



Lennon Courtney | Photography by Rich Gilligan

selection show

7 NOVEMBER 2014 - 25 JANUARY 2015
National Craft Gallery
Castle Yard, Kilkenny
Ireland



NATIONAL
CRAFT
GALLERY



From Top: NATALIEBCOLEMAN, Joanne Hynes, Lennon Courtney, Jennifer Rothwell

THESE ARE MANY REASONS why **Second Skin** is an important undertaking at this moment in time in Ireland. We have an incredibly talented pool of internationally acclaimed fashion designers. Support in Ireland for established and emerging designers is limited. Most graduates move abroad and for those who return, a lack of access to skills, production facilities and finance makes it difficult to locate and remain here. Fashion is big business. We often underestimate the cultural value that Irish designers of international repute contribute to the perception of Ireland overseas. We have also failed to recognise the economic potential that the fashion industry, given a level of investment and dedicated supports, could bring.

There are common challenges facing the industry across Europe. Here in Ireland, the demise of production and manufacturing has displaced jobs, skills and our appreciation for quality and craftsmanship, the bespoke and the tailor-made. While the change is influenced by multiple factors, supply, demand and profit are the key drivers. As a child, almost every mother I knew could knit at the speed of light, owned a sewing machine, regularly made, fixed, adapted or customised clothes. When they had the opportunity, they saved and carefully considered their purchases before investing in them. Today we have become used to fast fashion. It is cheap, new and disposable. We buy without thinking. A top for €19.99, a dress for €59.99, the quick win, the instant gratification, the 'bargain' has become our norm. The psychological effect of this has come to determine what we consume, purchase, demand, wear and feel.

We rarely equate these actions with consequences. We don't tend to consider the collective impact of our individual buying patterns. We rarely relate them to a loss of skills; or an opportunity to create jobs in Ireland; or the future impact that a disposable fashion economy has on our environment. We have been living in a society of immediacy that has created a disconnect from our value systems. In the very recent past the impact of this level of disconnect led to the near collapse of economies. This in turn is leading to a reordering of our priorities and a renewed connection to and consideration of our values, our communities and our local and global economies.

Trends in fast fashion are slowly changing as awareness of the long-term issues of sustainability grows. This is supported by the very real and significant impact that technology and the Internet are having on the way we communicate, share, create, access and consume.

While it may be unlikely that we will once again return to the high levels of manufacturing and production that Ireland once had across the EU, there is a cultural, economic, educational and psychological argument to be made for bringing back a level of production, skills and infrastructure. The current trend in sustainable fashion is leading the way back to community engagement, providing access to skills and engendering a sense of empowerment in the design of unique, local and individualised clothing. In Ireland, the work of organisations such as Re-dress, the Council of Irish Fashion Designers and the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland plays a pivotal role in raising awareness and offering a level of support to our highly talented fashion designers who have gained, or are seeking to gain, international recognition and who wish to work, live and produce in Ireland.

Second Skin posed a challenge to four Irish fashion labels—Jennifer Rothwell, Joanne Hynes, NATALIEBCOLEMAN and Lennon Courtney—to design, source and produce a garment or range of clothing on the island of Ireland and to document the opportunities and challenges in doing so. In the realisation of these garments, designers collaborated with and were supported by a myriad of third level institutes, organisations and producers in Dublin, Donegal, Derry, Kilkenny and Wicklow.

I hope that **Second Skin** will help to create a dialogue and raise further awareness in order to empower people to make conscious and informed choices; choices that support and foster pride in our indigenous and internationally recognised fashion designers. It is my ambition that the dialogues and conversations supported by research currently being undertaken into manufacturing and production on the island of Ireland will provide a very real foundation for future investment in the sector and in the fashion industry.

In 2015 we will celebrate a year of Irish design throughout the island of Ireland and internationally. **Second Skin** is one of the core touring exhibitions in the Irish Design 2015 programme that will highlight the calibre of Irish design across a broad range of disciplines.

Louise Allen, Curator

Head of Innovation & Development Programmes, DCCol
Head of International Programmes, Irish Design 2015

www.dccoi.ie | www.irishdesign2015.ie

NATALIEBCOLEMAN

Natalie B Coleman graduated with a degree in fashion from Limerick School of Art & Design (LSAD) and an MA from Central St. Martins, London. She worked in the fashion industry for three ASFOUR: New York and Ragna Frodadottir; a textile designer in Iceland, before establishing her own womenswear label in 2011. With a background in strong narratives and quirky romance Natalie creates beautifully feminine contemporary pieces with special attention to fabric, finish and detail. Natalie is currently the course director and fashion design lecturer of the fashion department at LA College of Creative Arts, Dublin.

www.nataliebc Coleman.com

Textile Artist: Caroline Schofield / Digital Fabric Printing Company:
The Silk Bureau / Pattern Drafter:
Julie Tuohy / Sewing Technician:
Audrone Jomantiene

JOANNE HYNES

Joanne Hynes is a fashion designer, design consultant, stylist, businesswoman and mother, who approaches all creative and business projects with an experimental and intellectually creative vision. Her passion and experience over the past 15 years with craft driven design techniques has developed into a globally stocked signature clothing and accessories range including collaborations with Topshop and Pretty Polly worldwide. The Joanne Hynes Studio collaborates across all platforms from private client projects, celebrity dressing and styling, alongside various collaborative and commissioned fashion.

www.joannehynes.com

Knitwear Manufacturer: Fisherman Out of Ireland; Des Daly, Seamus Doherty / 3D Model Maker & Designer: Dave Head

SONYA LENNON

Sonya Lennon is a stylist, broadcaster, author, designer and retailer with over 25 years experience in the fashion industry. Sonya has recently added social entrepreneur to her remit as she launches global not-for-profit initiative Dress for Success in Ireland. A passionate supporter of Irish design, Sonya has created the Dais Project, a trilogy of fashion films to promote Irish fashion designers internationally. Sonya presented RTE's Off The Rails for seven seasons and recently in collaboration with her co-host Brendan Courtney has launched Frockadvisor, a social commerce platform for independent retailers. Sonya and Brendan also have developed design label 'Lennon Courtney', a range of elegant wardrobe staples for women.

www.lennoncourtney.com

Knitwear Manufacturer: DMS Knitwear Solutions; Colette Cully, Manuel Murphy / Furniture Designer: Andrew Burdock / Woodturner: Michael Fay

JENNIFER ROTHWELL

Jennifer Rothwell is an established fashion designer and creative director of the Jennifer Rothwell fashion label, which she established in 2006. Jennifer has over 20 years experience in the international fashion industry and recently opened the JRoThwell Boutique in Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, Dublin which showcases her extensive collection alongside selected work by other Irish fashion, accessory and jewellery designers. Jennifer is renowned for her attention to detail, use of luxurious fabrics, beautiful jersey range and stunning colourful prints. Her collections are 100% made in Ireland a fact that she is extremely proud of. Jennifer was a guest judge on Norway's Next Top Model in 2011 and is currently a mentor with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Dublin City Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Intertrade Ireland.

www.jrothwell.net

North West Regional College:
Basl Dalton, Mary Harrigan,
Tim Jenkins, Patrick McHugh
/ Textile Artist, Designer:
Serena O'Neill / Textile Artist,
Designer: Katie Hession / Textile
Artist, Designer: Nicola McLaughlin
/ Pattern Cutter: Laura Fallon /
Textile Manufacturer: Magee Weaving;
Gill Mudie / National College of Art
and Design: Technical Officer; Olga
Tiernan, Lecturer; Andrew Campbell

PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM CREW

Photographer: Rich Gilligan
Photographer's assistant: Andrew
Nuding / Stylist & Fashion Editor:
Niamh O'Rourke / Hair: Zara Cox /
Make-up: Jennifer Quinn / Model:
Eve at Distinct / Videographer:
Neil O'Driscoll
Thank you to Brown Thomas, Dublin
who supplied all the shoes.

CURATOR Louise Allen
PROJECT MANAGER Evelyn McNamara
EXHIBITION DESIGN Russell-Works
DESIGN An Atelier project
www.atelier.ie

www.nationalcraftgallery.ie



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OPENING TIMES

Tues – Sat: 10am – 5.30pm

Sundays: 11am – 5.30pm

Closed Mondays (Except Bank Holidays)

Free Admission

CURATOR TALK: 7 November 5.30pm

OFFICIAL OPENING: 7 November 6.30pm

'SECOND SKIN, THE ECONOMICS OF FASHION'

Saturday 8 November (tickets via www.kilkenomics.com)