tabletop & Interiors category.

The *Essence of Ireland Award* went to 10 products selected by a panel of experts for products that through their design, production methods or overall look, depicted what is unique about Ireland. The *Essence of Ireland* selection was awarded to individual craft

products by the following designers: Saba Jewellery, Jerpoint Glass Studio, Elizabeth Burgess Ceramics, Glenn Lucas Woodturning, Anne O'Leary Silks, Inti Leathers, Hand-woven by Liz Christy, Cel Design Jewellery, Celtic Roots Studio and Martha Cashman Sculptural Ceramics. It is anticipated that the *Essence of Ireland* products will be considered as gifts for foreign dignitaries, VIPs and corporate clients.



Anna Vahey (of Ana Faye), leather bag designer

- overall winner of the *New Product Awards* at Showcase 2009 with President Mary McAleese and Gerry Wycherley, Chairman of CCol

New features such as the Source Aisle, the Trend Area and Iconic Craft

Showcase 2009, saw a renewed emphasis on crafted design products from Ireland's leading makers and designers. In addition to the many exhibitor areas, iconic craft from leading Irish designer makers was displayed throughout. The entrance to the Show featured a trends display area, supported by trends seminars.

More than 120 new *Emerging Makers* took part in this year's Showcase. The addition of *A New Day, New Exhibitor* area gave thirty makers new to Showcase the opportunity to exhibit new and innovative work for either one or two days of the show. The County & City Enterprise Boards and Invest Northern Ireland also exhibited at the event.

A separate *Source Aisle* comprised stunning products specially chosen for their quality and design by a panel of International experts.

- **Seminar Programme featuring 20 seminars with 1,000 attendees**

A separate *seminar programme* offered presentations by leading experts in branding, retailing, e-commerce, merchandising and trend forecasting during the Show.

- **Stories in the Making Movies**

The Crafts Council of Ireland commissioned a series of fourteen mini-movies, suitable for use on-line as well as in-store entitled *Stories in the Making*. These provide a glimpse into the creative process and sources of inspiration for craft makers from around the country. These were launched by former *Miss World*, Rosanna Davison at Showcase.

- **Irish Craft Directory for Retailers**

The *Irish Craft Directory for Retailers*, was launched by John McGuinness T.D., Minister for State for Trade & Commerce at the Show. This 140-page directory allows retailers access to more than 400 craft makers throughout the island of Ireland.

Creative Island Selection 2009

Creative Island is a new initiative planned for Showcase 2010. Its objective is to create an impressive craft presence in a premier location at Showcase. The application and selection process took place over the summer of 2009. 58 craftspeople were selected by an independent panel of retailers for their creativity, craftsmanship and product quality and will feature in a book at showcase 2010.

Bloom 2009

Bloom is Ireland's largest gardening event held in the Phoenix Park, Dublin in June. CCoI participated at Bloom 2009 for the second year running. The aim was to increase the awareness of craft amongst consumers and to develop new sales channels.

The craft presence included; 30 retail stands representing over 40 makers; 10 outdoor exhibition pieces from 11 craftspeople; five of the show gardens featured work from an additional seven craftspeople; demonstrations of craft disciplines by 10 different groups/guilds; and a dedicated Crafts Council of Ireland information stand.

NACTA Visit

A group of 28 American retail buyers of craft and gift visited Ireland on a five-day tour at the end of March 2009. The tour was jointly organised by the North American Celtic Trade Association (NACTA). While in Ireland the group who are all members of NACTA were invited to Kilkenny to meet craftspeople from the Kilkenny/Carlow regions and staff and Board members of the Crafts Council of Ireland.



'Blown glass flowers on stainless steel' (large-scale) by glass artist Catherine Keenan at Bloom in the Park, 2009.

(CONTINUED)

Regional Craft Outlets

Funding was allocated to three Regional Craft Outlets; CORE Crafted Design, Leitrim Design House and Louth Craftmark to assist them in selling and promoting craft and to develop the commercial capabilities of the craftspeople they support. In 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland supported local marketing plans including advertising campaigns across local media including radio and press.



Louth Craftmark at Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda, Co. Louth

2. Craft Tourism Market

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued to work towards building new tourism relationships and to seek opportunities for collaboration with Fáilte Ireland on a Craft Tourism Strategy and with other key partners.

During 2009 discussions were held with the James Renwick Alliance (JRA), the collection support group of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, USA with regard to a ten-day tour of Ireland in 2010.

Attendance at Meitheal 2009

For the first time the Crafts Council of Ireland participated in the annual tourism trade event *Meitheal* in order to raise awareness of craft as a holiday activity.

Tourism Renewal Group

In February, CCoI submitted "*Crafting a Culture Visitor Experience*" in response to a call for submissions from the Tourism Renewal Group. The call for submissions was requested by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr Martin Cullen, T.D. to seek the views of interested stakeholders as part of the mid-term review of Ireland's tourism policy development.

3. COLLECTOR MARKET

2009 Exhibitions Programme

2009 saw once again an active exhibitions programme at the National Craft Gallery and on tour nationally and internationally. The work of 236 makers was exhibited and nearly 37,000 people visited the gallery in Kilkenny. Main exhibitions included:

Breaking Out: 18th October 2008 - 31st January 2009

Celebrating a new generation of talented and innovative artists, *Breaking Out* showcased beautiful work from 30 emerging makers of all disciplines and was curated by Ann Mulrooney. It was opened by Gerry Crosbie, Managing Director, Designyard, Dublin.

RememberRing: 14th February 2009 - 26th April 2009

The ring is an age-old form full of symbolism. Through the medium of jewellery - a select group of 90 international artists were asked to give shape to their own personal memories. Each ring created was rich with its own meaning, history and remembrance. The exhibition first opened in Galerie Beeld & Aaambeeld in November 2008 and was on loan to the National Craft Gallery in 2009. It was opened by the Exhibition's Curators, Martha Havemann and Karel Betman.

Constructions: 14th March 2009 - 6th April 2009

This unique exhibition highlighted the methods, techniques and processes used by 12 of Norway's leading craftspeople, including creating, building and constructing. It was curated by Edith Lundebrekke. The exhibition was opened by the Norwegian Ambassador, His Excellency Øyvind Nordsletten.

Organic Geometry: 2nd May 2009 - 12th July 2009

Organic Geometry featured an exploration of form in contemporary Irish craft. 30 makers drew inspiration from the natural world and used it as a stepping-stone to create pure and beautiful forms. The exhibition, curated by Ann Mulrooney was opened by Raymond Keane, Artistic Director of Barabbas Theatre Company.

Bloom in the Park: 28th May – 1st June 2009

An exhibition of six colourful, large-scale outdoor works at Ireland's premier event for garden enthusiasts - this exhibition also travelled to the Castle Yard in Kilkenny as an eye-catching display during Kilkenny Arts Festival.

Future Makers 2009: 17th July 2009 - 28th July 2009

The exhibition included works from 19 of the *CCoI Future Makers Student Award Winners*, Student Grant Recipients and Practitioner Grant Recipients.

'Untitled' (Silk, Vilene, silver, polyester thread)
by mixed media artist Rowena Sheen
Organic Geometry, National Craft Gallery, 2009



(CONTINUED)

Graduate Jewellery: 17th July 2009 - 3rd August 2009

The *Graduate Jewellery* exhibition introduced tomorrow's top jewellery designers. It was opened by Rudolf Heltzel, (Jeweller) and featured exciting new work from the eight graduates of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Jewellery & Goldsmithing Skills & Design course. The exhibition was curated by Eimear Conyard.

Object: 8th August 2009 - 27th October 2009

Object sought to marry contemporary craft and bold abstract art and featured work by 38 leading Irish makers alongside selected pieces from the Arts Council of Ireland's collection. The exhibition, curated by Brian Kennedy, was opened by Kim Mawhinney, Head of Art, Ulster Museum.

Jack Doherty: 8th August 2009 - 27th October 2009

In August the National Craft Gallery opened its doors to master ceramicist, Jack Doherty. Jack Doherty is lead potter at the Leach Pottery in St Ives, Cornwall. The exhibition, curated by Marta Donaghey, was opened by Kim Mawhinney, Head of Art, Ulster Museum.



'Round bowl' (porcelain)
by ceramicist Jack Doherty
Jack Doherty Exhibition, National Craft Gallery, 2009

Generation: 31st October 2009 - 9th January 2010

Generation provided a selection of work by 32 of Ireland's most promising young makers. It was a partnership with the Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI) and showcased innovation, talent and a dedication to craftsmanship. It was curated by IDI President, Derek McGarry and Ann Mulrooney. The exhibition was opened by Brian Stephens, Managing Director, Design Partners.

'Synapse' (blown glass) by glass artist Karen Donnellan
Generation, National Craft Gallery, 2009



INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

On the Edge: 31st Jan – 21st March 2009

A touring partnership with Cheltenham Museum and Art Gallery, *On the Edge* presented a stunning selection of contemporary glass by 21 makers from Ireland and South West England, beautifully demonstrating the complexities and flexibilities of glass. It was curated by Mary Mackey & Chinks Gryllis

SOFA The International Expositions of Sculpture Objects & Functional Art, Chicago, 2009

CCoI attended SOFA Chicago with an information stand detailing the craft tourism, exhibition and craftwork opportunities represented by the Collector and National Craft Gallery programmes. Contact was made with several galleries and collectors who were interested in Irish craft including the James Renwick Alliance (JRA).

The Light Fantastic: February to December 2009

The Light Fantastic: Irish Stained Glass Art represented the work of 12 leading contemporary Irish glass artists and highlighted the importance of traditional stained, painted and etched glass in Ireland. It was curated by Mary Boydell and Audrey Whitty. It toured to a number of galleries in the US during 2009, including: The Eleanor D. Wilson Museum, Hollins University, Roanoke (VA), Coral Springs Museum Of Art, Coral Springs (FL), Historic City Hall, Arts & Culture Center, Lake Charles (LA) and Village Theatre Art Gallery, Danville (CA).

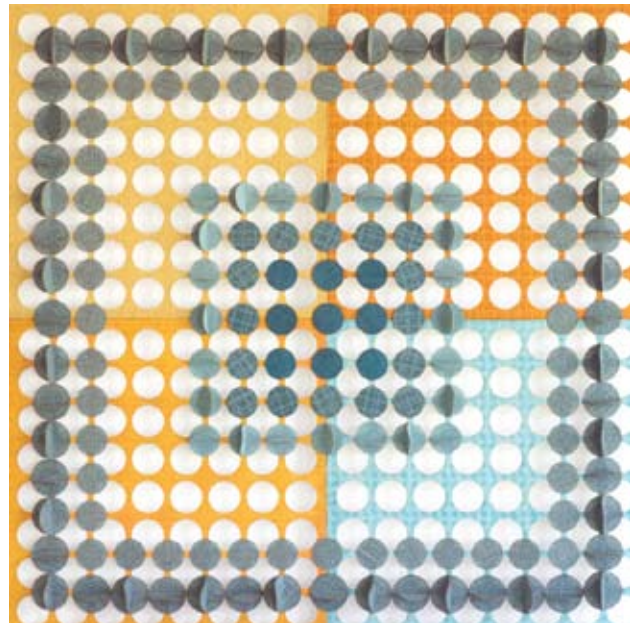
European Baskets: 17th Jan - 4th May 2009

Hastings Museum and Art Gallery exhibited *European Baskets*, a showcase of the turning of the traditional basket into a contemporary collector's piece. It featured traditional, functional and sculptural work by 76 of Europe's most important basketmakers including eight from Ireland. The exhibition was curated by Mary Butcher and Joe Hogan and first showed in the NCG in 2008.

COLLECT 2009: 14th – 17th May 2009

The COLLECT 2009 exhibition featured five makers selected from Irish Craft Portfolio - Cara Murphy (silversmith), Cormac Boydell (ceramicist), Angela O'Kelly (jeweller), Liz Nilsson (textiles), Joe Hogan (basketmaker). This was the first time the Crafts Council of Ireland exhibited at COLLECT, which took place in the Saatchi Galleries in London. The exhibition was curated by Brian Kennedy.

'Format 3' by textile designer Liz Nilsson
Saatchi Gallery, Collect 2009, London



Irish Craft Portfolio

Established in 2005 *Irish Craft Portfolio* represents contemporary craftwork created by Irish makers. Their work combines the highest quality craftsmanship with a consideration of material and technique that sits comfortably on the international stage. Inclusion in *Irish Craft Portfolio* is through a selection process with work chosen by an international selection panel. In 2009 the objectives of *Irish Craft Portfolio* were renewed, a new selection panel was put in place and selection was carried out in October 2009. 38 makers were selected from an overall entry of over 100 applicants across a range of disciplines. Following selection, photography was arranged for makers for the purposes of a new hardback edition of *Irish Craft Portfolio* to be launched in spring 2010. Two essays were also commissioned on the applied arts and craft tourism respectively.

(CONTINUED)

Irish Craft Bursary 2009

The Crafts Council of Ireland's Irish Craft Bursary Award is made on an annual basis in order to support and recognise the achievements of professional craftspeople in the creative development of their craft. In 2009 over 30 applications were received and assessed by a new selection panel. One overall winner was announced and two merit awards were given. The first prize winner of €15,000 was Róisín de Buitléar. Róisín proposed using the funding in two phases: a) to record the first-hand experiences and stories of selected Waterford Crystal master craftsmen, to photo document the craftsmen, objects from the Waterford Crystal factory and from private collections. This research document will be donated to the archives of the National Museum of Ireland where the information will be available to the public and b) to use the research to inspire new work in glass production based on traditional Irish cutting and engraving techniques.



Glass artist Róisín de Buitléar,
Irish Craft Bursary Winner 2009

The Irish Craft Bursary merit winners were Terry Dunne, Weaver and Frances Lambe, Ceramicist both of whom received awards of €5,000 each. Terry Dunne will use his award to further his research into weaving techniques specifically focusing on Finnish birch bark weaving techniques. Frances Lambe will use her award to further her technical knowledge of clays and glazing techniques with Irish ceramics experts. This knowledge will in turn be used to develop future bodies of work.

Craft Collections

The Crafts Council of Ireland is committed to working with the National Museum of Ireland to ensure the ongoing development of the Craft Collection Purchase Fund as well as the ongoing purchase of Irish craft by the Department of Foreign Affairs for our embassies abroad.

In 2009 craftwork chosen for the National Museum of Ireland collection included work from the following makers; Karl Harron (glassmaker), Michael Moore (ceramicist), Mark Hanvey (wood turner), Emmet Kane (wood turner), Aidan Breen (silversmith), Inga Reed (jeweller), Jack Doherty (ceramicist), Cormac Boydell, (ceramicist) and Patrick Flood (jeweller).

Work from the following craftmakers were chosen in 2009 for Irish embassies; Cólín Ó Dubhghaill (metalsmith), Roger Bennett (wood turner), Frances Lambe (ceramicist), Liam Flynn (wood turner), Joe Hogan (basketmaker), Kevin O'Dwyer (silversmith) and Michael Ray (glassmaker).

Álainn

Álainn, the Crafts Council of Ireland's membership scheme aimed at collectors and potential collectors of fine Irish craft, continued to operate during 2009. This scheme offers members regular communication on all things to do with fine craft-invitations to gallery openings, special events and discounts on Crafts Council of Ireland National Craft Gallery exhibitions. During 2009 a small selection of events was offered to members.

PROGRAMMES 2009

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS

KEY OBJECTIVES

- TO PROMOTE IRISH CRAFT AND DESIGN AS AN ATTRACTIVE AND VALUABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE CONSUMER AND AS AN EXPRESSION OF CONTEMPORARY IRELAND.
- TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IRISH CRAFT OFFERING, ITS UNIQUENESS, THE STORY BEHIND THE WORK AND MAKER AND WHERE TO FIND IRISH CRAFT.

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY 2009

Consumer Research and Branding

A key focus of the Strategic Plan 2007 - 2009 was to raise public awareness of Irish craft. In 2007, a new proposition for the positioning of Irish craft was developed.

Throughout 2008 and 2009 all Crafts Council of Ireland programmes and PR activities began the process of implementing the new proposition and brand thinking.

In 2009 preparations took place to give Showcase 2010 a contemporary new look which involved the design of a new brand identity and marketing strategy for the show including; the show layout and design, the website and catalogue, all of the marketing material and the PR campaign.

Surveys & Research

Consumer Perceptions Research

At the end of each year CCoI conducts an omnibus survey to explore the public perception of Irish craft and to gauge growing interest and awareness in Irish craft. The survey (by Millward Brown Lansdowne) took place in the last quarter of 2009 and was presented to CCoI in Spring 2010. Results indicated interest in buying and owning craft has increased slightly from 39% to 41% between 2008 and 2009 with value for money being an important consideration. Female consumers aged 50+ are most positive towards craft. However, the under 35 age group is an important market, which should also be targeted.

The figures highlight that whilst awareness of Irish craft amongst consumers has improved slightly, there is still need for improvement, particularly in the context of reduced consumer spend. These findings will be incorporated into CCoI market development and communications activities for 2010.



Jeweller Rachel Swan pictured with her work at Future Makers 2009, National Craft Gallery

Industry Research

In 2009 CCoI commissioned major research of the industry – last conducted in 2005. Most of the fieldwork was carried out towards the end of 2009 and the results will be available in Summer 2010. The aim of the research is to provide a comprehensive picture of the crafts industry in Ireland, quantifying its size, its economic impact, numbers employed, size of enterprise, level of export and similar data. It will help in forming a comprehensive picture of supply and demand of crafts in Ireland and the potential for the development of craft in Ireland.

Once complete, this research will be an important source of information on the industry for Government, policymakers and key stakeholders and will assist in informing the direction of future programmes and activities at Government level and within CCoI.

(CONTINUED)

Media Coverage

During 2009 CCoI achieved strong coverage across all media and in a broad range of press, including national newspapers, House and Home, Irish Arts Review and other interior magazines. Excellent exposure was also achieved on national television including the Late Late Show, Nationwide, the RTE 1 News and TV3.

Combined PR value for media coverage in the year was almost €600k, including coverage for Showcase. This comprised 74% national media and 26% at a regional level.

Promotional Events

During 2009, the Crafts Council of Ireland maintained a strong craft presence at a number of high profile public events. These included:

- **Kilkenny Arts Festival** - CCoI became the official partner of the Kilkenny Arts Festival and for the first time a 'Craft Strand' was included as a festival programme event. This featured the exhibition, 'Sterling Irish', two NCG exhibitions, *Object* and *Jack Doherty*, as well as a comprehensive education programme. The Craft Strand generated much interest and resulted in media exposure on RTÉ News and in the Sunday Business Post, the Kilkenny People and other national and regional press.
- **Bloom** - A dedicated CCoI branded craft area was established at Bloom with craft retail stands and demonstrations, in addition to children's craft events and a display of outdoor craft works. Television highlights included; a one-hour special programme on TV3 featuring basketmaker Ronan Russell and craft demonstrations on the Late Late Show with blacksmiths Michael Budd and Stephen Quinn and woodturner Joe Laird.
- **CCoI Graduate Jewellery Exhibition** - The 2009 Exhibition of graduates of the CCoI Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills and Design Course received coverage on the Pat Kenny Show, RTE Radio 1, the Sunday Business Post and RTÉ's Nationwide.



Large-scale outdoor ceramic work by ceramicist Michelle Maher at Kilkenny Arts Festival, 2009

- **Media Partnerships & relationship building**

Throughout 2009, CCoI has continued to develop relationships with media partners, such as RTÉ, TV3, House and Home and other consumer magazines, national and local radio, daily and Sunday newspapers and regional newspapers. This has resulted in a strong presence of craft across a number of channels during the year.

CCoI's ongoing partnership with Irish Arts Review has also resulted in editorial and special craft features with the magazine. The Winter edition of Irish Arts Review included a four-page spread, which featured the winning essay of the *Critical Writing in Irish Craft Award*, as well as articles on the National Craft Gallery and news for collectors. Muireann Charleton was the winner of the Critical Writing in Irish Craft Award for her essay on the work of Pádraig Ó Mathúna.

Linkages were also established with the UK media in particular with travel writer Antonia Windsor of the Observer Newspaper resulting in a special feature on the National Craft Gallery.

Information Opportunities and Events

During 2009 the Crafts Council of Ireland had an information stand at **The Interior Design & Art Fair (14 – 17 May), RDS, Dublin** for the purposes of promoting the work of several of the participating registered clients as well as the services offered by CCol.

CCol also continued its presence at **The National Crafts & Design Fair, RDS, Dublin (2nd – 6th December)** where a total of 136 craft enterprises registered with the Crafts Council of Ireland exhibited. CCol's stand aimed to promote its registered clients as well as to offer support and information on CCol's Christmas Retail Campaign and other activities and services.

Craft Awareness

In addition to its programme of events, the Crafts Council of Ireland was involved in a wide number of other events for the purposes of raising awareness of craft. A small selection of these follows.

- **Yarn & Sail Unite exhibition, Volvo Ocean Race, Galway May/June 2009**

The Volvo Ocean Race stopover in Galway was a major event in Ireland's calendar, attracting approximately 650,000 visitors over the week. As part of its craft awareness raising activities, CCol provided support for the launch of the 'Yarn & Sail Unite' exhibition of Ceadogán rugs at the event by commissioning a special 'Stories in the Making' movie.

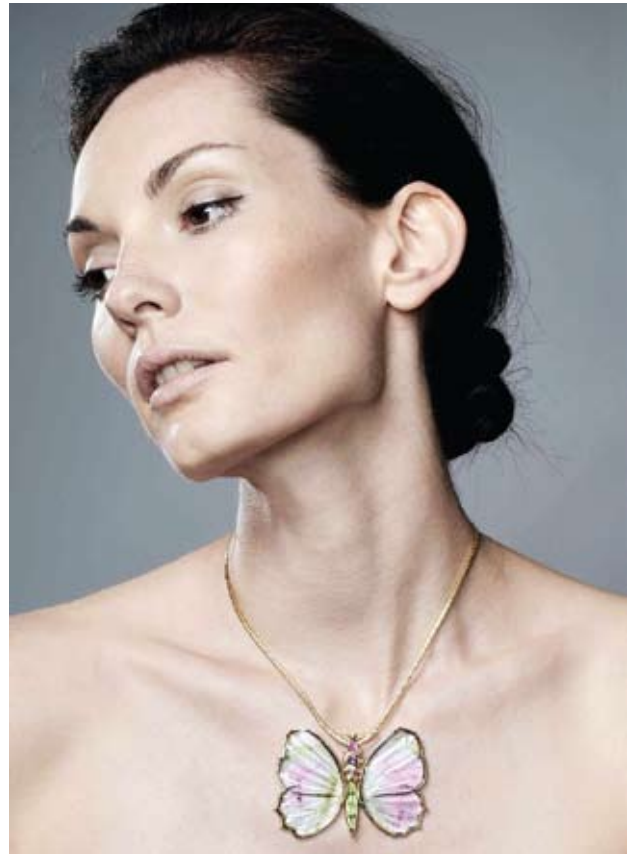
- **Wunderkammer: 2nd - 14th November**

The craftmakers of Dublin's iconic Design Tower held a unique exhibition as part of Dublin Design Week entitled *Wunderkammer* or 'cabinet of curiosities'. This was the first-ever exhibition based on a contemporary response by craftmakers to a historic collection, which drew on the rich subject-matter of the Albert M. Bender collection of Asian Art in the National Museum of Ireland. It was curated by Ann Mulrooney, exhibitions manager and curator of CCol's National Craft Gallery, and included the following craftmakers: Seamus Gill; Breda Haugh; Alan Ardiffe; Roisin Gartland; Ayelet Lalor; Phillip Murphy; Aisling Nelson; Bernie Murphy; Linda Uhlemann; Elizabeth O Kane; Michael DeHoog; Da Capo Goldsmiths; Pat McBride and Tammy Bradley. The Crafts Council of Ireland provided support to this exhibition via the Network Support Scheme and assisted in its promotion.

- **The Devil's in the Detail: Celebrating the jewellery of Rudolf Heltzel (December 6 – 23, 2009)**

In December 2009, Laura Magahy, Chairman of the Crafts Council of Ireland opened the 'The Devil's in the Detail' – an exhibition offering a rare opportunity to view the work of internationally acclaimed Kilkenny-based goldsmith, Rudolf Heltzel, at the Hunt Museum, Limerick.

Heltzel played an important role in the development of design in Ireland. Originally from Germany, he came to Kilkenny in 1966, to develop the metal and silverwork department at the newly formed Kilkenny Design Workshops which was the world's first state-sponsored design agency. The Crafts Council of Ireland was delighted to support this important exhibition and to celebrate Heltzel's significant contribution to great Irish design.



'Model with rainbow tourmaline' by jeweller Rudolf Heltzel
The Devil's in the Detail, The Hunt Museum, 2009

(CONTINUED)

Photography and Images

The Crafts Council of Ireland each year produces a volume of professional images for a variety of purposes including press, publications and for general archiving. All images are held on the Crafts Council of Ireland's digital image library. Throughout 2009, CCol responded to a variety of national and international media requests for images.

Archive

In the past few years CCol has created a cultural archive and record of former publications, exhibitions and events. 2009 saw the start of digitisation of former CCol publications (dating back to the early 1970's) to be made available on-line in the future.

Website - www.ccoi.ie

The Crafts Council of Ireland's website www.ccoi.ie continues to be utilised as an important information resource for its clients. It provides up to date information on forthcoming opportunities, news and events and National Craft Gallery exhibitions. It also hosts over 1,700 individual web pages promoting its registered clients and holds a large amount of downloadable publications and an image gallery. In 2009 the CCol website featured the Stories in the Making craftmaker video series.

The number of visitors to the CCol website continued to show an upward trend year on year from 123,548 'unique visitors' recorded for year-end 2009 compared to 108,661 during 2008 (an increase of over 13%).

Publications

The Crafts Council of Ireland produced a number of high quality print and digital publications in 2009 to help promote awareness and appreciation of Irish Craft. In addition to the catalogues for the National Craft Gallery exhibitions, three editions of CCol's newsletter, *Stopress*, were also produced. During 2009 a review was carried out of *Stopress*. This will now issue quarterly with more features, including a regular feature on the guilds, associations, networks & societies.

Digital publications produced during 2009 included the 2008 Annual Report, digital versions of the Crafts Council of Ireland newsletter *Stopress*, the Craft as a Career information sheets and the Creative Pathways report.

E-Communications

The Crafts Council of Ireland continued to increase its e-communications in 2009 with targeted emails and e-bulletins on relevant industry information, opportunities and promotional news.

World Crafts Council (WCC) - Europe Annual General Assembly 2009

The Annual General Assembly 2009 of WCC-Europe was hosted and organised by the Swiss entity Form Forum, Switzerland's largest craft organisation and there was representation from 14 countries present. Attendance by CCol was particularly relevant in terms of gathering information for the General Assembly of the World Crafts Council – Europe, which will take place in Ireland in 2011.

2011 Year of Craft

The Crafts Council of Ireland has designated 2011, the 40th anniversary of its foundation, as the "Year of Craft". During 2009, CCol commenced planning a programme of events for 2011 to generate excitement around Irish craft. This will include high profile exhibitions and public events of craft and other art forms throughout the year.

CCol also held discussions during 2009 with key partners for the 2011 Year of Craft and has received a very favourable response. In November, CCol began the process of recruiting a Year of Craft Project Manager to work with the member organisations and other strategic partners such as festival organisers in executing the ambitious plans.

'Tear drop bowls' by ceramicist Michele Hannan



PROGRAMMES 2009

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS & CLIENT SERVICES

KEY OBJECTIVES

- TO INCREASE SERVICES DELIVERED TO MEMBERS AND CLIENTS
- TO DELIVER A STRONG CUSTOMER SERVICE ETHOS ACROSS THE ORGANISATION
- TO INCREASE CLIENT REGISTRATION AND ORGANISATION MEMBERSHIP OF THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

Member Organisations

The member organisations of both corporate bodies and the GANS (Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies) is an important group for CCol as it represents the backbone of the Crafts Council of Ireland's craft activity and supports in Ireland. During the year CCol facilitated a number of meetings for member organisations to meet, network, share best practice and discuss issues and opportunities to promote Irish craft.

Two GANS meetings were held in Kilkenny, the first in April was attended by 21 people representing 18 member organisations. Carmel Creaner presented on the Cork Textiles Network while Sarah Ross presented on the RDS National Crafts Competition. The second meeting held in September was attended by 20 people representing 17 member organisations. Evan Petty gave a talk on the Irish Woodturners Guild, while presentations also included Year of Craft 2011 and craft teaching recognition. Both sessions provided opportunities for open discussion and networking.

Network Support Schemes

The CCol Network Support Scheme which part funds marketing, exhibition and training initiatives by member organisations continued in 2009 and awarded €37,095 in total. During 2009 a taskforce comprising a number of member organisations was established to review the effectiveness of the Network Support Scheme. Several recommendations from this group have been incorporated into the 2010 Network Support Scheme. A breakdown of the organisations who received financial support in 2009 is set out below:

NAME	ALLOCATION €
Bridge Street Studios	2,000
Ceramics Ireland	1,000
Cork Textiles Network	5,000
Feltmakers Ireland	1,170
Hands On	1,000
Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association	2,000
Irish Basketmakers Association	800
Irish Patchwork Society	3,200
Laois Craft	2,125
Louth Craftmark	4,000
Offaly Crafty	2,300
South Wexford Craft Network	3,000
The Design Tower	4,000
The Fire Station Artist's Studio	3,500
West Cork Craft & Design Guild	2,000
Total	€37,095

Client Register

During 2009 the Register of clients grew from 1,701 to 1,962 and associate clients grew from 512 to 838. €6,302 was given to clients for Research Missions to assist them participate in international events such as attend tradeshows.

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Bloom

Nine member organisations attended Bloom, the consumer garden show, which runs over five days and was attended by 60,000 members of the public.

CCoI's member organisations participation in the Show provided an opportunity for the public to learn more about the craft skills and techniques of the different craft disciplines. Many got a chance to try making – some for the first time! It also provided an excellent opportunity for the member organisations to promote membership of their group and encourage more to try their hand at a craft. It certainly helped raise the profile of hand made Irish craft. Participating member organisations included:

- Irish Basketmakers Association
- Ceramics Ireland
- Feltnmakers Ireland
- Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association
- Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers
- Irish Woodturners Guild
- Letter Carvers Guild
- Peannairí, Irish Calligraphers
- The Eastern Branch of the Irish Patchwork Society

Knitting & Stitching Show

A number of member organisations attended the Knitting & Stitching Show held in the RDS, Dublin from the 29th October to 1st November 2009. In addition, a taskforce consisting of a number of our members organisations commenced discussions in 2009 with the organisers of the Knitting & Stitching Show regarding an Exhibition and Competition to be held in 2010 at the Show.

Regional Networking Events

The Regional Networking Events, which started in 2008, continued throughout 2009. The purpose of these events is to enhance opportunity for dialogue between the Crafts Council of Ireland and key stakeholders in the crafts industry. Craft enterprises, craft networks, retailers, gallery owners and all those involved in supporting the crafts industry were invited to attend and share their views and ideas on craft in an open discussion. Advertisements to encourage participation were also taken in local media. Valuable input and suggestions on ways in which the Crafts Council of Ireland could improve its services were received and have been incorporated into future plans. During 2009 events took place in Listowel (2nd February), Athlone, (9th March), Drogheda (29th April) and Galway (21st October).



'Walnut chair with woven cane seat'
by furniture designer Stephen O'Briain

'Samurai' by furniture designers Dunleavy Bespoke
Generation, National Craft Gallery, 2009



OUR GOVERNANCE

THE CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND IS A LIMITED COMPANY. CCoI IS AN ORGANISATION OF MEMBER ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS, WHICH SHARE CCoI'S AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AND ARE INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION OF CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL CRAFT.



'1920's style origami hat' by Linda Wilson Knitwear



OUR BOARD MEMBERS

MINISTERIAL APPOINTEES:

Gerry Wycherley
Chairman (up to 19th June, 2009)

Laura Magahy
Chairman (appointed 2nd September, 2009)

Paddy Hopkins
(re-appointed 22nd July, 2009)

Jean Byrne

Jim Dunne

Anna Foy

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES:

Sheila Ahern
(elected 9th June, 2009)

Tina Byrne

Christine Charlton

Carmel Creaner
(elected 9th June, 2009)

Sarah Daly

JP Donnelly
(up to 9th June, 2009)

Emmet Kane

Anne Montgomery
(up to 9th June, 2009)

Beth Moran
(re-elected 9th June, 2009)

Loretta O'Brien

Alison Ospina

Peter Pollock

'Perspex lace cuff bangle'
by jeweller Rachel MKC



OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM

Úna Parsons
Chief Executive Officer

Mary Dunphy
Annette Keating
(up to 19th June, 2009)
Executive Assistant

EDUCATION, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Helen Murphy
Head of Education, Training & Development
(from 5th May, 2009)

Emer Ferran
Business Development Programme Manager

Louise Allen
Education Awareness Manager

Leslie Ryan
(from 25th May, 2009)
Education & Outreach Officer

Amanda Walsh
Genevieve Murphy
(maternity cover up to 31st October, 2009)
Education, Training & Development Administrator

Gus Mabelson
Ceramics Skills Course Manager

Eimear Conyard
Jewellery Skills Course Manager

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Brian McGee
(from 9th March, 2009)
Head of Market Development

Nicola Doran
Gillian O'Callaghan
(maternity cover from 16th November, 2009)
Retail Programme Manager

Emma McGrath
Retail Executive

Ann Mulrooney
(from 2nd March, 2009)

Vincent O'Shea
(up to 31st March, 2009)
Exhibitions Manager & Curator

Brian Byrne
Exhibitions Assistant

Des Doyle
(from 9th February, 2009)
Collector & Craft Tourism Development Manager

PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS

Susan Brindley
(from 9th February, 2009)
Head of Public Affairs & Communications

Caroline O'Riordan
Communications & Marketing Manager

Emma Briscoe
Communications Assistant

OPERATIONS

Karen Hennessy
(from 9th February, 2009)
Head of Operations

Mary Blanchfield
Finance Manager

Julie Jackman
Finance Assistant

Nuala McGrath
HR & Corporate Services Manager

Breda English
Joanne Lawlor
(up to 4th September, 2009)
Customer Service Assistant

Mary Whelan
Client Liaison Officer

Mary Rhatigan
Client Services Administrator

OUR MEMBERS

AN ORGANISATION OF ORGANISATIONS

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

Members are:

- Subscribers to the Memorandum of Association (founders) - 4
- Persons nominated by the Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland to represent unincorporated associations upon which the Board may wish to confer the benefit of membership (Guilds, Associations, Networks and Societies (GANS)) – 39
- Corporate bodies (institutions, partners) - 10
- Individual persons whom the Board of the Crafts Council of Ireland shall from time to time decide to admit to membership

Changes to Membership 2009

The Crafts Council of Ireland is delighted to welcome the Art & Craft Collective @ Sulis Design Centre in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan which joined as a member in June 2009. Organisations that applied to be removed as members during 2009 as they ceased to exist were: Embroidery Artists, Craftmark - Cross Border Network and Limerick Ceramic Works.

'Hazel catkin bowl' by basketmaker Joe Hogan



OUR MEMBERS

LIST OF 53 MEMBERS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009

GANS MEMBERS - 21 BY CRAFT DISCIPLINE

- Ceramics Ireland
- Dunbrody Textile Academy
- Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers in Ireland (FJMI)
- Feltmakers Ireland
- Glass Society of Ireland
- Guild of Irish Lacemakers
- Handweavers Guild of Cork
- Institute of Designers in Ireland
- Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association
- Irish Basketmakers Association
- Irish Chairmakers
- Irish Guild of Embroiderers
- Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers
- Irish Knitwear Exporters Guild (IKEG)
- Irish Patchwork Society
- Irish Woodturners Guild
- Letter Carvers Guild Ireland
- Na Píobairí Uilleann
- Peannairí
- Quilters Guild of Ireland
- Society of Cork Potters
- Tower Design Group, Dublin
- Waterford Designer Makers
- West Cork Arts Centre
- West Cork Craft & Design Guild
- West Kerry Crafts Guild
- Wecraftnet Ltd.

10 CORPORATE MEMBERS

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

FOUNDING MEMBERS

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

GANS MEMBERS - 18 BY REGION

- Art & Craft Collective @ Sulis Design Centre, Monaghan (joined June 2009)
- Cavan Monaghan Art & Craft Network
- Ceardlann, Spiddal Craft & Design Studios
- Clare Association of Artists & Craftworkers
- Cork Textiles Network Group
- Craft & Design Collective
- Louth Craftmark Designers Network
- MADE in Kilkenny (formerly Kilkenny Craft Network)
- Offaly Crafty
- Royal Dublin Society
- The Fire Station Artist's Studio, Dublin
- The Leitrim Design House

OUR COMMITTEE & TASKFORCE MEMBERS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Emmet Kane

Committee Chairperson and CCol Board Member

Christine Charlton

CCol Board Member

Anna Foy

CCol Board Member

Peter Pollock

CCol Board Member

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Laura Magahy

(Gerry Wycherley up to 19th June, 2009)

Committee Chairperson and CCol Chairperson

Paddy Hopkins

CCol Board Member

Úna Parsons

CCol Chief Executive

Karen Hennessy

CCol Head of Operations

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Laura Magahy

(Gerry Wycherley up to 19th June, 2009)

Committee Chairperson and CCol Chairperson

Jim Dunne

(from November 2009)

CCol Board Member

Paddy Hopkins

CCol Board Member

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ADVISORY PANEL (UP TO JUNE 2009)

Gerry Wycherley

Panel Chairperson and CCol Chairperson

Úna Parsons

CCol Chief Executive

Anne Montgomery

CCol Board Member

Loretta O'Brien

CCol Board Member

Andrea Cleary

Craftsperson and Lecturer at St. Patrick's College

Joe Crockett

County Manager, Kilkenny County Council

James Dennison

Head of Department, Limerick School of Art and Design

Seán McKeown

Chief Executive, Kilkenny County Enterprise Board

Lisa O'Brien

Art Teachers Association of Ireland

Derek West

*National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals
(Post-Primary)*

Polly Minett

Coordinator, Craft in the Classroom Programme

**SKILLS ADVISORY PANEL
(UP TO SEPTEMBER 2009)**

Helen Murphy

*Panel Chairperson and Head of Education,
Training and Development, CCol*

Emmet Kane

CCol Board Member

Peter Meanley

Ceramics Sector Representative

Jim Robinson

Ceramics Sector Representative

Peter Slusarczuk

Jewellery Sector Representative

Tuula Harrington

Jewellery Sector Representative

**EXHIBITIONS ADVISORY PANEL
(UP TO JUNE 2009)**

Mary Gallagher

*Panel Chairperson,
Independent Project Manager & Curator*

Jean Byrne

CCol Board Member

Sarah Daly

CCol Board Member

Beth Moran

CCol Board Member

Úna Parsons

CCol Chief Executive

Audrey Whitty

*Curator of Ceramics, Glass & Asian Collections,
National Museum of Ireland*

Helen O'Donoghue

*Education & Outreach Officer,
Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA)*

OUR JOINT VENTURE COMPANY

Showcase Ireland Events Ltd. Board

Laura Magahy

*(Gerry Wycherley up to 19th June, 2009)
CCol Chairman*

Úna Parsons

CCol Chief Executive

Gerry Murphy

Expo Events Ltd. Chairman

Our membership of other organisations

- World Crafts Council-Europe
- Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce
- Irish Business & Employers Federation (IBEC)



'Silver, bi metal and serpentine beads' by jeweller Inga Reed

OUR ACCOUNTS

CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

'Cufflinks gold & sterling silver' by jeweller Seamus Gill



CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND LIMITED

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

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DIRECTORS & OTHER INFORMATION

DIRECTORS:

Laura Magahy (Chairman)
 Anna Foy
 Carmel Creaner
 Elizabeth Moran
 Alison Ospina
 Jean Byrne
 Patrick Hopkins
 Loretta O'Brien
 Peter Pollock
 Sarah Daly
 Christine Charlton
 Jim Dunne
 Tina Byrne
 Emmet Kane
 Sheila Ahern

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE:

Karen Hennessy

Crafts Council of Ireland
 Castle Yard
 Kilkenny

AUDITORS:

Horwath Bastow Charleton
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Marine House
 Clanwilliam Court
 Dublin 2

BANKERS:

Allied Irish Banks plc

Bank Centre Branch
 Ballsbridge
 Dublin 4

Bank of Ireland

Parliament Street
 Kilkenny

Allied Irish Bank

St Helens
 1 Undershaft
 London EC3A 8AB

SOLICITORS:

Beauchamps Solicitors

2 Wellington Quay
 Dublin 2

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

THE DIRECTORS SUBMIT THEIR REPORT TOGETHER WITH
THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009.

DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

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

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 202 Companies Act, 1990, the company has employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and has maintained appropriate accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's office at Castle Yard, Kilkenny. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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

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

RESULTS, DIVIDENDS AND RETENTIONS

	Year ended 31 December 2009 €	Year ended 31 December 2008 €
--	----------------------------------------	----------------------------------------

The results and appropriations are summarised as follows:-

(Deficit)/ surplus for the year, after taxation	(148,727)	11,585
Increase in capital account	134,108	59,835
Accumulated funds at beginning of year	578,555	507,135
Accumulated funds at end of year	<u>563,936</u>	<u>578,555</u>

STATE OF AFFAIRS AND EVENTS SINCE THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

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

TAXATION STATUS

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

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The present membership of the board is set out on page 68.

On the 9 June 2009, John Paul Donnelly and Anne Montgomery retired as directors and Sheila Ahern and Carmel Creaner were appointed directors.

On the 19 June 2009, Gerard Wycherley resigned as director and on the 2 September 2009, Laura Magahy was appointed director.

On the 20 January 2010, Úna Parsons resigned as secretary and Karen Hennessy was appointed secretary.

In accordance with the Articles of Association, the directors retire by rotation.

AUDITORS

Horwath Bastow Charleton are eligible and have expressed their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Section 160(2) of the Companies Act 1963.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD :

Laura Magahy
Director

Patrick Hopkins
Director

Date: 29 April 2010

STATEMENT OF SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

The Board of Directors acknowledges its responsibility for the Crafts Council of Ireland Limited's system of financial control. It also recognises that any system of financial control can only give a reasonable and not absolute assurance against any material errors. The internal financial controls in operation within the Crafts Council of Ireland Limited during 2009 are detailed as follows.

The key procedures, which have been put in place by the Executive Committee, designed to provide effective financial control are:

CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

- All staff members have been supplied with financial procedures manual, including procurement, debtor and creditor procedures.

IDENTIFICATION OF BUSINESS RISKS AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The Crafts Council of Ireland Limited is primarily grant funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment through Enterprise Ireland. Any major change to this funding is a business risk.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- The Crafts Council of Ireland Limited's information systems include an integrated professional financial and management accounting package MYOB (Mind Your Own Business). There are integrated financial control modules for income, expenditure, debtors, creditors and fixed assets on the system.
- The Crafts Council of Ireland Limited uses a computerised payroll package.

PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING EFFECTIVENESS OF FINANCIAL CONTROL

- The Finance Team monitors income and expenditure transactions to ensure compliance for accuracy, validity and appropriate programme attribution. Monthly management accounts are prepared, comparing budgeted income and expenditure with that actually incurred.
- The Board of Directors have established a Finance Committee. The Terms of Reference of this Committee are agreed by the Board of Directors.
- The Finance Committee reviews the management accounts, with an examination of the underlying transactions and activities to ensure completeness and accuracy. A financial update from the Finance Committee is given at each Crafts Council of Ireland board meeting.
- There is an annual budgetary process whereby each process team produces a detailed direct expenditure budget, which is then reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the Internal Auditor, the Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the External Financial Auditor and the Executive Team within the Crafts Council of Ireland.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD :

Laura Magahy
Director

Patrick Hopkins
Director

Date: 29 April 2010

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF CRAFTS COUNCIL OF IRELAND LIMITED

We have audited the financial statements of Crafts Council of Ireland Limited on pages 84 to 93 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

As described on page 78 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

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

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company and whether the information given in the directors' report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit and whether the company's financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

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

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

(CONTINUED)

BASIS OF OPINION

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

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

OPINION

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its deficit and cashflows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations that we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit. In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the company. The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion, the information given in the directors' report on pages 78 and 79 is consistent with the financial statements.

Horwath Bastow Charleton

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Marine House
Clanwilliam Court
Dublin 2

Date: 7 May 2010

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and the Companies Acts 1963 to 2009. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

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

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on leasehold improvements, office equipment and computers and equipment and machinery, so as to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful economic life on a straight line basis at the following annual rates:

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

PENSIONS

The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contribution payable by the company during the year. The regular cost of providing retirement pensions and related benefits is charged to the profit and loss account as it is incurred.

DEFERRED TAXATION

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

GOVERNMENT GRANTS

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	2009 €	2008 €
INCOME		3,597,923	3,936,517
Transfer to capital account		(134,108)	(59,835)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		3,463,815	3,876,682
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		(3,610,520)	(3,858,508)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	1	(146,705)	18,174
TAXATION	3	(2,022)	(6,589)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	9	(148,727)	11,585
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 29 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Laura Magahy
Director

Patrick Hopkins
Director

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	2009 €	2008 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	4	319,602	233,814
Financial assets	5	1	1
		<u>319,603</u>	<u>233,815</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	91,436	81,968
Cash at bank and in hand		685,782	893,109
		<u>777,218</u>	<u>975,077</u>
CREDITORS (Amounts falling due within one year)	7	<u>(484,498)</u>	<u>(533,630)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		292,720	441,447
DEFERRED INCOME	8	<u>(48,387)</u>	<u>(96,707)</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u>563,936</u>	<u>578,555</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Income and expenditure account surplus	9	292,720	441,447
Capital Account	10	271,216	137,108
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>563,936</u>	<u>578,555</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 29 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Laura Magahy
Director

Patrick Hopkins
Director

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

	Notes	2009 €	2008 €
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	12	(4,462)	(235,482)
TAXATION PAID		(3,507)	(7,021)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT	13	(199,358)	(83,297)
		<u>(207,327)</u>	<u>(325,800)</u>
RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH FLOW TO MOVEMENTS IN NET FUNDS			
(DECREASE)/ INCREASE IN CASH FOR THE YEAR	14	(207,327)	(325,800)
NET FUNDS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	14	893,109	1,218,909
NET FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	14	<u>685,782</u>	<u>893,109</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

1. OPERATING (DEFICIT) SURPLUS

Operating (deficit) surplus is stated after charging (crediting):

	2009	2008
	€	€
Directors remuneration		
Fees as directors	114,750	140,000
Depreciation of tangible assets	113,570	71,782
Auditors' remuneration	8,000	8,000
Amortisation of government grants	(48,320)	(48,320)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

2. STAFF AND STAFF COSTS

The average number of persons employed during the financial period was as follows:

	2009	2008
Directors	16	16
Staff	25	18
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The aggregate amounts paid to or on behalf of employees (including directors) were as follows:

	2009	2008
	€	€
Wages and salaries	1,336,628	917,752
Social welfare costs	117,350	75,928
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The increase in staff numbers has resulted in a reduction in the number of contractors employed by the Crafts Council of Ireland.

(CONTINUED)

3. TAXATION (CREDIT)/CHARGE

	2009 €	2008 €
Current taxation :		
Corporation tax @ 12.5%	2,022	6,589
Reconciliation of current taxation charge:		
(Deficit)/ surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	(146,705)	18,174
Taxation at standard rate of 12.5%	(18,338)	2,272
Factors affecting charge:		
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	2,991	4,444
Higher tax rate on passive income	1,011	3,295
Transfer to capital account	16,763	7,479
Loss relief	(405)	(10,901)
	2,022	6,589

4. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Improvements	Office equipment and computers	Equipment and machinery	Investment collection	Total
	€	€	€	€	€
COST					
At 1 January 2009	350,728	193,203	196,187	7,886	748,004
Additions	154,041	31,713	7,864	5,740	199,358
At 31 December 2009	504,769	224,916	204,051	13,626	947,362
DEPRECIATION					
At 1 January 2009	187,456	173,417	153,317	-	514,190
Charge for the year	82,313	13,540	17,717	-	113,570
At 31 December 2009	269,769	186,957	171,034	-	627,760
NET BOOK VALUE					
At 31 December 2009	235,000	37,959	33,017	13,626	319,602
At 31 December 2008	163,272	19,786	42,870	7,886	233,814

5. FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2009	2008
	€	€
Investment in associated undertaking at cost	1	1

Name and registered office	Nature of business	% Shareholding	Relevant Share Capital
Showcase Ireland Events Limited Castle Yard, Kilkenny	Trade Fair	50%	€1.269738 ordinary shares
			€
Profit for the year ended 30 April 2009			1,166
Net assets at 30 April 2009			38,059

Details of transactions and balances between Crafts Council of Ireland and Showcase Ireland Events Limited are set out in note 16 to the financial statements.

(CONTINUED)

6. DEBTORS

	2009	2008
	€	€
Trade debtors	61,990	73,776
Value Added Tax	7,691	-
Other debtors	167	-
Prepayments	21,588	8,192
	<u>91,436</u>	<u>81,968</u>

7. CREDITORS (amounts falling due within one year)

	2009	2008
	€	€
Trade creditors and accruals	388,806	370,633
Corporation tax	-	1,318
Payments received on account	-	100,000
Payroll taxes	72,995	19,816
Value added tax	-	11,896
Pension	21,411	28,177
Other creditors	1,286	1,790
	<u>484,498</u>	<u>533,630</u>

8. DEFERRED INCOME

	2009	2008
	€	€
At 1 January 2009	96,707	145,027
Released in year	<u>(48,320)</u>	<u>(48,320)</u>
At 31 December 2009	<u>48,387</u>	<u>96,707</u>

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

9. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	2009	2008
	€	€
Accumulated surplus at beginning of the year	441,447	429,862
(Deficit)/ surplus for the year	(148,727)	11,585
Accumulated surplus at end of year	<u>292,720</u>	<u>441,447</u>

10. CAPITAL ACCOUNT

	2009	2008
	€	€
Balance at 1 January	<u>137,108</u>	<u>77,273</u>
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account		
Funds allocated to acquire fixed assets	199,358	83,297
Amortised in line with asset depreciation	(113,570)	(71,782)
Amortised in line with deferred grants	<u>48,320</u>	<u>48,320</u>
	134,108	59,835
Balance at 31 December	<u>271,216</u>	<u>137,108</u>

11. PENSION COSTS

On 15 December 1986 the then Minister for Industry and Commerce established the Crafts Council of Ireland Limited Staff Superannuation Scheme 1986 and on 11 April 1990 the then Minister for Industry and Commerce established the Crafts Council of Ireland Limited Spouses' and Children's Contributory Pension Scheme 1990.

These two pension schemes are now closed to new members. These two schemes are contributory unfunded defined benefit schemes. Contributions deducted from the payroll of staff up to 31 March 2003 were forwarded to Enterprise Ireland. Contributions deducted from staff since April 2003 are used to fund ongoing pension liabilities.

The directors believe that the State has a responsibility to the company and the members of the scheme to meet the obligations of the Scheme as they arise.

The directors believe that the company has an asset of an equal amount to any unfunded deferred liability for pensions on the basis of the assumptions detailed below and a number of past events. These events include the statutory basis for the establishment of the superannuation schemes and the policy and practice currently in place in relation to funding public service pensions including contributions by employees to the annual estimates process. The company has no evidence that this funding policy will not continue to meet such sums in accordance with current practice.

(CONTINUED)

Based on the above, and there being no employer contributions from the company, the company has accounted for the contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

Details of the pensions deducted from employees and the benefits paid to former employees during the year are as follows:

	2009 €	2008 €
Pensions contributions due to the schemes at 1 January 2009	28,177	47,065
Pensions contributions deducted from employees during the year	26,648	24,055
Benefits paid to members of the schemes	(33,414)	(42,943)
Pensions contributions due to the schemes at 31 December 2009	<u>21,411</u>	<u>28,177</u>

12. CASH FLOW STATEMENT

RECONCILIATION OF (DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION TO NET CASH (OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2009 €	2008 €
(Deficit)/ surplus on ordinary activities before taxation	(146,705)	18,174
Increase in capital account	134,108	59,835
Depreciation	113,570	71,782
Amortisation of grants	(48,320)	(48,320)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	(9,301)	119,664
(Decrease) in creditors	(47,814)	(456,617)
Net cash outflow from operating activities	<u>(4,462)</u>	<u>(235,482)</u>

13. ANALYSIS OF CASH FLOWS FOR HEADINGS NETTED IN THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT**CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL INVESTMENT**

	2009 €	2008 €
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(199,358)	(83,297)

14. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	2008 €	Cash flows €	Non-cash movement €	2009 €
Cash at bank and in hand	893,109	(207,327)	-	685,782

15. OPERATING LEASES

At 31 December 2009 the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases in relation to land and buildings as set out below:

	2009 €
Operating leases which expire Within one year	19,000

16. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year ended 31 December 2009, Crafts Council of Ireland Limited received income of €246,440 (2008: €332,358) from Showcase Ireland Events Limited, an associated company.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009 (NOT COVERED BY THE REPORT OF THE AUDITORS)

	2009 €	2008 €
INCOME		
Enterprise Ireland	3,243,000	3,450,000
Operations		
Sundry revenue	10,422	37,885
Council member subscriptions	4,524	6,032
Education, Training & Development		
Training courses	22,888	15,480
Seminars and workshops	2,500	18,389
Leargas - Leonardo EU programme	15,598	-
Market Development		
Programmes and gallery exhibitions	52,551	46,275
Showcase trade fair income	246,440	332,358
Atlantic Interreg IIB	-	10,098
Culture Ireland funding	-	20,000
	3,597,923	3,936,517
EXPENDITURE		
Operations		
IT costs	49,453	90,952
Corporate services	258,931	228,869
Membership and registration	67,043	50,689
Administration, staff development and staff costs	-	1,793,184
Education, Training & Development		
Skills training	263,977	270,081
Enterprise development programme	66,164	110,815
Education and awareness	153,506	73,497
Administration, staff development and staff costs	643,122	-

	2009 €	2008 €
Market Development		
National exhibition programme	289,915	417,292
Collector programme	144,555	298,528
Retail programme	177,856	389,944
Administration, staff development and staff costs	814,600	-
Craft Awareness		
Communications	292,403	134,657
Administration, staff development and staff costs	388,995	-
	<u>3,610,520</u>	<u>3,858,508</u>
(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(12,597)	78,009
Transfer to capital account	(134,108)	(59,835)
(DEFICIT)/ SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION	<u>(146,705)</u>	<u>18,174</u>

APPENDICES

OUR MEMBERS' REPORTS



'Jewellery series' by jeweller Eily O'Connell



OUR MEMBERS' REPORTS

OUR MEMBER ORGANISATION ACTIVITIES

30 OF OUR 53 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS HAVE PROVIDED REPORTS OF THEIR ACTIVITIES IN 2009. THESE ORGANISATIONS HAVE 9,357 MEMBERS AS FOLLOWS:

GUILDS, ASSOCIATIONS, NETWORKS & SOCIETIES (GANS)	NO.	CORPORATE MEMBERS:	NO.
Art & Craft Collective @ Sulis Design Centre	9	CIT Crawford College of Art & Design (Ceramics)	5
Cavan Monaghan Art & Craft Network	53	Association of CEOs of County & City Enterprise Boards	35
Ceardlann, Spiddal Craft & Design Studios	10	Sub-total	40
Ceramics Ireland	221	Grand total	9,357
Clare Association of Artists & Craftworkers	27		
Cork Textiles Network	95		
Craft & Design Collective	178		
Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers of Ireland	30		
Feltmakers Ireland	220		
Glass Society of Ireland	140		
Guild of Irish Lacemakers	150		
Handweavers Guild of Cork	23		
Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association	41		
Irish Basketmakers Association	100		
Irish Chairmakers	10		
Irish Guild of Embroiderers	60		
Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers	90		
Irish Patchwork Society	400		
Irish Woodturners Guild	776		
Louth Craftmark Designers Network	30		
MADE in Kilkenny	26		
Na Píobairí Uilleann	1,200		
Offaly Crafty	30		
Peannairí	30		
Quilters Guild of Ireland	330		
Royal Dublin Society	5,000		
The Design Tower	18		
West Cork Craft & Design Guild	20		
Sub-total	9,317		

GUILDS, ASSOCIATIONS, NETWORKS & SOCIETIES (GANS)

**ART & CRAFT COLLECTIVE @
SULIS DESIGN CENTRE**

www.sulisartandcraft.ie

Year set-up: 2008

Number of members: 9

COMMITTEE:

Roisin Duffy

Chairperson

Carmel O Callaghan

Treasurer

Elaine Hoey

Secretary

The Art & Craft Collective is a group of artists and craftworkers, who formed to showcase, promote and develop arts and crafts in the North East region.

Following the opening of their collective design centre and gallery "Sulis" in December, the Art and Craft Collective has gone from strength to strength. They hosted a number of events throughout the year in Sulis, including open evenings, a wine and chocolate Valentines promotion evening, and the launch of a new artisan collection for Easter.

The Collective became a member of the GANS Network in June 2009.

As part of local Carrickmacross Festival Weekend the Art & Craft Collective ran craft demonstrations for the public with Liz Christy (hand weaving) and Louise Loughman (silk painting).

In July the Collective opened a new small gallery space and hosted three exhibitions by visiting artists including *Donegal Elemental Women* – an exhibition of sculpture, ceramics and painting by artists/craftworkers from Donegal; an exhibition of contemporary Carrickmacross lace by Therese Kelly; and an exhibition of pastel work by Patricia O’Kane.

Some members of the Art & Craft Collective also took part in the *Green Day Exhibition* at Sulis Design, with work featuring recycled materials and found objects.

In December, there were 1st birthday celebrations in Sulis Design Centre and the launch of *Crafts for Christmas*.

Finally, the Art & Craft Collective was also presented with a grant award of €1,500 from the Monaghan County Arts Office.



Art & Craft Collective @ Sulis Design Centre
Elemental Strands, Sulis Gallery, 2009

(CONTINUED)

**CAVAN MONAGHAN
ART AND CRAFT
NETWORK (CMACN)**

www.cavanmonaghancrafts.com

Year set-up: 1999

Number of members: 53

COMMITTEE:

Anne Godwin

Chairperson

Frances Sawaya

Secretary

Sinead Clarke

Treasurer

Liz Parker

Member

Pauline Lynch

Member

Cavan Monaghan Art and Craft Network provides support and training services to artists and craftworkers in Cavan and Monaghan through art and craft fairs, exhibitions, training courses, social events, and a website. Concern for the welfare of all members is a core value. The aim of the Network is to offer support to all craft workers in the region.

Their website provides an online presence to any member who wishes to avail of it. In 2009 CMACN members participated in events such as Showcase, Bloom, the Craft Village at the National Ploughing Championships and The National Crafts & Design Fair at the RDS, Dublin. The annual Christmas Craft Fair at the RDS once again attracted applications for space from all over Ireland and as usual demand outstripped space available. Customer numbers were up and feedback from crafters was very positive.

CEARDLANN - SPIDDAL CRAFT & DESIGN STUDIOS

www.ceardlann.com

Year set-up: 2005

Number of members: 10

COMMITTEE:

Rod D'Eath

Chairman

Gearóid O Murchú

Treasurer

Geraldine O'Rourke

Marketing Manager

Ceardlann an Spidéal comprises a cluster of ten craft workshops. It has been open to the public since 1984. This network of individual businesses cooperates together for the purposes of marketing and organising events.

The first exhibition of the year, Éigse an Spidéal, was held at Sliding Rock Pottery in March. This was followed in September by the launch of the Andrea Rossi Painting Gallery Exhibition of Ceramics by Nanette Ledwith & Kathleen Standen and an exhibition of new work by mixed media artist Geraldine O'Rourke in her studio/workshop in October.

(CONTINUED)

CERAMICS IRELAND

www.ceramicsireland.org



Year set-up: 1977

Number of members: 221

COMMITTEE:**Elaine Riordan***Chairperson***Tina Byrne***Treasurer, Editor Ceramics Ireland Magazine***Caroline Dolan***Membership Secretary***Eleanor Swan***Public Relations***Grainne Watts****Paddy Weston****Anraí O' Braonain****Rosemarie Durr****Kate Mc Laughlin****Gus Mabelson****Caomhan Mac Con Iomaire****Cormac O' Brethuin****Geraldine Grubb**

Ceramics Ireland aims to foster creativity, passion and excellence, raising the standard, quality and profile of all ceramic activity in Ireland.

The Society's AGM was held in the RDS in January and included a presentation on SOFA by Frances Lambe and Tina Byrne. In February a successful "Hands on Weekend" Workshop with Sándor Dobány, Hungary and Angela Pointon, UK, was held in Ann Marie O'Shea's Anam Cre' Studio, in Kerry.

In March/April Rosemarie Durr attended the GANS meeting and Elaine Riordan and Tina Byrne took a stand to promote Ceramics Ireland at NCECA in Phoenix, Arizona.

May saw the Society's annual exhibition at Ardgillan Castle, Balbriggan, followed by a demonstration at Bloom in June.

In July members of the Society attended the International Ceramic Festival at Aberystwyth, Wales and took a stand to promote their International Festival 2010, the magazine and overseas subscriptions.

Ceramics Ireland had proposed the Jack Doherty exhibition, which opened at the National Craft Gallery in August. In conjunction with this they ran a one-day workshop with Jack Doherty.

The Ceramics Ireland Award at the RDS Craft Show went to Nuala O'Donovan and the Ceramics at the Hallward Gallery, Ceramics Ireland Award was presented to Sinead Glynn. Awards at the juried exhibition at Dalkey Castle and Heritage Centre included

The Peter Brennan Pioneering Award – Sinead Glynn

The Hallward Award – Grainne Watts

The Mill Cove Award – Karen Morgan

The Gallery Zozimus Award – Sinead Glynn

This exhibition went to Plan Expo again in 2009 and Tina Byrne travelled to SOFA.

Finally, an Ireland Museum China meeting was held and the date for the residency of September 2011 was confirmed.

CLARE ASSOCIATION OF ARTISTS AND CRAFTWORKERS (CLARE CRAFTS)



Year set-up: 1993

Number of members: 27

COMMITTEE:

Carmel Neylon

Chairperson

Karen English

Secretary

Laurence Stewart

Treasurer

Clare Association of Artists and Craftworkers aims to encourage the development of arts and crafts in the area and the development of education and training facilities for artists/craftworkers.

Clare Association of Artists and Craftworkers runs events/fairs throughout the year specialising in Christmas fairs in Clare and surrounding counties.

(CONTINUED)

CORK TEXTILES NETWORKwww.corktextiles.com

Year set-up: 1998

Number of members: 95

COMMITTEE:

Carmel Creaner
Chairperson

Bridget Dwyer
Secretary

Martina Carroll
Treasurer

Cork Textiles Network was founded in 1998 with the aim of promoting textile art by offering support to both enthusiasts and practitioners. The network offers a forum for sharing ideas and skills through group meetings, skills exchanges, workshops, conferences and exhibitions, all of which are run on a regular basis.

2009 was an active year for the Cork Textiles Network (CTN). Chairperson, Carmel Creaner was elected to the Board of CCOI and CTN ran a number of successful events including:

- *"Transforming Textiles"* a one day conference featuring lectures and workshops from Ireland's and Britain's leading contemporary textile artists.
- Skills exchange day on *"Dry Needle Felting"* with Carmel Creaner.
- *"Elemental"* an exhibition of new work by members of CTN and opened by Úna Parsons, Chief Executive, Crafts Council of Ireland. The exhibition was visited by 6,000 visitors to the Cork area and for the first time classes were organised for children attending the event.
- *"Machine Embroidery and Collage"*: a two-day Masterclass with Lynn Kenny.
- Eight CTN members were selected to participate in the Glucksman Craft Fair in November. This prestigious event helped to establish the members work and brings the high quality of textile workmanship to the general public.
- Towards the end of the year CTN took a stand at the Knitting and Stitching show in the RDS and participated in the Courtyard Christmas Craft Fair in Midleton. In addition, *"The Long Note"* an exhibition of work by members of CTN at the Cork School of Music was opened in November by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Micheál Martin. The exhibition was well received showcasing 46 pieces from members and visited by 4,000 members of the public.
- Finally, CTN has been invited to participate in the Stroud International Festival of Textiles in May 2010.



Lynn Kenny of Cork Textiles Network

CRAFT & DESIGN COLLECTIVE

www.craftanddesigncollective.com



Year set-up: 1997
Number of members: 178

COMMITTEE:
(April 2009–March 2010)

Karl Harron
Chairman

Jill Graham
Vice-Chairman

Lorraine Rea
Treasurer

Alison Fitzgerald

Fiona Kerr

Garvan Traynor

Heather Wilson

Karen Shannon

Mark Hanvey

Rachel McKnight

The Craft & Design Collective (CDC) is an independent membership organisation formed in 1997 by Artist/Designer/Makers for Artist/Designer/Makers to help raise the profile and manage and facilitate the development of Craft, Applied Art and Design. The collective is dedicated to the promotion, representation, understanding and development of Craft, Applied Art and Design.

2009 – 2010 included the following activities:

- Production of e-bulletin to publicise opportunities in the Craft, Applied Art and Design Sector and to provide information exchange
- Maintenance of CDC's website www.craftanddesigncollective.com
- Maintenance of the Information Library/Resource Centre at Space CRAFT
- Annual Subsidised Photography Scheme 'Hello Photo'
- Exhibition Programme at Space CRAFT (10 Exhibitions)
- CRAFT FEST, CDC's annual August craft festival, a celebration of craft, applied art and design, including a craft fair and demonstrations and workshops
- Newry Town Hall Craft Fair which replaced the annual November Craft Fair at Narrow Water Castle
- Management of Space CRAFT, shop, gallery and exhibition area

This year the Annual Exhibition, *Inspired by...* was designed to celebrate the reopening of the Ulster Museum after its three year, £17 million redevelopment project. Artist/Designer/Makers were invited to visit the Ulster Museum and to create one-off or limited edition pieces inspired by their visit. A catalogue was produced to coincide with the exhibition. The selection panel was Kim Mawhinney, Head of Art and Elise Taylor, Curator of Applied Art, National Museums Northern Ireland. The exhibition was officially opened by Dr Jim McGreevy, Director of Collections and Interpretation, National Museums Northern Ireland.

Many of the activities were made possible with funding from the National Lottery through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.



*Piece by Rachel McKnight,
Craft & Design Collective, 2009*

(CONTINUED)

FEDERATION OF JEWELLERY MANUFACTURERS OF IRELAND

www.FJMI.com



F J M I

The Federation of Jewellery Manufacturers of Ireland (FJMI) was established in 1963 to coordinate the manufacture of jewellery in Ireland. Its members undertake to carry on the ancient tradition of jewellery making and to abide by the FJMI strict Code of Ethics.

During the year FJMI members hosted visits to their workshops by members of the North American Celtic Trade Association. During Showcase 2009, a competition was run for retail stores who placed orders with exhibiting FJMI members. Work also commenced on a new FJMI.com website.

Finally, FJMI liaised with the Assay office and government departments to ensure the Irish hallmark is protected and policed through legislation.

Year set-up: 1963

Number of members: 30

COMMITTEE:

John Condron

Chairperson

Ida Kiernan

Secretary

Jack Henderson

Treasurer

Eoin McDonnell

Training and Education

Paul O'Rourke

Membership information and PR

Paul O'Neill

Website

FELTMAKERS IRELAND

www.feltmakersireland.com



Year set-up: 2003
Number of members: 220

COMMITTEE:

Elizabeth Bonnar
President

Eleanor Roche
Chairperson

Sheila Ahern
Secretary

Susan Walsh
Treasurer

Holly Angle

Maureen Cromer
Lucan Drop-in day

Gina Faustino
Newsletter Organiser

Cristina Garcia Grijlbo
Newsletter Organiser

Colleen Prendiville
Newsletter Organiser

Kathrina Hughes

Clodagh McDonagh

Suzanne Phelan
Membership Secretary

Feltmakers Ireland aims to promote and foster excellence in the ancient craft of feltmaking throughout the island of Ireland.

2009 was a busy year for Feltmakers Ireland with a range of workshops starting with *Basic and Beyond* in January. This was followed with two workshops by German Feltmaker, Annette Quentin-Stoll, one on points, tubes, pockets and folds and another on small creatures.

In March the Committee attended the AGM of International Feltmakers in Scotland and in June Feltmakers Ireland participated in the Craft area in the Bloom Garden Show.

Following this in July eighteen members of Feltmakers Ireland attended an International Symposium in Denmark. As in Scotland many good contacts were made and some beautiful work was produced. Feltmakers Ireland also participated in Féile na Féilte, in The Museum of Country Life, Castlebar.

August saw Feltmakers Ireland involved in the Dóchas Centre in Mountjoy Womens prison as part of their summer school. It was also awarded the use of a studio in the Phoenix Park, which opened to the public in August.

Autumn activities included four committee members and two Northern Ireland members demonstrating the ancient craft of feltmaking at the Rare Breeds show in Gosford Park, Armagh. With the help of Network Support Funding from CCoI, Feltmakers Ireland brought Icelandic feltmaker, Anna Gunnarsdottir to Ireland for a very successful two day workshop on sculptural hats.

Finally, in what has become an annual event, the group took a stand at the Knitting and Stitching Show in the RDS. As in previous years, this proved to be very successful.

All in all a great year for Feltmakers Ireland, made possible by the huge amount of work put in by all members of the committee.



*Clodagh MacDonagh
of Feltmakers Ireland
demonstrating at Bloom
in the Park 2009*

(CONTINUED)

GLASS SOCIETY OF IRELAND (GSOI)

www.glassocietyofireland.blogspot.com



Year set-up: 1991
Number of members: 140
approximately

COMMITTEE:

Aideen McCole
Administrator

Gerlinde Kugler
Treasurer

Deirdre Rogers

Elke Westen

The Glass Society of Ireland is an informal network set up to share information on events, exhibitions and opportunities among glassmakers, collectors, historians and enthusiasts.

In 2009 the Society continued its successful evening lecture series in association with NCAD Glass Department to growing audiences of members, students and enthusiasts. Irish-based artists, who spoke about their work included Mary Mackey, Andrea Spencer and Sean Campbell. They were joined by international artists Scott Benefield, Mary B. White, Itzell Tazzyman and David Schnuckel.

The Glass Society of Ireland hosted a visit from the Glass Association UK in September. The UK group of collectors and historians visited Bairbre Stewart's home to view her wonderful collection of historic and contemporary glass.

Finally, the Glass Society of Ireland came together with the Crafts Council of Ireland to deliver a series of talks in the National Craft Gallery to accompany On the Edge – an exhibition of glass from Ireland and South-West England during its run in January to March of 2010. Artists such as Caroline Madden and Mary Mackey prepared informative and enjoyable presentations on their work, in keeping with the Society's aim to communicate the value of glass among members and to a wider audience.



'Irishtown' by Elke Westen,
Glass Society of Ireland

GUILD OF IRISH LACEMAKERS

www.irishlace.org

Year set-up: 1987

Number of members: 150 approx

Founded in 1987 to assist practising Lacemakers, especially those making traditional lace styles, today the Guild encompasses all the laces known in Ireland and many from abroad.

The Guild of Irish Lacemakers meets monthly with workshops in Bobbin, Carrickmacross, Irish Crochet and Mountmellick work styles.

As a result of the annual charity day in January a cheque for €1,000 was forwarded to the Jack and Jill Foundation, which provides care and support for children with severe neurological development.

In March two visiting tutors from England, Jacqui Barber and Jane Rowton-Lee gave workshops on bobbin lace using different weights of thread and contemporary needlelace respectively. Jane also gave an enthralling lecture entitled *Nature's Inspirations* at the AGM.

The Guild hosted a day for OIDFA, The International Bobbin and Needle Lace Organisation, with a view to exhibiting Irish lace at the OIDFA congress in Japan in 2010. It also participated in the Art in Action festival around Townley Hall with children being invited to try lace making. This initiative proved to be very popular.

The Guild of Irish Lacemakers award was presented to Patricia Lamb for her table runner in Youghal Needlelace border at the RDS National Crafts Competition. Lucinda Jacob won 2nd prize for her Birds, Fish, Frogs and Fly lace mat using Bedfordshire and Cluny techniques.

As in previous years the Guild took a stand at the Knitting & Stitching Show in November, the display theme "*Seasons*" was much admired. Finally Maree Maher gave an excellent presentation on Mountmellick lace at the Christmas party.

The Guild continues to publish three journals yearly with contributions from the members. These journals are very popular and sent around the world to other guilds.

(CONTINUED)

HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF CORK

Year set-up: 1980's
Number of members: 23

COMMITTEE:

Julie Molloy
Chairperson

Tish Canniffée
Secretary

Gerda Mertz
Treasurer

The Handweavers Guild, Cork is a practising group of spinners, weavers & dyers who endeavour to promote these craft skills through exhibitions and demonstrations at events in public places.

The highlight of the Guild's activities in 2009 was an exhibition of members work held in Bishopstown Library, Cork, during the month of April. There was much interest from the public each day and new members were recruited.

Members of the Guild exhibited work at the CTN exhibition in St. Finbarr's Cathedral in Cork and at the School of Music in Cork in November.

The Guild meets on the third Saturday of each month and our AGM is held in January when the committee is elected and the programme for the year is planned. At the monthly meetings some aspect of textile crafts is demonstrated and attempted by those present. The June meeting is usually a dyeing or felting day sponsored by one of the members. Another member built and opened a large new work studio at her home near Midleton and this is available to the Guild for longer workshops when required.

IRISH ARTIST BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION

www.irishblacksmiths.com



Year set-up: 1998

Number of members: 41

COMMITTEE:

Edward Bisgood

Chairperson

Michael Budd

Website and newsletter editor

Richard Linstead

Membership Secretary

Peter Cassidy

Treasurer

Stephen Quinn

Assistant Membership Secretary

Eric O'Neill

Communications Officer

The Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association (IABA) was set up to encourage, advise and help artist blacksmiths and decorative metal workers working in Ireland and to promote their work to architects, interior designers and the general public.

2009 was a good year for the association with the customary two-day Forge-in at Bushy Park Ironworks in May. The Association was asked by the Australian Artist Blacksmiths Association to take part in forging a gum tree in copper and stainless steel as a memorial to those people who had lost their lives in the horrendous fires that swept Australia in 2008. Over forty smiths took part watched by the Australian Ambassador to Ireland in this project and the contributions were shipped to Australia in June.

In early July, the Association was asked to design and make a sculpture for the town of Cootehall in Roscommon. Over the weekend of the 3rd and 4th of October a 2.5 metre high tree designed by Pawel Guba was forged.

It was also decided during the year to design and build a website for IABA which can be found at www.irishblacksmiths.com. The site contains details and work by the members of the Association, from large architectural commissions to small household items.



Forge-in at Bushy Park Ironworks, May 2009
Irish Artist Blacksmiths Association

(CONTINUED)

IRISH BASKETMAKERS ASSOCIATION (IBA)

Year set-up: 1992

Number of members: 100

COMMITTEE:

Martin O'Flynn

Chairman

Katrin Solwart

Treasurer

Norbert Platz

Secretary

Heike Kahle

PRO

Paula Cummins

Newsletter Editor

Patricia Fuentes

Layout

IBA aims to be of interest and help to all those concerned with basketry and allied crafts. It seeks to strengthen basketmaking traditions in Ireland by organising basketry courses with national and international makers. A newsletter is published three to four times per year and instructional videos on basketmaking have been produced.

Activities in 2009 include:

- AGM at National Botanic Gardens with participation in the Sustainable Energy weekend
- Attendance at Bloom, Art in Action and the Volvo Ocean Race
- Square basket workshop with Norbert Platz
- Frame basket workshop with Alison Fitzgerald
- Production and distribution of T-shirts with a new IBA logo
- Transfer of instructional videos to DVD

IRISH CHAIRMAKERS

Year set-up: 2009

Number of members: 10

COMMITTEE:

Alison Ospina
Chairperson

Thomas Kay
Treasurer

James Carroll
Secretary

Irish Chairmakers is a group of chairmakers based in Ireland formed with the express intention of finding venues that would be suitable for annual exhibitions of chairs and organising these exhibitions.

Activities during 2009 included an exhibition in March at Doswell Gallery, West Cork and the accompanying launch of *"Green Wood Chairs"* book. This exhibition also travelled to Éigse Festival Carlow.

In 2008 Irish Chairmakers became members of the Crafts Council of Ireland and successfully applied for network funding towards the cost of transporting chairs to and from exhibition venues.



'Contemporary greenwood chair'
by Alison Ospina Irish Chairmakers

(CONTINUED)

IRISH GUILD OF EMBROIDERERS

www.irishembroiderers.org

Year set-up: 2000

Number of members: 60

COMMITTEE:

Mary O'Reilly
Chairman

Thelma Davey
Honorary Secretary

Myriam Broadhead
Treasurer

Fiona Bailey
Membership Secretary

Eithne Carey
Events Secretary

Bronwen Murray
Librarian

Jenny O'Donohoe
Newsletter Editor

The Irish Guild of Embroiderers' aim is to promote embroidery and help in its education through lectures and workshops in various aspects of contemporary embroidery.



'Embroidery piece' by Eleanor Calnan
Irish Guild of Embroiderers

IRISH GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS & DYERS (IGWS&D)

www.weavers.ie



Year set-up: 1975

Number of members: 90

COMMITTEE:

Máire Ní Neachtain

Cathaoirleach

Peter Hoare

Vice-Chairman

Lindy Taylor

Secretary

Shanah Cauldwell

Treasurer

Evelyn Murray

Website

The Irish Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers was formed to preserve, improve and promote expertise in hand-weaving, spinning and dyeing; and to encourage excellence of craftsmanship in texture, colour and design.

The organisation's AGM took place at the National Museum of Ireland at Collins Barracks in March and a new committee was elected. Three members demonstrated during Seachtain na Gaeilge at the National Museum.

The Guild took part in Bloom 2009 and demonstrated weaving and spinning during the show. Three members travelled to Lincoln to take part in the Association of Guilds of WS&D Summer School. Spinning was demonstrated on World Spinning Day at Airfield Farm.

IGWS&D participated in the Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS in October and gave demonstrations of wheel-spinning, drop-spindle spinning and weaving on weaving sticks. Members also dispensed information on the Guild and its activities.



*Peter Hoare of Irish Guild of Weavers,
Spinners & Dyers demonstrating
at Bloom in the Park 2009*

(CONTINUED)

IRISH PATCHWORK SOCIETYwww.irishpatchwork.ie

Year set-up: 1981

Number of members:

400 approx

COMMITTEE:**Miriam Gogarty***Chairperson***Maria Bolton***Treasurer***Moira Byrne***Secretary*

The Irish Patchwork Society promotes Irish quilts and quilters throughout Ireland, Europe and the world. The society organises classes in their eight branches around the country and exhibits quilts in branch and national exhibitions. Every two years a joint exhibition is held with the Northern Ireland Patchwork Guild called "*Hands across the Border*".

During 2009 the Irish Patchwork Society (IPS) with the Northern Ireland Patchwork Guild held an exhibition in the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin and in Portstewart. A second joint exhibition between the two guilds was held in Ailsa Craig in Ontario, Canada in October. Seventeen quilters travelled to Canada for the show, which was very successful and had about 8,000 visitors. IPS also promoted quilting and taught to groups at *Art in Action* in Townley Hall near Drogheda for three days over Whit weekend. Other exhibitions in 2009 included Bloom, Farmleigh, Phoenix Park in June and the Knitting and Stitching Show at the RDS. It was also agreed that the 2010 National exhibition would be held in Cork and that IPS would fund a prize for Patchwork and Quilting at the RDS Craft Competition.

IRISH WOODTURNERS GUILD

www.irishwoodturnersguild.com

Year set-up: 1983

Number of members: 776

COMMITTEE:

Evan Petty

President

Willie Creighton

Chairman

Eugene Grimley

Honorary Secretary

The Irish Woodturners Guild (IWG) is an all-Ireland non-profit organisation open to woodturners of all levels.

Its objectives are:

- To offer mutual help and encouragement
- To exchange information
- To improve design and skills
- To promote woodturning to the general public
- To run seminars and exhibitions and publish regular journals

IWG recently published a book "*The First 25 Years 1983 to 2008*" detailing the development of woodturning in Ireland. It included chapters on the Foundation of IWG; Development of Chapters (local sections); National Seminars: Local 1-day Seminars; IWG Journal; Website. The book runs to 118 pages edited by Evan Petty, President of IWG and with a Foreword by Úna Parsons, CEO of The Crafts Council of Ireland.

IWG has now grown to 20 Chapters spread throughout Ireland, North and South. These organise regular monthly meetings or demonstrations and 1-day local seminars. Details are available in the IWG Journal published quarterly (Editor, Peter Lyons). IWG also organizes an annual two or three day seminar with invited international demonstrators. In 2009 this was held in the City Hotel, Armagh on 2-4 October. Further details appear in the Journal or on the website: www.irishwoodturnersguild.com

(CONTINUED)

LOUTH CRAFTMARK DESIGNERS NETWORK (LCDN)

www.louthcraftmark.com



Year set-up: 2007

Number of members: 30

COMMITTEE:

Colette Mulholland
Chairperson

Cathy Dodrill
Secretary

Gillian Callan
Treasurer

Rachel Tinniswood
Membership Secretary

Sarah McKenna
GANS CCOI representative

Joanne McKenna
Committee Member

Garrett Mallon
Committee Member

Cathy Pendergast
Committee Member

Fiona Thornton
Committee Member

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

During the year Louth Craftmark Designers Network produced a 'Creative Map' booklet and organised associated events. The Creative Map was launched at Louth Craftmark's retail outlet to coincide with other events on Creative Night 2009 which served to promote craft and creativity in County Louth.

Louth Craftmark Designers Network also organised the Creative Map tour of County Louth which aimed to make the public more aware of craftspeople and their work with visits to workshops and studios around the region. In addition Louth Craftmark Designers Network took part in *Art in Action* for the first time as a group. This arts and crafts event is local but nationally recognised as an important event in the creative calendar. LCDN hopes to step up its involvement with the event in the coming year.

Members also took part individually in Bloom in the Park, Showcase and The National Craft and Design Fair; they attended the opening of member Frances Lambe's solo exhibition at the Millennium Centre in Portadown and took part in The Ards Creative Peninsula.

MADE IN KILKENNYwww.madeinkilkenny.ie

Year set-up: 2009

Number of members: 26

COMMITTEE:**Rosemarie Durr***Chairperson***Ed Keilthy***Treasurer***Hilary Jenkinson***Secretary*

MADE in Kilkenny was established to bring together the considerable wealth of craft talent in the region, to foster excellence in craftsmanship, to promote the county as a shopping destination for authentic, unique craft and to actively contribute to Kilkenny's tourist appeal.

MADE in Kilkenny launched in August 2009 with an exhibition held in Butler House, which was part of the craft strand of the Kilkenny Arts Festival. A brochure including a map with all the members on it was launched at the exhibition in conjunction with Trail Kilkenny. The website www.madeinkilkenny.ie was launched in September.

The group rented premises for the month of December in Kilkenny city which became the 'MADE pop up shop'. 13 of its members were involved with the stocking and running of the shop while all 26 members were involved with the exhibition held in the upstairs of the building. This was a great success and is something the group hopes to continue in the future.

(CONTINUED)

NA PÍOBAIRÍ UILLEANN

www.pipers.ie



Year set-up: 1968
 Number of members: 1,200

COMMITTEE:

Gay McKeon
CEO

Gerry Lyons
Administrator

Sandie Purcell
Administrative Assistant

Terry Moylan
Archivist

BOARD:

Seán Potts
Honorary President

Robbie Hannan
Chairman

Noel Pocock
Secretary

Patricia Logan
Treasurer

Tom Clarke

Nollaig Mac Cárthaigh

Tommy Keane

Dave Hegarty

Seán Óg Potts

Wilbert Garvin

Joe Crane

Na Píobairí Uilleann (NPU), the Society of Uilleann Pipers, was founded in 1968 to protect a threatened art form. 40 years later, NPU is a thriving arts organisation with thousands of members worldwide, dedicated to servicing the aims and needs of pipers through preservation and promotion of the music and the craft of manufacturing the Uilleann pipes.

During the year NPU filmed three master craft pipe-makers and began editing for its new website. It published two technical journals on the craft of Uilleann pipe-making and held three week-long reed-making craft workshops during June, July and August. NPU also holds weekly craft classes in reed-making at its headquarters in Henrietta Street.

In 2009 Na Píobairí Uilleann published five editions of An Píobaire magazine which were distributed to over 1,200 members worldwide. These included technical articles on the craft of Uilleann piping. NPU also supplied materials to reed-makers throughout the world and photographed and measured classic sets of Uilleann pipes.



Pipemaking Na Píobairí Uilleann

OFFALY CRAFTY

www.offalyartsandcrafts.com



Year set-up: 2005

Number of members: 30

COMMITTEE:

Ross Hathaway

Chairman

Kieran Brennan

Secretary

Anne Schnittger

Treasurer

Jo Barber

PRO

Offaly Crafty is a mixed discipline network which aims to promote Offaly-based makers of art and craft by developing a brand based upon excellence of quality and innovation in design. Members meet regularly in Tullamore and work on a variety of projects.

In 2009 these projects included training and product development courses, along with group purchasing of professionally designed promotional backdrops for use in joint or individual marketing events.

For the fourth year running, members of Offaly Crafty exhibited as a group during Birr Vintage Week and Arts Festival as part of the Arts Trail.

Offaly Crafty hosted two craft fairs in the run up to Christmas, one in Tullamore and a second in Birr. These fairs are in their fourth and third years, respectively, and are building on the success of previous years.



'Tableware' by Offaly Crafty

(CONTINUED)

PEANNAIRÍ

www.calligraphy.ie



Year set-up: 1987

Number of members: 30

COMMITTEE:

Noeleen Frain
Chairperson

Jane Connolly
Treasurer

Clodagh Opdebeeck
Secretary

Ann Cannon
Librarian

Noel McCloskey
Editor of newsletter

The purpose of the society is the encouragement and nurture of the calligrapher's craft and the development of fine writing in Ireland.

Peannairí is affiliated with Calligraphy and Lettering Arts in England. This year one member obtained a distinction in the CLAS Intermediate Diploma and four obtained distinctions and passes in the Foundation Diploma.

During 2009 Peannairí held workshops on card making, book making and printing. The Society's AGM took place in September. The committee was re-elected and an additional newsletter editor was elected.

Peannairí currently holds day and evening calligraphy classes in three locations in Dublin.



Robert Sinclair of Peannairí demonstrating at Bloom in the Park 2009



Postcard design by Peannairí

QUILTERS GUILD OF IRELAND

www.theqgi.com

Year set-up: 2001

Number of members: 330

COMMITTEE:

Ingrid Rendell

Chairperson

Beryl Cadman

Vice Chair

Yvonne McKee

*Web Editor and Retreat
Co-Ordinator*

Patricia Frawley

Secretary and Librarian

Laura Cahill

Treasurer

Robyn Fahy

*Education Officer and
Retreat Organiser*

Susan Taylor

Membership Secretary

Marie Sprott

Gazette Editor

Josie Molloy

Assistant Secretary

Frances Flanagan

Assistant Treasurer

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 six day Quilters Guild of Ireland Retreat last year was held at the Dunadry, Co Antrim. Over 80 members attended classes given by European and Irish teachers, including Deb Karasik, internationally known master quilter and published tutor.

Prior to the Retreat, Jinny Beyer, internationally known Fabric Designer, and published Quilt teacher visited Ireland and gave classes in Donegal, Armagh, Athlone and Cork.

To further assist ongoing skills development and exchange of information members of the Committee travelled to the world renowned quilt festival in Houston to identify and source international tutors who might come to Ireland for future retreats or workshops.

In addition some members took part in the World Quilt Festival organised by Mancuso Management. The quilts represented Ireland and travelled to four locations in the US, including Florida, California and Pennsylvania. A selection of these quilts will also travel to European quilt shows.



Quilters Guild of Ireland at their 2009 Retreat

(CONTINUED)

ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY (RDS)

www.rds.ie/crafts



Year set-up: 1731

Number of members: 5,000

COMMITTEE:

Bernardine Hurley
Chairman

Alison Casey

Ida Delamer

Arthur Duff

Emmet Kane

Mary O'Reilly

Henry Pim

Veronica Rowe

Clodagh Ryan

2009 NATIONAL CRAFTS COMPETITION

The RDS was founded in 1731 to promote and develop arts, agriculture, science and industry in Ireland. In 1746 it established The Dublin Society School of Drawing, which later became the National College of Art and Design (NCAD). Since 1834 craft exhibitions have been held at the RDS and in 1968 the RDS National Crafts Competition was launched.

Today the RDS National Crafts Competition is Ireland's largest craft competition. In 2009, the RDS National Crafts Competition in association with the Crafts Council of Ireland celebrated its 41st successful year and has now expanded to 20 categories. The overall prize fund was €30,000, the largest in Europe. Independently adjudicated, the competition received entries from craft designers and makers based in Ireland as well as Irish craft-workers abroad. The RDS National Crafts Competition and subsequent exhibitions are recognised as a valuable platform for craft designers and makers to gain national and international recognition for their work. The competition has been a catalyst for many of today's top craft designers who, in the early stages of their career entered and won awards and prizes.

The RDS National Crafts Competition Exhibition of prize winners and commended entries is one of the highlights of the annual Fáilte Ireland Dublin Horse Show. The exhibition travelled to Birr Theatre and Arts Centre, Co. Offaly; the Regional Cultural Centre, Co. Donegal; the Sirius Arts Centre, Co. Cork; and returned to the RDS in December for the National Crafts & Design Fair.

The travelling exhibition has been successful in heightening the profile of individual craft designers and makers as well as promoting awareness of the diversity of craft practice in Ireland. The exhibition has attracted high visitor attendance and positive reaction and interest in the individual exhibits.



'Architectural Coffee Service'
by silversmith Kevin O'Dwyer
Royal Dublin Society

THE DESIGN TOWER

www.thedesigntower.com



Year set-up: 1985

Number of members: 18

COMMITTEE:

Elizabeth O’Kane

Chairperson

Aisling Nelson

Secretary

Pat McBride

Ordinary Member

The Design Tower on Grand Canal Quay in Dublin is the iconic location of a variety of craft practitioners who espouse quality and craftsmanship and attempt to work to the highest possible standards. It includes many makers and craft based services and is a truly unique place to work and visit.

The Design Tower's major achievement for 2009 was the Wunderkammer Exhibition. Drawing on the rich subject-matter of the Albert M. Bender collection of Asian Art in the National Museum of Ireland, makers in Dublin's Design Tower have created a contemporary cabinet of curiosities; with work ranging across a variety of disciplines, including ceramics, textiles and metalwork. Each maker has evolved a personal response to the collection of artefacts of Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan origin.

Curated by Ann Mulrooney of the Crafts Council of Ireland this exhibition enabled the makers to achieve a collective excellence which was viewed by over one thousand visitors throughout its two week duration.

It provided a unique method by which the makers could engage with the many stakeholders associated with the Design Tower, from customers to enthusiasts, from academics to the owner of the Design Tower building, Trinity College.

Finally it provided a template for future exhibitions, the possibilities of which are being currently explored.

(CONTINUED)

**WEST CORK CRAFT
AND DESIGN GUILD
(WCCDG)**

www.westcorkcraft.org



Year set-up: 1996

Number of members: 20

COMMITTEE:

Aoife O'Mahony
Chairperson

Kieran Higgins
Vice Chair

Etain Hickey
Secretary

Christina Roser
Treasurer

Alison Ospina
Development Officer

WCCDG is a marketing and support network which aims to promote members' work through a series of exhibitions, a website and the regular production of high quality brochures. Potential new members need to demonstrate a high level of craftsmanship and skill as well as a strong design element.

WCCDG 2009 activities included:

- Subsidised photography scheme with grant funding from West Cork Enterprise Board. All members get a subsidy of 50% for photography to a maximum of €100
- Commissioning of portrait photographs of members with their work
- Production of a new brochure with funding from CCoI
- Organisation of a social event with Jeremy Irons at Kilcoe Castle
- Development of a new campaign for selling members' work in West Cork including dialogue with local shops and galleries
- Receipt of grant funding from Cork County Council for a marketing campaign

CORPORATE MEMBERS

**CIT CRAWFORD COLLEGE
OF ART & DESIGN**

www.cit.ie



Year set-up: N/A
 Number of members:
 Approx 50 staff in total;
 approx 5 directly involved in
 Ceramic Design

COMMITTEE:

Orla Flynn
*Acting Head, CIT Crawford College
 of Art & Design*

Kevin Gill
*Acting Head,
 Department of Fine Art*

Mary Cronin
College Administrator

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 is based at the Sharman Crawford Street campus, offering programmes in Fine Art and Ceramic Design.

The Department of Fine Art offers a Level 8 BA (Honours) in Ceramic Design. By December 2009, there were 18 students registered on this programme.

Kevin O'Callaghan, a third year student on the degree programme, travelled to China in summer 2009 to undertake a ceramics residency at Jingdezhen, for which he received the prestigious Frank Ryan Bursary from the Institute of Designers of Ireland.



CIT (Crawford College
 of Art & Design), Cork

(CONTINUED)

**ASSOCIATION OF CEOs
OF COUNTY & CITY
ENTERPRISE BOARDS**

www.enterpriseboards.ie



Year set-up: 1993

Number of members: 35

COMMITTEE:

Christine Charlton

Chairperson

The 35 County & City Enterprise Boards throughout Ireland joined forces to assist craft businesses in their respective geographical areas to promote their work in a dedicated area at Showcase in 2009.

To assist craft businesses to maximise their sales potential, a dedicated display area was secured in the RDS. Twenty one craft businesses, including new and upcoming businesses as well as established craftworkers, were located in the Enterprise Board area. In addition to the dedicated display area, the businesses also benefitted from group branding, a dedicated buyers meeting area and promotional work carried out on their behalf by the Enterprise Boards.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Laura Magahy
CCol Chairman

Executive Team

Eleanor Flegg
Freelance Writer

Miriam McDonald
Fresh Perceptions Consulting

Design
Zinc Design Consultants

Photographers
*Trevor Hart, Roland Paschhoff, Rory Moore, David Pauley
Dylan Vaughan, Bernie McCoy, Paul Sherwood, David O'Shea*

CONTACT DETAILS

Crafts Council of Ireland
Castle Yard, Kilkenny, Ireland

t. +353 (0)56 776 1804

f. +353 (0)56 776 3754

e. info@ccoie.ie

w. www.ccoie.ie

Crafts Council of Ireland
Castle Yard
Kilkenny
Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)56 7761804
Fax: +353 (0)56 7763754

Email: info@ccoi.ie
Web: www.ccoi.ie

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