



FUTURE MAKERS

Future Makers Exhibition opens at Limerick School of Art & Design

Award winning work from the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's Future Makers programme goes on display

A curated selection of work by the 2013 and 2014 winners and recipients of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's Future Maker's Awards & Supports programme will officially open this Thursday, 25th September at Church Gallery, Limerick School of Art & Design.

Entitled **design make transform: contemporary craft and design from future makers**, the exhibition runs until 15th October 2014 and is being presented by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland in partnership with Limerick School of Art & Design as part of the Limerick City of Culture 2014 programme of events.

The work of 19 selected makers is included in **design make transform**, reflecting the breadth of disciplines and the diversity of work by students and practitioners that have been recognised and supported over the last two years through the Future Makers programme.

The exhibition demonstrates the featured designers' imaginative use of skill and their ability to transform their chosen materials through design thinking and skilled craftsmanship. Highlights of **design make transform** include fashion by **Sorcha O'Raghallaigh** and **Rebecca Marsden**, ceramics by **Owen Quinlan** and **Etaoin O'Reilly**, furniture by **Enda Scott** and a striking sculptural swing by **Garvan de Bruir**. The exhibition has been curated by Muireann Charleton, Education & Innovation Manager and Susan Holland, Education & Outreach Officer, at the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

With an annual prize fund of over **€24,000**, the Future Makers Awards & Supports programme rewards the next generation of Irish creatives, helping them develop an exciting future in the craft and design industry. Divided into student and practitioner categories, the programme promotes and distinguishes imaginative use of skills and excellence in design for creative students and graduates at a critical stage in their career.

Karen Hennessy, Chief Executive of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland

says that supporting designers and makers at all stages of their career is extremely important in paving the way for a strong and vibrant design and craft sector into the future. *“We are delighted to be showcasing this award winning work in partnership with Limerick School of Art & Design and to present all the inventive and imaginative works on display,”* said Ms. Hennessy. *“We hope to see these talented and emerging designers and makers further their careers in the creative industries. The Future Makers Awards & Supports Programme reflects our commitment to investing in the development of the next generation of designers and craftspeople and continue the ongoing promotion of their work.”*

James Greenslade, Head of School at Limerick School of Art and Design

(LSAD) said: *“LSAD is honoured to partner with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland for the exciting showcase of emerging design talent that is the Future Markers exhibition. LSAD welcomes the decision to situate this exhibition in the spectacular setting of the recently refurbished LSAD Church Gallery. LSAD, which was established as a School of Ornamental Arts in 1852, has had a long and award-winning history in both craft and design. The siting of this internationally renowned showcase in Limerick is particularly appropriate during its designation as Ireland’s first City of Culture in 2014.”*

Each of the featured Future Makers had their work independently assessed by some of the most highly regarded professionals in the sector. In 2013, the assessment panel included Daniel Charney, Professor of Design at Kingston University in London and award winning designer Peter Sheehan from Design Partners. All practitioner and student applications for the Future Makers Awards & Supports 2014 were assessed by a selection panel which featured internationally renowned designer maker Joseph Walsh; creative director and founder of Indigo & Cloth, Garrett Pitcher; and ceramic artist Neil Read.

design make transform continues at the Church Gallery, Limerick School of Art & Design until 15th October 2014.

Opening hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm

Admission is free

For further press information, please contact Elevate PR:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

About the featured Future Makers:

Alison Conneely – www.alisonconneely.com

Fashion designer Alison Conneely draws inspiration from her native Connemara. She works with materials all sourced in Ireland such as Donegal tweed, Belfast linen, sheepskins and hessian. Alison's practice combines silk-screen printing with crochet and leatherwork, creating bespoke pieces. She is inspired by the notion of geology as mythology through Irish folklore.

Alison received the 2013 Future Makers Emerging Practitioners Award.

Ashleigh Smith – www.atlanticequipmentproject.com

Sligo based industrial designer Ashleigh Smith is the founder of The Atlantic Equipment (AE) Project, a community based, and Atlantic Ocean inspired equipment canvas bags venture. Designed and made in the west of Ireland, with durability and function as primary requirements, these pieces are designed to support advanced adventure for thrill-seeking outdoor explorers. Utilising materials like quilted waxed cotton, other design features include cord and brass tie systems and cotton webbing straps. These packs are designed and built to last through many a muddy adventure. Ashleigh received the 2014 Future Makers Development Award and the 2014 Future Makers Networking Support.

Anastasija Pjatnicka – www.wearableceramics.weebly.com

Inspired by the power of armour, animal skins and feathers, jewellery designer Anastasija Pjatnicka creates work by binding together individually made ceramic modules with thread. She sews the ceramics pieces onto a textile base, enabling flexibility and ensuring the comfort of the wearer. Anastasija is drawn to the layering and fit of bird's feathers in wings. In her work she echoes that configuration and movement of bird's feathers for human form. The result is work that pushes the boundaries of how ceramics is viewed in a jewellery context. Anastasija received a 2013 Future Makers Student Materials Support.

Anthony Horrigan - www.cargocollective.com/anthonyhorrigan

Ceramic artist Anthony Horrigan's current practice revolves around utilising new technology alongside traditional methods of making. His work involves industrial techniques and specifically pushing the boundaries of exploring the creative potential of laser etching in ceramics. Anthony's *Amalgam* collection focuses on etching into glaze, and hand gilding the surface in precious metals. These canisters were cast in fine bone china, laser etched into glaze, and gilded by hand in burnished gold and platinum. Anthony received the 2013 Future Makers Student Innovation Award.

Enda Scott - www.thescottworkshop.com

Established by contemporary furniture designer Enda Scott in 2012, the Scott Workshop is driven by the aspiration to create pieces of contemporary furniture that demonstrate imagination in form and function. Enda pushes his sculptural concepts to form functional designs. His *Obliquity* table is made up of a helical curve that is intersected by the tabletop and cut off where the two meet. Ash, in both veneer and solid form is combined with Perspex in this piece. Enda received the 2014 Future Makers Development Award and the 2014 Future Makers Studio Support.

Eoin Lyons – www.eoinmlyons.com

Mechanical objects, science fiction, and theories of science and physics influence the work of Dublin based jewellery designer Eoin Lyons. His *Self-organised Capacitors Brooch* is based on the ideas of quantum theory and chaos theory, while his *Hypercube 2-Part Ring* and *Hyperspace Ring* are intended to echo the idea of the hypercube. Eoin is concerned with the concept of order arriving spontaneously out of chaos. Eoin received the 2013 Future Makers Studio Support.

Etaoin O'Reilly - etaoinoreilly46@hotmail.com

Etaoin O'Reilly's ceramic work is inspired by the complex relationship between the positive and negative aspects of the natural world. Fascinated by herbal remedies and the power of nature and growth, her work reflects the organic, biomorphic and abstract curvilinear shapes found in nature. The large forms are hand-built using coiling and press moulding techniques. Etaoin's interest lies in furthering her knowledge in techniques of crystalline glazing and new hand building skills. Etaoin received the 2014 Future Makers Student Award and the 2014 Future Makers Residency and Training Award.

Garvan de Bruir – www.debruir.com

From his Kildare studio, Garvan de Bruir designs and makes pieces that cross the disciplines of furniture and leather works. He is influenced by the integrity of the stitched construction and the robust leather that are all features of the local saddler industry in the region.

Garvan's collection of hand-made leather bags and bow ties celebrate the true natural features of leather as a structural and inventive material. Structural curves feature in many of Garvan's larger scale projects such as his steel sculptural swing design. Garvan received the 2013 Future Makers Judges Mentoring Support.

Kate O'Kelly - www.kateokelly.tumblr.com

Inspired by her grandmother's eclectic Georgian house, which was filled with beautifully crafted objects from around the world, ceramic artist Kate O'Kelly's work intends to be a surreal hybrid of objects referencing her visual environment from childhood. Kate combines traditional craft methods with industrial processes to create her forms. She is currently investigating digital processes for model making, which includes 3D modeling, digital printing and the use of industrial CNC machinery to produce prototypes for casting. Kate received the 2014 Future Makers Innovation Award and the 2014 Future Makers Development Award.

Lorna Boyle - www.lornaboyle.carbonmade.com

Lorna Boyle's work takes inspiration from the overlooked spaces of our urban landscape. She uses cracks in pavements and walls to explore the negative spaces and creates new objects from that imprint. Her making process involves taking moulds from a wall or pavement, 3D scanning, and printing works in nylon. She electroforms in copper around a stone, and plates in gold or silver. Lorna's invites the wearer of her jewellery to seek out these city spaces, gaining an appreciation for the beauty that can be found in raw urban surroundings. Lorna received the 2014 Future Makers Student Innovation Award.

Meadhbh McIlgorm - meadhbhmc@gmail.com

Meadhbh's work explores the notion of tangible and intangible by presenting delicate glass structures, drawn from an exploration of cloud forms and weather systems. The finished abstract objects possess a sense of potential movement as well as an apparent weightlessness from their construction. Material experimentation is the most important aspect of Meadhbh's practice. Meadhbh received the 2013 Future Makers Student Award.

Michael Harris – www.michaelharrisdesigns.com

South African born, Sligo based designer Michael Harris is a student of the BSc in Furniture Design at the renowned GMIT Letterfrack National Centre for Excellence in Furniture Design and Technology. His award winning *Digital Desk 21* is a classic writing desk reimagined. A large shallow drawer and discrete power cable management are designed to minimize clutter. His Digital Desk 21 is an innovative combination of natural and synthetic materials used to maximum effect. Michael Harris received the 2014 Future Makers Student Design Award and a Future Makers Networking Support.

Owen Quinlan – www.owenquinlan.com

Galway based ceramic artist Owen Quinlan's glaze based work focuses on the geological attributes of the ceramic medium. On-going research into the rocky, molten and primal forces is central to this practice. Owen has reduced his forms to one singular repetitive shape to enable a focused emphasis on his interest in materials and fire. He continues to test evolving layers of materials in relation to the firing process, capturing a physical record of his developing, experimental practice. Owen received the 2013 Future Makers Innovation Award

Petria Lenehan - lenehanpetria@gmail.com

New York based, Dublin born Petria Lenehan works closely with Irish tweed, linen producers and local tailors in the creation of her pieces. Inspired by Irish historical dress, textiles and textures found in Irish landscapes, Petria aims to connect the environment and traditional skills with modern dress. In her work, Petria's desire is to provide quality, highly crafted pieces with good design that enables living everyday with thoughtful style. Petria received a 2014 Future Makers Development Award.

Print Block – www.printblock.ie

Dublin based studio collective, innovative textile printers, Print Block are a group of textile artists and designers working together with a shared vision to re-establish the textile design industry in Ireland. Producing fine textile designs, their aim is to raise the bar for textile design and production among the textile community. Formed in 2010, Print Block opened their own studio in 2012 in Dublin 8, and members include: Olga Tiernan, Ruth Doorley, Liz Nilsson, Jennifer Phelan, Caroline Ryan, Liz Walsh and Niamh Slattery. Print Block received the 2014 Future Makers Design Award and the 2013 Future Makers Studio Assistance Support.

Rebecca Marsden – www.rebeccamarsdendesigns.weebly.com

Rebecca Marsden is a multi-award winning fashion and textile designer based in the north-west of Ireland. Her work is a fusion of structural form and fashion. Utilising materials like brass, she manipulates the material allowing the metal to arc in organic waves, complementing the fall of the fabric in her pieces. Her work focuses largely on processes and fabric manipulation, exploring the extent to which a concept can be pushed and realised. Rebecca received the 2013 Future Makers Design Award.

Rebecca Maddock – www.rebeccamaddock.com

Rebecca Maddock's conceptual *This is Knot Jewellery* collection is an exploration into the change in value that hair undergoes when used as a craft material within bodily adornment. The process of collecting and felting the hair is an integral aspect of the creation of these works. Rebecca's wearable sculptures aim to give fresh value to human hair when used in new contexts. Currently working with contemporary jewellery gallery *At Work Gallery*, Brick Lane, London, Rebecca showcased her work at the New Designers 2014 exhibition in London with her support from Future Makers. Rebecca received a 2014 Future Makers Judges Spotlight Prize.

Simon Doyle - www.simon-doyle.com

Simon Doyle is a Dublin based furniture maker working with wood, and more recently exploring the potential of working with metal. His *Chair in Walnut*, was designed to be an object that could only be made by hand, and is deliberately not viable for industrial production. This concept led him to investigate the meaning of craft in his practice, with a focus on visible joinery, and traditional techniques like coopering. Simon is interested in deliberately intersecting elements and the result is a finished chair that embodies an exoskeleton of an insect. Simon received the 2013 Future Makers Residencies and Training Support.

Sorcha O'Raghallaigh- www.sorchaoraghallaigh.com

London based Irish fashion designer Sorcha O'Raghallaigh designs and makes small avant-garde collections each season. Her collection, which features *When I think about you flowers grow out of my grave*, was inspired by the work of Irish illustrator and master stained-glass artist, Harry Clarke (1889-1931). Sorcha conveys Clarke's dreamy and haunting mood in her pieces. She also references the religious aspects to Clarke's stained-glass works in a deliberate and beautifully provocative way. Sorcha received the 2013 Future Makers Studio Support.

About the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland:

The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCol) is the main champion of the design and craft industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality design, innovation and competitiveness. Its vision is that Irish design and craft is recognised and valued worldwide for its excellence in craftsmanship, innovation and marketing. DCCol's activities are funded by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation via Enterprise Ireland. In collaboration with partner organisations throughout the island of Ireland, DCCol is convening Irish Design 2015 on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Enterprise Ireland. The overall objective of the year long initiative is to sustain and grow employment opportunities, sales and export potential for the Irish design sector, by encouraging investment in design as a key component of competitiveness and innovation. www.dccoi.ie.

About Future Makers:

Future Makers Awards & Supports were launched by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland in 2009. The programme aims to assist students and recent graduates of full-time craft and design based studies or training to pursue an exciting and rewarding career in the craft and design industry. DCCol takes a leading role in recognising and rewarding excellence in craftsmanship and design innovation. It aims to provide practical support and professional encouragement to students and practitioners at critical points in their training and careers. www.futuremakers.ie.