

## **Fresh Talent**

National Craft Gallery: 6 February – 18 March 2015

**An exhibition of work by creative new designers and practitioners**

*The exhibition draws from a range of fields and incorporates a selection of design disciplines including craft, architecture, set design, visual communication, product design, fashion and design engineering.*

**Participants include:**

### **Gazel**

Dedicated to improving the home experience, new Dublin-based design studio Gazel has just launched its first collection, *Living*. This striking ensemble is a unique take on storage solutions, bringing inventive style to household staples. “They reflect our core design philosophy of creating beautiful and clever objects for modern living”.

Gazel was founded in 2014 as a contemporary design studio that lives by the motto, ‘Rethink The Everyday’. Bringing ease and elegance to modern homes and interiors, Gazel designs everyday objects, exploring functionality and ergonomics with an avant-garde style and an emphasis on detail that produces smart and inventive responses.

Gazel is led by award-winning Irish designers Ronan Murphy and Kevin Doherty. Their partnership was formed while studying at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin. With a shared passion for thoughtful and inviting design, they approach their work with with an avant-garde style. They have over 20 years experience between them in manufacturing, craft, multimedia and product design.

2015 promises to be an exciting year for Gazel, with the launch of their second collection, *Creating*.

### **Awards Received:**

Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI), Universal Design Award, Winner, 2014  
House and Home Make It Award 2014

Miele, Kitchens of the Future Design Award Winner, 2012

James Dyson Award, International Shortlist, 2012

Arthritis Ireland and Pfizer, Easy to Use Design Award, Winner, 2011

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## **Designgoat**

'We are Designgoat. We are Designers. We are Makers. We Create Experiences with Products, Spaces, Furniture & Food.'

Cian Corcoran and Ahmad Fakhry graduated from the National College of Art & Design's Industrial Design course in 2011 with First Class BDES Honours Degrees. They set up Designgoat studios on the day they graduated and started working on interior and furniture projects as well as developing their own range of products and creating exhibitions. Their studio is based in South Studios in Dublin 8 where they have been operating for almost three years. They are strongly influenced by the city around them and the energy in Dublin's creative community.

### **Awards Received:**

Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI), Award for best Retail Interior, 2013

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## **Darragh Casey**

Darragh Casey's practice continually seeks ways of challenging our habits, norms and routines. His investigations reconsider common assumptions around furniture, product and spatial design disciplines with humorous and curious outcomes. 'Shelving the Body' addresses the typology of the shelf with a physical consideration for the figure, subverting our relationships with furniture and reassessing the idea of the 'user'.

Darragh graduated with a BA Honours Degree in Art and Design Education from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin in 2007 and an MA in Design from Central Saint Martins, London in 2012. In April 2014 he published his first book, "Shelving the Body" with Soapbox Press. He has collaborated with The Harley Street Clinic, Camper Shoes, Central Saint Martins' College of Art & Design, Vogue UK and Van Cleef & Arpels among others. He currently works as a maker at Heatherwick Studio in London.

### **Awards Received:**

Nova Award, Shortlisted, 2013

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2012

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## **Orla Reynolds**

Orla Reynolds' captures her vision of a love of dance and the magic of the theatre. Simple, clever and functional products are created through imagining the home as a stage. Observing how our lives play out within the four walls of the home informs the creation of each product which utilises space. 'As if from nowhere' is like a scene change at the theatre. These pieces transform the space they inhabit, like props on a stage. The dancers can be seen in the chairs and tables. These are made of such strong material that there is an expectation that they are heavy yet they are lightweight. Each piece is streamlined and creates an elegant silhouette.

Orla graduated in 2012 from Dublin Institute of Technology with a First Class Honours Degree in Interior Design and Furniture. Her furniture collection has been showcased on television and featured in publications worldwide including Dezeen, Gizmodo, Buzzfeed and WIRED magazine.

Since graduation Orla has been in the process of commercialising her furniture collection. This will be launched with Irish Design 2015 at the Milan Furniture Fair in April 2015. Orla also works as a Set Designer for Theatre.

### **Awards Received:**

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2013

Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI), Graduate Awards, Grand Prix Award, 2012

Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI), Graduate Awards, Best Furniture Design, 2012

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## **Kate O'Kelly**

Inspired by the solitude of rural Irish countryside in Annamoe and her grandmother's eclectic Georgian house, which was filled to the brim with beautifully crafted objects from around the world, Kate's work manifests as surreal hybrid objects that reference the visual environments of her childhood. The work is playful and evocative, engaging the viewer with a sense of familiarity and wonder. Pieces are made using a combination of found objects and digitally produced forms, which are used as models for slip casting. Each piece is then assembled using a number of the ceramic components.

Combining traditional craft methods with industrial processes, the work embraces classical elements and modern features of design through both its style and technique.

Kate graduated from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin with a First Class Honours Degree and an MA in Ceramics. She went on to complete a four-month placement with the British Ceramics Biennial in Stoke on Trent, where her work was exhibited as part of the 2013 Biennial. She is currently pursuing a Designer in Residency programme with the Industrial Design Department at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin.

### **Awards Received:**

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Awards, 2014

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## **Kevin Callaghan**

Kevin Callaghan works with steel, ceramic, wood and digital photography. He continuously investigates new ways of working and of self-expression that reflects the essence of his conceptual goals. Colour and form are very important in his work and he attempts to intrigue the viewer with his bold and extensive colour combinations. "Off the Planet" comes from a series of investigations for his MA at The Royal College of Art, the use of the square is seen as means to move forward, a space to travel through. The work is playful, architectural, yet the colours chosen question its origins.

Kevin has his studio with Bow Arts and the London Sculpture Workshop in Bermondsey, where he teaches workshops in ceramics, concrete and plaster, and is also the ceramic technician working with artists and galleries such as the Victoria and Albert Museum. Last year Kevin finished a private commission for the famous Bluebird Restaurant in Chelsea, London. He works with art consultancy companies and has gallery representation in London.

### **Awards Received:**

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2013

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## **Julie Connellan**

Julie Connellan's practice explores the specific capacity of jewellery to communicate ideas and to open dialogues. Hers is a research-led, interdisciplinary approach that explores the physical qualities and cultural associations of everyday materials, objects and forms. The work presented in Fresh Talent is part of an investigation into the social and cultural significance of particular materials and forms, both in relation to the individual and their wider context as part of a society.

Connellan holds a BA Honours Degree in European Studies from Trinity College Dublin, 2004. She graduated in Jewellery and Design from the Berufskolleg für Design, Schmuck und Gerät in Pforzheim, Germany in 2009. She continued her studies at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin where she graduated with an MA in Design and Metals in 2011. Julie has presented and lectured at Irish and European art and design symposia and lecture series. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in museums, galleries, art and design fairs and in diverse publications. She currently teaches art and design at the National College of Art & Design in Dublin.

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## **ail+el**

ail+el is the joint force of Aileen Balfe and Eleanor McCaughey. Their experiences and styles layered together inspire pieces that are both functional and aesthetic while thoughtfully designed and uniquely crafted. Their product range comprises of concrete homeware, art prints and textiles. ail+el's concrete collection is informed by architecture and urban living. ail+el's work has featured in several design publications, most notably on the cover of Image Interiors & Living Magazine in July 2014.

Aileen holds a BA Honours Degree in Interior & Furniture Design from the Dublin Institute of Technology and a Postgraduate Diploma in Community Arts Education from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin. She spent several years abroad in both Japan and Indonesia where she was awarded a scholarship to study textiles. In 2014, She was awarded the Red Dog Design prize for Textile Design from National College of Art & Design Continued Education in Art & Design and in 2013 the Common Ground Studio 468 Research Residency Award.

Eleanor graduated with an Honours Degree in Fine Art in 2011 from Dublin Institute of Technology. She has exhibited both nationally and internationally including the National Portrait Gallery London, the Royal Ulster Academy Belfast, the Royal Dublin Society and the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin. She was awarded the Conor Prize for a figurative work from the Royal Ulster Academy in 2014.

ail+el are currently designing and making in Dublin and their products are stocked in numerous Irish retailers throughout Ireland.

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## **Sinead Kennedy**

*"I cannot make you understand. I cannot make anyone understand what is happening inside me. I cannot even explain it to myself."*

— Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*

Sinead Kennedy's work explores self perception in a negative sense, touching on themes such as anxiety, distorted body image, and identity. She is interested in the inseparable connection between food and the body, the matter of disconnect between mind and body and the completely irrational thought process that is associated with this subject.

The work shown in Fresh Talent is from her degree show and has been influenced by *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka in which the main character awakes one morning to find that he has transformed overnight into a giant insect. Although his transformation completely alters his outward appearance, it leaves his mind unchanged, creating a discord between his mind and body.

Sinead was awarded a First Class Honours Degree in Fashion Design from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin in 2013. She has undertaken a year-long residency in the Talbot Gallery and Studios, Dublin and has held two solo shows *Cloy*, Dublin, June 2014 and *Lure*, Belfast, October 2014. She had also exhibited in Brown Thomas's *Create* exhibition, September 2014 and is currently on a three month long residency in Iceland.

### **Awards Received:**

Arts Council of Ireland, Travel and Training Award, 2014

Listhus AiR SKAMMDEGI Award 2014/2015

Talbot Gallery & Studios, Dublin, Winner Most Promising Graduate Award, 2013

National College of Art & Design, Dublin, Staff Prize, 2013

Persil Fashion Award, Winner, 2013

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## **Cait Corkery**

Cait Corkery graduated with a BA Honors Degree from the Institute of Art & Design Technology, Dun Laoghaire in 2013 and began exploring the world of theatre under the mentorship of the Rough Magic Theatre Company. She studied Design for Stage and Screen, where she specialised in Production Design for film, television and theatre. During this time, she developed an interest in theatre and experimenting with various elements to enhance these creative spaces, in particular the use of visual aspects such as perspective, light, colour and reflection.

Theatre design credits include “*Macbeth*” (Fast Intent, Smock Alley Boys School) Set and Costume Designer, “*Snow Angels*” (Rosemary McKenna, Project Arts Theatre) Set Designer, “*The Soldier’s Tale*” (Ensemble Music, Smock Alley) Set and Costume Design.

She has worked as a design assistant with “*The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*” (Rough Magic/Opera Theatre Company, Olympia) and the Abbey Theatre's production of “*16 Possible Glimpses*” in the Peacock Theatre.

Since then, Cait has further developed her design work from set into costume design. Cait is currently working as SEEDS designer for 2014/15 with Rough Magic.

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## **Craig Higgins**

Craig Higgins' project 'First Mate' started with the question of 'What if?' What if a user finds themselves overboard in potentially lethal cold waters?

The scope of the project began broadly at the research phase, narrowing all the way through concept generation, extensive prototyping and refinement, until the final design was produced, with the user at the centre of all design decisions.

First Mate is an inflatable solution which facilitates vessel re-access from water, raises user core from cold water - dramatically reducing body heat loss, greatly increases user visibility and visual footprint in the water and ensures communication of distress is achieved by ensuring access to the product and emergency equipment is possible from aboard the vessel and from the water.

Craig graduated with a First Class Honours BSc Degree in Product Design & Technology from the University of Limerick in 2014.

Craig is currently working with Medtronic Galway as part of a team bringing new medical technology to market.

### **Awards Received:**

Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI), 1<sup>st</sup> Place Product Design, Graduate Awards, 2014

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## **James King**

James King's self-conceived product Medical Transportation Pod 'Medi-Pod™' is an aerodynamic self-cooling pod for transporting medical supplies via aerial drone or personal transportation methods. This was inspired by James's personal interest in model making and his family connection to the ambulance service. Bringing these together allowed James to see the potential in an under used technology which spurred the design of the Medi-Pod™.

James graduated with a BEng Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Cork Institute of Technology, Cork in 2014. In August 2014 he joined the Lally Group in Dublin City University. He is currently working on the design and development of medical devices with the Lally group funded by Enterprise Ireland and ERC funding granted to Dr. Cairíona Lally.

### **Awards Received:**

Engineers Ireland, Innovative Student Engineer of the Year, 2014

Shortlisted for the 2014 Dyson Awards

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## **Edwyn Hickey**

“It is my belief that architecture should have a real social commitment and that the built environment has the power to alter social systems and empower people. Thus, as architects, it is important that we work to foster cultural pluralism”.

Edwyn has a strong interest in structurally expressive architecture, and what began as a real love for the aesthetic qualities of the works of such great architects as Eduardo Reidy, Artigas, Oscar Niemeyer and Paul Mendes da Rocha informed his further work – which sought to combine the best aspects of human physical, socio-political and cultural structural systems.

Edwyn graduated from Dublin Institute of Technology in 2013 with a BA Honours Degree in Architecture. A year later he was awarded the 2014 AAI Maurice Craig Graduate Award for the best thesis of the Irish Schools of Architecture, as well as being published in the Architectural Review. He currently works in London with Make Architects.

### **Awards Received:**

Architectural Association of Ireland, Maurice Craig Award, 2014

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## **Ronan Kelly**

As a multidisciplinary designer, Ronan's work encompasses Digital Design, Print, Illustration and Spatial Design - often characterised by a dominance of typography and restrained use of colour. While he relishes the opportunity of crafting engaging brand experiences in his day job, he finds equal value in his self-initiated typographic experimentation. In recent months, these works have received much coverage online and have led to commissions from WIRED magazine among others.

Ronan graduated in 2013 from Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology (IADT), with a First Class Honours Degree from Design for Visual Communication. His degree project 'Cycle Ireland' was also featured in Etapes magazine's showcase of emerging European talent.

Upon leaving college, Ronan worked briefly at The Science Gallery, Dublin before being selected to participate in the Threex3 internship programme for graduate designers in Ireland. This led to internships in Atelier David Smith, Zero-G and Detail. In the summer of 2014, he moved to London to work as a Junior Digital Designer at Mr. President - an award winning creative agency based in Soho.

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## **Arturo Borrego**

Arturo Borrego's current collection explores various compositions and arrangements of objects that depict personal experiences and artistic interests in relation to space, materials, patterns and colour. The revelation of hues of colour within a colour derived from combinations of light, shadow and their projection onto adjacent elements. The research and design exercise is then bound together by the social meaning inherent to the iconic representation of the brooches, which is that of civil commendations, badges of honour or medals.

After graduating with a BA in Industrial Design at the University of Monterrey, Mexican born Arturo specialised in rapid prototyping and model making of consumer products and has practised for 22 years in four different countries. He completed an MA in Design from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin in 2012. He is currently a part time lecturer in Ceramics at Limerick Institute of Technology and a part time lecturer in Jewellery at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin. He has also been an associated lecturer at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and is a freelance consultant and instructor in 3D modelling, reverse engineering and rapid prototyping working across design disciplines.

### **Awards Received:**

Society of Designer Craftsmen, UK, Distinction Award, 2013

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2012

Royal Dublin Society, National Craft Competition, First Prize Jewellery, 2012

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## **Ashleigh Smith**

Ashleigh Smith is the mind behind The Atlantic Equipment Project (AE), AE is an outdoor brand that designs and makes carry equipment inspired by Atlantic adventure. AE have a growing collection of backpacks, satchels and luggage made from hardwearing and natural fabrics. All the products are designed with a comprehensive industrial process and manufactured in Sligo. The ambition for AE is to become a Sligo made, globally recognised brand, representing durability, natural fabric, and Irish Atlantic heritage.

Ashleigh graduated from the Masters Degree in Integrated Design programme at the Technical University of Delft, Netherlands in 2013. She has also completed a BSc in Product Design from the University of Limerick.

### **Awards Received:**

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2014

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## **Richard Malone**

Richard Malone's practice subverts the ordinary and everyday, redefining expected fashion systems with a focus on artistic merit and sustainability. Complex and endearing pattern cutting techniques merge with labour intensive handcrafts to create exciting, unexpected collections. His process focuses on originality, often crossing boundaries between disciplines including video, installation, sculpture and performance.

Malone graduated from Central Saint Martins BA Fashion Womenswear in 2014. His 12 look collection opened the year's fashion press show, winning both the LVMH Grand Prix Scholarship and the Deutsche Bank Award for Fashion. His collection stemmed from personal research undertaken in the wake of the recession in his hometown of Wexford, and was made entirely from up-cycled and unwanted materials, including leftover masonry paint. His collection was immediately exhibited in Brown Thomas, Dublin, available exclusively as made-to-order. Malone's work has garnered international praise for its originality and spirit and has since been featured in major international publications including Vogue Italia, Vogue India, British Vogue, LOVE, Dazed, Dansk, Wonderland, Garage, The Independent and the Irish Times.

Malone has previously worked for Louis Vuitton in Paris and currently runs his own label alongside freelance design work in London.

### **Awards Received:**

Deutsche Bank Award for Fashion, Winner, 2014

Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy (LVMH) Grand Prix Scholarship Winner, 2014

Colin Barnes Drawing Prize Winner, 2012

National Wool Museum Wales, 'Hiraeth' Fine Art & Design Awards, 2010

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## Rory Simms

Rory Simms is a graphic designer whose work encompasses a diverse range of disciplines. Since graduating he has worked on large-scale identity projects that require print, web, motion graphics and environmental applications. Rory is passionate about expressive and experimental typography and often uses analog technologies to influence the aesthetic of his work.

Originally from Dublin, Ireland, he studied at Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT) where he received a BFA in Visual Communication Design in 2013. Rory has worked on projects for clients such as: The Public Theater, The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Queens Theater, Miami Science Museum, New York Times Book Review, among others. Rory is a member of the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts), ADC (Art Directors Club), TDC (Type Director's Club), and the SEGD (Society of Experiential Graphic Design). Rory is also a founding member of Ireland's 100 Archive, on which his work has been featured.

Rory currently works in the New York office of Pentagram.

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## **Billy MacDonald**

*“The psychoanalyst, like the archaeologist, must uncover layer after layer of the patient's psyche, before coming to the deepest, most valuable treasures.”*

Sigmund Freud

Billy MacDonald is a designer and maker. He is obsessed with developing concepts through experimentation, research and prototyping. His practice revolves around the interplay between 2D and 3D disciplines, generating ideas between the tangible and intangible. By uprooting the vulgar, visceral and unconscious, his work aims to uncover a life less rational.

The Freudian Object is a set of three designer toys. They each embody one of Sigmund Freud's key psychoanalytic concepts. The Freudian OBJECTs are artefacts of the unconscious taking the form of The Uncanny, The Castration Complex and The Primary Narcissist.

He graduated with a BA Honours Degree in Model Making, Design and Digital Effects from Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT) in 2013. He has since collaborated with design agency Animal based in New Delhi and Designer Books Beijing.

He is currently working as an architectural model maker at Modelworks Media, Dublin.

### **Awards Received:**

Screen Producers Ireland Graduate Award for Modelmaking, 2013

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## **Rebecca Marsden**

Rebecca Marsden's work focuses largely on processes and fabric manipulation, exploring the extent to which a concept can be realised and made tangible. Drawing inspiration from surrounds, wherever they may be, informs her work alongside the constant search for new ways to manipulate materials and the re-interpretation of traditional techniques.

Rebecca is a former student of the Limerick School of Art & Design where she received a First Class BA Honors in Fashion in 2012. She has worked internationally with designers in London, Paris and New Delhi. For the last three years her work has retailed in Brown Thomas of the Selfridges group, as part of their Create project.

### **Awards Received**

Irish Fashion Innovation Awards, Designer of the Year, 2014

Irish Fashion Innovation Awards, Innovation Award Winner, 2014

Homi Makers Design Award, Milan, 2014

Design & Crafts Council of Ireland, Future Makers Award, 2013

Limerick Institute Technology Graduate Award, 2012

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## Vincent Lam

Vincent Lam has always enjoyed creating something from nothing and from a young age he developed a strong interest in crafting sculptures. A keen curiosity for how things work generated an interest in mechanics and designing and making functional objects. The desire to make that, which can only be imagined, and his love of science fiction brought about the creation of the alien. The freedom of creative expression that comes with making the unobserved is something he is pursuing with a career in the film industry.

Vincent graduated with a first class BA (Hons) degree in Model Making from the Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT), Dun Laoghaire in 2014. Since then he has worked on prosthetics and costume at *Vikings* and *Penny Dreadful* and the films *From the Dark* and *Zenith*. He has also been involved in design and creating sculptures for *APE* and *April and the Bear*. He is currently creating his next monster for a short film.

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**Fresh Talent Press Release available online here:**

<http://www.dccoi.ie/media/press-releases/fresh-talent-an-exhibition-of-work-by-creative-new-designers-and-practition>