

FROM THE GROUND UP

THE TRANSFORMATION OF IRISH CLAY

21 March–18 July 2026

DCCI National Design & Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny



Introduction

Design & Crafts Council Ireland (DCCI) National Design & Craft Gallery introduces *From the Ground Up: The Transformation of Irish Clay*, an exhibition that brings together 42 of Ireland’s leading ceramic artists. As the national agency for supporting and promoting design and craft, we are proud to support a sector that continues to shape and define Ireland’s cultural and creative identity. This exhibition is a powerful testament to the strength and diversity of Irish ceramics today. DCCI remains committed to supporting and promoting the work of designers and makers in building sustainable practices and to championing the societal value of their work. In September 2026, we are delighted to open the DCCI Academy Ceramics building in Thomastown, introducing a three-year degree programme in Ceramics to the heart of Thomastown, complementing the DCCI Academy Jewellery and Goldsmithing. This degree programme will continue the long history of education in ceramics in Thomastown and aid in preserving traditional skills, champion creativity, and equip the ceramics students of the future with the technical skills to innovate and sustain this craft. *From the Ground Up: The Transformation of Irish Clay* stands as an example of what can be achieved when tradition, creativity, and collaboration come together. I warmly congratulate all 42 participating ceramic artists, as well as curator John Goode, and all involved in bringing this remarkable exhibition to life.

Mary Blanchfield

CEO, Design & Crafts Council Ireland

From the Ground Up

The *Transformation of Irish Clay* brings together forty-two of Ireland’s leading ceramic artists, representing over a thousand years of combined experience, creativity, and craftsmanship. Together, they reflect the remarkable strength, diversity, and vitality of Irish ceramics today. Each artist brings a distinct voice and vision, united by a shared respect for material, process, and place—an understanding that clay is not merely a medium, but a living connection between earth, maker, and culture. These artists trace the evolution of Irish clay from deep local roots to a confident international presence. Spanning generations, techniques, and philosophies, their practices embody both continuity and innovation. They have exhibited widely across Ireland and internationally, including Europe, the United States, South America, Japan, China, and India— demonstrating the global significance of Irish ceramics as a discipline grounded in locality yet engaged in worldwide conversations on art, design, material culture, and sustainability. This exhibition celebrates technical mastery and innovation, as well as the powerful narratives embedded in clay. Through their work, artists evoke landscape and language, heritage and experimentation, memory, identity, and transformation. Grounded in Irish earth yet open to the world, *From the Ground Up: The Transformation of Irish Clay* affirms Ireland’s vital and evolving place in contemporary ceramics—honouring clay as an ancient medium continually renewed by the imagination of today’s makers.

John Goode, Curator.

John Goode

For over twenty-five years, John has been at the forefront of promoting and advancing Irish ceramics. A passionate advocate and collector, he has played a pivotal role in bringing Irish ceramic art to national and international prominence. In 2007, John founded the Irish Ceramic Awards at the Hallward Gallery, Dublin a groundbreaking initiative that elevated craft into a fine art context and showcased the creativity and innovation of Irish ceramicists.

Over the course of his career, John has commissioned exclusive ceramic and sculptural works for collectors across Ireland and abroad. His curatorial experience is both deep and diverse — he has curated hundreds of exhibitions nationally and internationally, including over fifteen years as curator of the indoor exhibition for Sculpture in Context at the National Botanic Gardens, celebrating one of Ireland’s most enduring art events.

In 2000, John co-founded Mill Cove Gallery and Sculpture Gardens on the Beara Peninsula with his partner, artist John Brennan. The gallery has since become a vital space for Irish visual arts, known for its commitment to showcasing fine art, sculpture, and ceramic excellence. As Director of the Kenmare Arts Festival, John continues to champion Irish creativity, curating annual ceramic exhibitions and workshops that connect artists, collectors, and communities.

Beyond the visual arts, John has explored the intersection of art and literature through Poets Meet Painters, an international annual project he launched in 2011 that unites poets and visual artists in a celebration of creative dialogue. He is also the author of three books published on Irish ceramics, a published poet and writer, and a dedicated contributor to the cultural record of Irish art.

In addition to his artistic endeavours, John has worked extensively in the area of LGBT+ health and advocacy, contributing to both Irish and European publications. His multifaceted career reflects a lifelong commitment to creativity, community, and cultural expression — establishing him as one of Ireland’s most knowledgeable and influential voices in the field of ceramics and contemporary art.



Rory Shearer

Vessel

Naked Raku 42x30cm



Mike Byrne

Urbanesque

Engobe and glaze 21x36cm



Jackie Ball

Bloom

Ceramic on Kilkenny limestone 50x60cm



Ana Duncan

Selkie's Dream

Stoneware 36x36cm



Ian Carty

Beryl Goes Swimming

Ceramic 20x23cm



Charlie Mahon

Saltwater Epaulettes

Earthenware with glazes 50x30cm



Ann Marie Robinson

Juicy Fruity Tea Set

White earthenware clay 32x26cm



Helena Brennan

Teapot

Handthrown porcelain 23cm



Pat Connor
Figure
Ceramic 52x37cm



Eleanor Swan

My Home My Castle

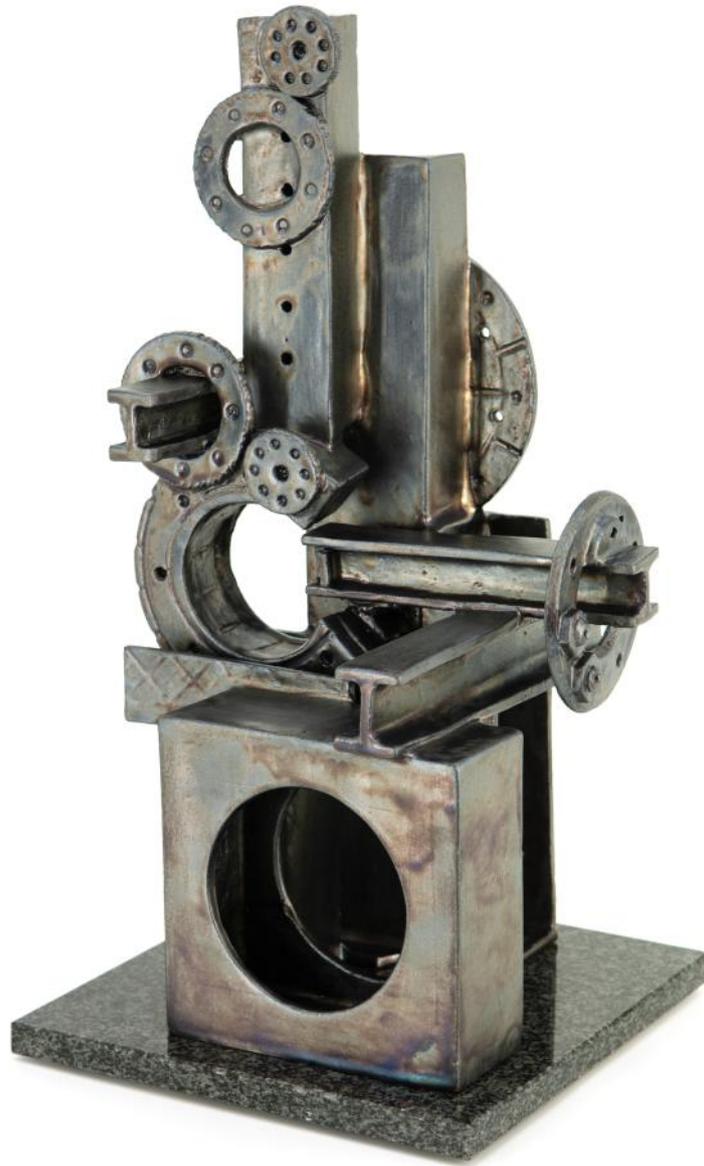
Glazed stoneware 74x58cm



David McLoughlin

Chess Set

Stoneware, handmade pieces 48x48cm



Ursula McGivern
Industrial Reverie
Stoneware 53x27cm



Sonja Guenther

Twisted House

Stoneware with porcelain coating 60x20cm



Sally Cush

Croí

Wheel thrown & altered vase 57x24cm



Adrian Brothers
Restrained
Naked Raku 42x30cm



Barra Cassidy

Shopping Day

Stoneware 28x17cm



Sara Roberts

Summer Shoreline (top) Indigo Tide (bottom)

Porcelain 93x52cm

110x47cm



Trevor Woods

Drifting in Blue i and ii

Framed ceramic 80x100cm



Pamela Schroeder

Primavera II

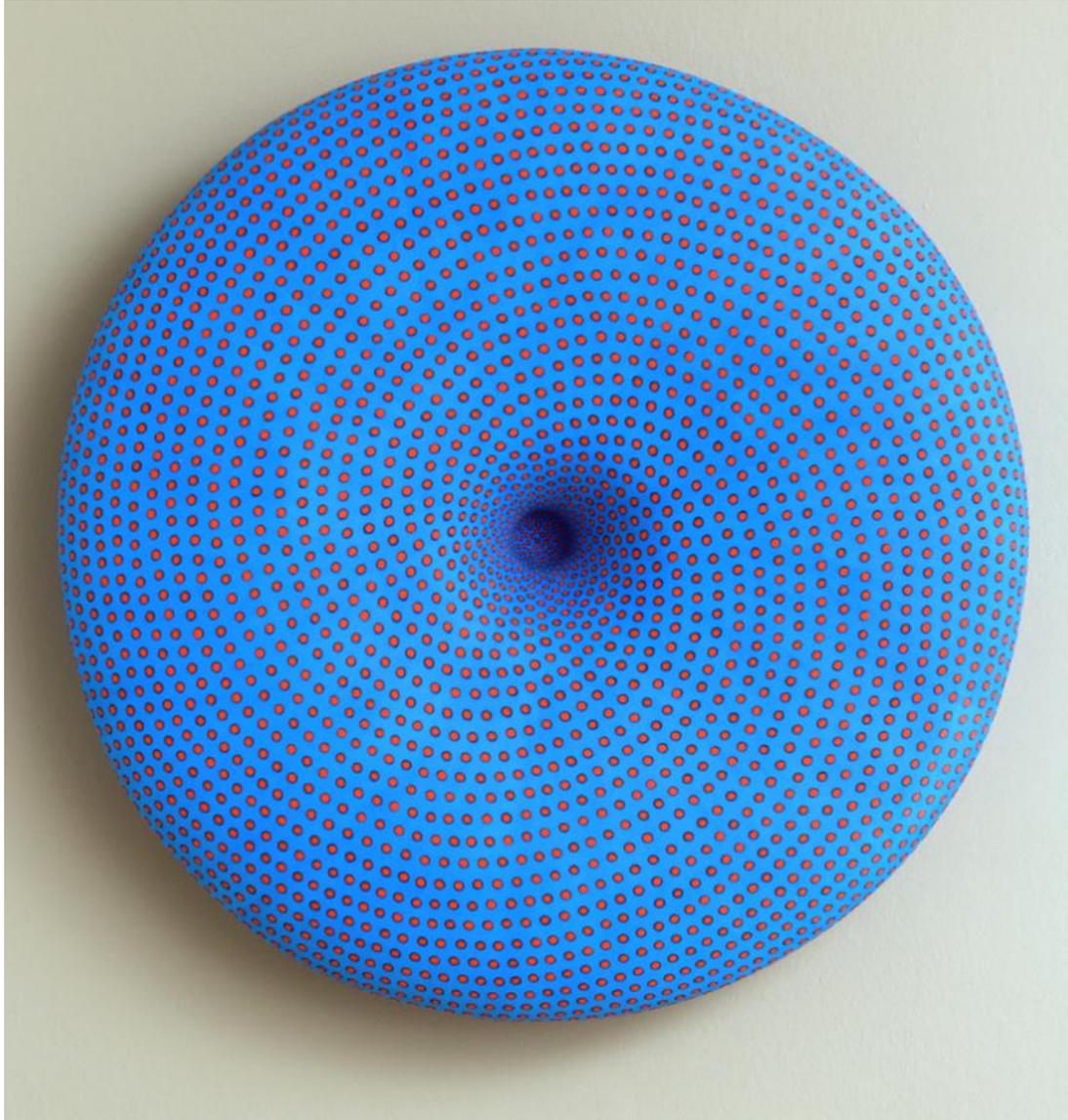
Parian porcelain 50x20cm



Elizabeth Petcu

Cornucopia

Lustred porcelain 50x50cm



Grainne Watts

Wall Bindu

Ceramic 56cm diameter



Markus Jungmann

Halo

Porcelain 35cm diameter



Jim Turner

Sacred Landscape

Ceramic/paperclay 42x37cm



Marjorie Cunningham

Wine Vessel

Stoneware 21x17cm



Jean Cleary

Rest

Ceramic 36x25cm



Vicki Sutherland
Memento Mori—Flora
Porcelain under glass 33x20cm



Mandy Cheng

Voluptuous

Porcelain Nerikomi 29x17m



Jane Jermyn

Tumbling Radiolaria (detail)

Cast porcelain 56x123cm



Ciara O'Keeffe

From Vessel to Witness

Stoneware & mixed media 43x33cm



Tatiana Dobos

Endless Shadows

Porcelain & stoneware 91x131cm



Jane Seymour

Blue Bull

Ceramic, oxides and slips 49cm diameter



Etain Hickey

Under the Golden Sun

Black clay, porcelain slip, 24 carat gold lustre 22x14cm



Bernadette Tuite

Mizen Head

Marbled stoneware 22x16cm



Eileen Singleton
Landscape Vessel
Stoneware 49x42cm



Cora Cummins

Dream Landscape

Stoneware + underglazes 43x32cm



Anna Donovan
Relic
Stoneware 48x32cm



Brigit Beemster

Brother

Ceramic 40x20cm



Sarah Farrelly

Rooks

Ceramic on Kilkenny limestone 48x18cm



Leona Devine

Fox

Stoneware with glazes 60x23cm



Aisling Roche
Sea Spiral
Porcelain 50x50cm



Claire Finlay
Snow Hare
Ceramic 50x24cm



Nicola Kelly

Caught

Porcelain + gold lustre 48x48cm

ARTISTS BIOGRAPHIES

CCAD Crawford College of Art and Design, Cork

DCCI Design and Craft Council Ireland

LSAD Limerick School of Art and Design

NCAD National College of Art and Design, Dublin

RHA Royal Hibernian Academy

Ball, Jackie

Jackie is an award-winning artist based in Dun Laoghaire, creating unique, thought-provoking sculpture. With a career spanning over 28 years, she has curated several groundbreaking exhibitions, produced large-scale public work, and served as chairperson of Sculpture in Context for 13 years. She has exhibited in Ireland and internationally, and her work is held in public and private collections. Her practice explores the tension between appearance and reality, using layered surfaces, distortion, and texture to reveal hidden narratives, inviting viewers to look closer and uncover what lies beneath. These sculptural ceramics question identity, perception, and the masks we present daily.

Beemster, Brigit

Brigit has been working as a full-time artist since 1989. She has developed her own very individual style, using the clay in a way nobody else does. She enjoys the challenge of stretching the boundaries of what is possible with her raw materials. *"The theme of my work is people. Our real selves, us without the masks, fascinate me. My sculptures show us at play with each other, our pets, ourselves. A sense of humour is essential. I would like to be thought of as a cross between Norman Rockwell, Pieter Bruegel and Gary Larson."*

Brennan, Helena

Helena was born in Dublin in 1942. Pioneering high fired pottery here she is throwing for over sixty years; creating functional and decorative stoneware and porcelain fired to 1270°C. Helena explores tea culture with translucent, ergonomic vessels and teapots, while her sculptural installations draw inspiration from local flora and fauna

reflecting her deep connection to material and place. Cherrywood ash-oxide glazes, developed at her Avoca studio are fired in a kiln she built in 2009. Currently Helena is constructing a wood kiln to explore woodland ash glazes at her "bit of paradise" in Co Wicklow.

Brothers, Adrian

Adrian studied Fine Art at the Ulster College of Art and Design, Belfast, graduating in 1977. After working in education and graphic design, he established Kildoag Pottery in partnership with Ursula McGivern. Adrian specialises in Raku and alternative firing techniques, and his work is regularly exhibited throughout Ireland and the UK.

Byrne, Mike

Mike graduated in Ceramic Design from LSAD in 1977 and completed an MA in Fine Art in 2000. He co-founded The Irish Contemporary Ceramics Collection at the Hunt Museum and led LSAD's Ceramic Design Course from 2009–2015. Since retiring in 2016, he has focused on his art, exhibiting nationally and internationally. A three-time 'Portfolio, Critical Selection' artist with DCCI, his work featured in Ceramic Review (2017) and at Collect International Art Fair (2023, 2024). His solo exhibition URBANESQUE showed at Limerick City Gallery of Art in 2025. He lives and works in Limerick.

Carty, Ian

Born in Sligo in 1977, Ian began working with clay in 1998 as a potter's apprentice, mastering the art of glazing and firing across many ceramic traditions, including Raku. Based in Co Sligo, his studio overlooks the dramatic landscapes of Benbulbin and the Atlantic, both of which deeply influence his work. Ian's ceramics are celebrated for their evocative textures and connection to place, particularly his acclaimed Bog Series, which captures the spirit of the Irish landscape. His striking Horsehair Raku pieces have also gained a devoted following among collectors in Ireland and abroad.

Cassidy, Barra

Barra is an award-winning sculptor based in Sligo who works across a wide range of materials, including ceramic, concrete, bronze, steel, and found objects. His practice draws inspiration from mythology, primitive art, anthropology, and a deep fascination with the diversity of the natural world. Creating both figurative and abstract works for interior and exterior spaces, his sculptures evoke a sense of the ancient while looking confidently toward the future. Barra's work is exhibited throughout Ireland and internationally, featuring in public collections and galleries. Recent public commissions include works for Sligo County Council (2021) and Roscommon County Council (2022).

Cheng, Mandy

Mandy is a renowned porcelain artist whose work embodies elegance, precision, and movement through ergonomic forms. Using the intricate nerikomi technique—layering and slicing coloured porcelain—she creates unique, nature-inspired patterns. Her minimalist aesthetic highlights grace, balance, and porcelain's delicate strength. Originally trained in chemistry, she established her studio in 2005 to pursue ceramics full-time. Her innovative practice bridges creativity and technical mastery, earning awards including the Bronze Prize (2021 Ceramics Museum, Taiwan), the SO Fine Art Editions Award (2021), and the Craftsmanship Award (2022). Mandy is internationally recognized and featured in *Nerikomi: The Art of Colored Clay* by Thomas Hoadley (USA, 2024).

Cleary, Jean

Since earning her MA in Ceramics, Jean has worked as a ceramic sculptor for over 25 years, exploring the human figure through clay and nuanced surface treatments. Her work investigates the theme of "looking"—both inward reflection and outward gaze—expressed through figurative and portrait-based sculptures. Recent pieces feature serene portrait heads and resting cats, symbolising contemplation and the art of rest. Jean's cloaked female figures embody

strength and stillness. Her work has appeared in Ceramics Ireland, Irish Ceramics by John Goode, House and Home, and The Irish Sunday Independent, and has been featured on RTÉ's Nationwide.

Connor, Pat (Patrick)

Pat, winner of the 2017 Irish Ceramic Award, was born in Dublin and studied at NCAD. He moved to West Cork in 1971 and established a ceramic studio that evolved from domestic ware to sculptural work. From 1976 to 1986, he lectured at NCAD, CCAD, and LSAD. His work is represented in major public and private collections, including the Arts Council of Ireland, The Crawford Municipal Gallery, The Ulster Museum and The National Museum of Ireland. He also represented Ireland internationally at the 1980 Paris Biennale and the Japan World Craft Council Symposium. He is based in Schull and continues to create new work from his studio.

Cummins, Cora

Cora is a graduate of the CCAD and DCCI Pottery Skills Course. After college, she worked as a production potter before becoming the Ceramics Tutor at Dungarvan College, a role she has cherished for 19 years, nurturing students' creativity and growth. Following a personal loss, Cora returned to clay as a form of healing, rediscovering her love of making. What began as a way to process grief has become a renewed creative path. Each piece she creates now carries a sense of purpose, passion, and quiet joy in its making.

Cunningham, Marjorie

Marjorie studied Fine Art, Sculpture, and Ceramics at the CCAD. Combining ceramic and wood in her work, she received the Guinness Peat Aviation Award shortly after graduating. Recently retired from teaching Art with the Kerry Education and Training Board, Marjorie now runs Grounded Pottery.ie with her daughter and offers workshops from her studio in Kerry. Her designs reflect her deep connection to

stonework and Irish heritage, employing various types of clay and finishes to evoke texture and tradition. Marjorie's work is represented in numerous private collections worldwide, and she has created several public artworks under the Per Cent for Art scheme.

Cush, Sally

Sally is a ceramic artist based in West Cork. After working in several potteries, she completed DCCI pottery course in Kilkenny, graduating in 1995. Her ceramics pay tender tribute to the natural world and Ireland's native species, inspired by the wild beauty of her coastal surroundings. Sally's work is available at The Mill Cove Gallery, Kenmare, and at selected exhibitions. She is a member of DCCI, Ceramics Ireland, the Cork Potters Society, and MIACP.

Devine, Leona

Leona is an honours graduate in Fine and Applied Art from the University of Ulster, where she specialised in Ceramics. Her professional career began in 2006 when Limavady Borough Council commissioned her to create ceramic trophies for the Danny Boy Festival Music Competition. Since then, she has completed numerous commissions, including a trophy for the NWRC Media Award Off the Cuff (City of Culture 2013), mayoral gifts for Derry City Council presented to international dignitaries, and bespoke pieces for the NW PEACE III Partnership. In 2014, she received the Tyrone Guthrie Centre Regional Bursary.

Dobos, Tatiana

Tatiana is a ceramic artist based in the west of Ireland, creating expressive, emotionally charged artworks from her small studio. Her practice explores the connection between emotion and form, shaping raw clay into visual representations of human experience. Smooth, circular forms reflect balance and fulfilment, while angular structures convey conflict and tension. Tatiana's work has featured in Generation 20 and Clay Journeys, part of Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture. Representing Ireland at the

2022 Argila Festival in Italy, she later received the 2023 Ceramics Ireland Professional Practice Award and facilitates inclusive art projects promoting creativity and connection.

Donovan, Anna

Anna works with high-fired clay to create figurative sculptures and vessels that explore the human form as both subject and storyteller. Using the body as a foundation, she investigates the projection of identity and the subtle power of gesture and posture. Employing a range of hand-building techniques, Anna draws out the expressive potential of clay, manipulating its surface to create contrasting textures before layering slips and glazes. Metal elements are often integrated—sometimes directly into the clay—introducing a rich interplay of erosion and corrosion that deepens the tactile and visual complexity of her work.

Duncan, Ana

Ana was born in Dublin and works primarily in bronze and ceramic from her Churchtown studio. Her sculpture centres on the female figure, informed by influences such as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, and Brancusi. She has exhibited widely across Ireland and internationally, with major public commissions in China, the USA, and Ireland, including works for Tallaght Hospital and Suzhou Centre. Ana's work is held in numerous public and private collections. Her modernist approach combines strength, fluidity, and emotional resonance, exploring form and movement.

Farrelly, Sarah

Sarah lives and works in Cork. A graduate of NCAD, she is a recipient of the Etain Hickey Award at the Irish Ceramic Awards. She has exhibited widely, including at the Royal Hibernian Academy. She creates one-of-a-kind ceramic sculptures, often depicting native Irish animals. Each work is hand-built, meticulously painted, and high-fired to achieve vitrification. Inspired by tribal patterns, Sarah uses intricate decorative motifs to complement her carefully considered forms. She finds every stage of the sculpting process

fascinating and values the harmony between form and decoration in her practice.

Finlay, Claire

Claire is a ceramic artist based on Ireland's west coast, where Atlantic light and shifting landscapes shape her sculptural and functional pieces. After twenty-five years restoring 16th-century Turkish Iznik and Kütahya pottery, she began creating her own work inspired by the rugged coastline's shells, seabirds, and windswept forms. Working mainly with stoneware clay, oxides, and matt glazes, she crafts organic surfaces that echo the fluid transformation of nature—fish into leaves, leaves into the ribs of a boat. Firing to 1260°C, her ceramics balance artistry and utility while reflecting on environmental fragility and the quiet rhythms of the sea.

Guenther, Sonja

Sonja is a potter and ceramic artist based in Thomastown, Co Kilkenny. Originally from Germany, she moved to Ireland in 1995 and studied at CCAD, followed by DCCI's pottery skills course, Thomastown, where she won the Crafts Council of Ireland's Student of the Year award. Working in ceramics for over 20 years, Sonja creates slab-built stoneware houses that explore architectural character and movement. Her recent series of lidded jars is inspired by the textures and formations of Irish coastal landscapes. Sonja is a member of MADE in Kilkenny and registered with the DCCI.

Hickey, Etain

Etain is a renowned Irish ceramicist whose vibrant, intricately decorated works have become a hallmark of contemporary Irish ceramics. Originally from Dublin, Etain has lived in West Cork for over 40 years, sharing a studio with her partner and fellow artist Jim Turner. Her practice is deeply rooted in the natural world and draws inspiration from Japanese Ikigai philosophy, combining painterly surface decoration with joyful, nature-inspired forms. *"In my ceramics, I seek a meditative approach to working with clay—creating painted surfaces that explore the subconscious connection between*

hand, heart, and head. The best work happens when intuition leads, and the heart guides the hand."

Jermyn, Jane

Jane's ceramics are abstract organic forms that combine geological and organic references. Her inspiration comes from the natural world and weathered decay. It is a celebration rather than an imitation of nature. Jane has exhibited, demonstrated and taken part in symposia and residencies in over 30 countries worldwide. In 2017, she became an elected member of the International Academy of Ceramics and in 2023 she was Selected for the Homo Faber Guide/Michelangelo Foundation, Geneva, Switzerland. Her work is in a number of international public and private collections.

Jungmann, Markus

Markus is a ceramic artist based in Kenmare, Co Kerry. Working primarily with porcelain, he creates refined, wheel-thrown forms that serve as canvases for richly textured glaze surfaces. His work explores the interplay of order and flow, drawing inspiration from the patterns and structures of the Irish landscape. A former lecturer in ceramics at MTU CCAD (1993–2017), Markus has exhibited widely in Ireland and internationally, including Collect, the Irish Ceramic Awards, and Made in Ireland. His work is represented in numerous galleries and publications, including Irish Ceramics by John Goode.

Kelly, Nicola

Nicola is a visual artist based in Baltimore, West Cork, whose practice explores the fragility and resilience of the human condition through clay, thread, and mixed media. Her work often employs repetition, vessel forms, and allegory to evoke memory, time, and the tension between permanence and vulnerability. Drawing inspiration from the rugged beauty of Roaring Water Bay, Kelly combines form and surface to create contemplative, tactile works that resonate with emotional depth. She has exhibited widely across Ireland

and Europe, including at Cahir Arts, Uillinn, the European Prize, World Craft Council, Belgium, and the National Design & Craft Gallery, Kilkenny.

Mahon, Charlie

Charlie is a ceramic artist and potter based in Cork, whose work centres on storytelling. Each piece embodies a narrative inspired by the world around him, personal experience, or imagination. Working primarily with white earthenware clay, he combines traditional techniques such as throwing, slab-building, and mould-making with hand-shaping and painting. Bold colours and strong forms define his expressive style, balancing function and sculpture. From functional pottery to wall pieces and sculptural urns, his work invites connection and reflection. Charlie's creations are exhibited across Ireland and available from his Little Island studio and his shop in the English Market, Cork.

McGivern, Ursula

Ursula graduated from St Mary's University College, Belfast in 1978, specialising in ceramics. She worked for 25 years as a graphic designer and teacher before co-founding Kildoag Pottery with her partner, Adrian Brothers, in 2010. Ursula has exhibited widely in Ireland and the UK and has her work in private collections. She was awarded the Irish Ceramic Award at Sculpture in Context, Dublin, in 2023, and the Zozimus Award in 2025.

McLoughlin, David

David began his pottery journey in 1987, studying Ceramics at Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design. His career has taken him through ten potteries across Ireland, Canada, and Scotland, shaping a distinctive practice that blends classical and contemporary influences. Since founding Benbulbin Pottery in 1996, he has created expressive functional and figurative ceramics exploring humour, the human condition, and social themes such as justice, climate change, and equality. A dedicated teacher and lifelong learner, David continues to evolve his craft through diverse firing

techniques. He is also an accomplished musician, performing and recording with several original bands.

O'Keeffe, Ciara

Ciara is a ceramic artist with a Post Graduate Certificate in Cultural & Creative Entrepreneurship from Trinity College Dublin (2020) and a BA in Ceramics from LSAD (1999). Her work has been exhibited internationally, including at the Saatchi Gallery, Boomer Gallery, and Nou Millenni Gallery. In 2024, she was among twenty-five global artists invited to demonstrate at the Ceramic Congress. Ciara's projects, such as the 1916 Sackville Art Project, have been archived by Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University, reflecting her commitment to art, heritage, and creative innovation.

Petcu, Elizabeth

Elizabeth spent 25 years as Principal Flute with the RTÉ Concert Orchestra before turning her focus to new creative pursuits. She began working with ceramics in the early 1980s, studying with Peter and Helena Brennan, pioneers of studio pottery in Ireland. Working mainly in porcelain, she draws on organic forms and textures to shape her distinctive pieces. Her recent work is inspired by the ornate stucco ceilings of historic Irish houses, reimagined on porcelain tiles. She also returns often to her long-held fascination with the ovoid form, celebrated in her whimsical, life-affirming Dragon Eggs series.

Roberts, Sara

Sara is a highly accomplished ceramic artist whose work reflects a deep understanding of visual storytelling, material exploration, and form. Trained in Graphic Design at the NCAD (1980–1984), she earned a degree in Visual Communications and worked as a designer in London, Australia, and Ireland for over 15 years. Since transitioning to ceramics in 2000, Sara has drawn on her design background to inform her practice, emphasizing composition, surface, and conceptual clarity. Her work explores the dialogue between nature and form, translating

landscape and memory into tactile, sculptural ceramics. Sara exhibits regularly in Ireland and internationally and, as an active member of the Irish ceramics community, continues to contribute to the evolving narrative of contemporary Irish ceramics.

Robinson, Ann Marie

Ann Marie is a celebrated Irish ceramic artist known for her distinctive hand-built pottery. Each piece is individually crafted and decorated, reflecting her fascination with clay's transformation from raw earth to refined form. Originally from Lancashire, she studied ceramics at the University of Ulster and has since created works for private collectors and public collections, including the Ulster Museum and the National Museum of Ireland. Her creations blend artistry and craftsmanship, earning her recognition in publications such as *Ceramic Review* and *Irish Arts Review*. Ann Marie continues to produce and exhibit exceptional ceramics from her studio in Northern Ireland.

Roche, Aisling

Aisling, MA Ceramics (CMU, 1990), is an acclaimed ceramic artist whose work has been exhibited at the Grilse Gallery, RHA Dublin, Vanguard Gallery Cork, and Uillinn. Her commissions include *Emerge* (2000) for Southwest Fisheries and *The Famine Wave* (1999) for St Louis HS, Dublin. Her sculptures are held in public and corporate collections across Ireland and the UK. Inspired by her lifelong connection to the sea, Aisling's porcelain works explore marine ecology and the delicate beauty of underwater life, encouraging environmental awareness and a deeper appreciation for the fragile ecosystems beneath the ocean's surface.

Schroeder, Pamela

Pamela graduated in Fine Art and Art History from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa in 1987. Her ceramic work is primarily in Parian porcelain, with surface, pattern and form as areas of particular interest. Pamela's Instagram is Aboda Gallery and her studio is in

Castleisland, Co Kerry.

Shearer, Rory

Rory was born in Northern Ireland and trained in ceramics at Belfast Art College, graduating in 1976. Deeply influenced by The Leach Tradition and the philosophies of Eastern pottery, his work combines craftsmanship, purpose, and expressive freedom. Living amidst the rugged Northern Irish landscape, Shearer draws inspiration from its beauty, strength, and unpredictability. His ceramics balance energy and discipline, reflecting both rural industry and personal vision. Using slips and oxides, he evokes the colours and textures of place with vitality and honesty. Now at the height of his career, he continues to create work that resonates nationally and internationally.

Seymour, Jane

Jane is a celebrated self-taught ceramic artist whose figurative, slab-built forms have left a lasting mark on contemporary Irish ceramics. Born in Suffolk in 1954 and living in Co Clare since 1994, she has developed a distinctive style that replaces glaze with layered oxides, stains, and intricate incised drawings. Her work—often featuring birds, especially crows, and the human figure—reflects emotional depth and technical innovation. A member of Ceramics Ireland, Portfolio Ireland, and the Craft Potters Association (UK), Jane's award-winning pieces are held in public and private collections across Ireland, the UK, and beyond.

Singleton, Eileen

Eileen is an award-winning ceramic artist based in West Waterford, whose hand-built sculptural work responds to the natural beauty surrounding her studio. Inspired by the rugged foothills of the Comeragh Mountains, her ceramics and botanical monoprints explore texture, colour, and form. A graduate of the LSAD (1983), she has exhibited widely in Ireland and abroad. Working primarily in raku clay, Eileen employs tearing, stretching, and imprinting techniques to evoke the land's tactile richness. Recipient of the Irish

Ceramics Award (2019), she also teaches workshops and accepts commissions celebrating the connection between land, memory, and material.

Sutherland, Vicki

Originally from New Zealand, Vicki is a ceramic artist now living and working in Dublin. Her work explores the ceramic form as a means of archiving memory and remembrance, and she works primarily in porcelain. A former committee member of Ceramics Ireland for nine years, she is a registered craftsperson with DCCI and the Design Directory Ireland. She holds a Higher Diploma in Fine Art from the Bray Institute of Further Education (2011).

Swan, Eleanor

Eleanor is a ceramic artist who has been working from her studio at Russborough House since 2011. A hand builder at heart, she uses a variety of clays in her work, ranging from grogged, architectural stoneware clays for large sculptural pieces to fine porcelain for more delicate creations. Having worked with clay for many years, she has come to realise that her art is a form of storytelling. This realisation brings great freedom, allowing her to respond to the world around her in diverse and expressive ways.

Turner, Jim

Jim is a distinguished figure in Irish ceramics, celebrated for his pioneering contributions to the field over a career spanning five decades. A graduate of Camberwell School of Art in London, he has lived and worked in West Cork for over 40 years. Together with his partner, Etain Hickey, Turner established Rossmore Pottery—an important milestone that helped shape the contemporary ceramics movement in West Cork. A recipient of numerous honours, including the DCCI Excellence in Making Award and the Irish Ceramics Award for Outstanding Achievement, Jim Turner continues to inspire through his mastery of form, deep material understanding, and lifelong advocacy for the ceramic arts in Ireland.

Tuite, Bernadette

Bernadette is a ceramic artist based in Cork, Ireland. Her sculptural vessels are inspired by the Irish coastline and informed by her background as a former boat captain. Journeying by sea to remote coves along the Cork coast, she gathers materials and inspiration directly from the shore. Using found coastal clays and sediments, Tuite creates tactile, contemplative forms that reflect the textures and energy of place. A graduate of the Pottery Skills and Design Course, Kilkenny, she lectures in ceramics at CCAD and is a studio member at Backwater Artists' Studios, Cork.

Watts, Gráinne

Gráinne is a ceramic artist whose work is inspired by the rhythms, textures, and colours of Ireland's coastline. Drawing on years of collecting natural forms—flotsam, eroded stones, vibrant seaweeds—she translates these influences into sculptural vessels and forms in porcelain and stoneware. Using hand-building and throwing techniques, she layers slips and underglazes to create vivid surface detail that echoes the tactile language of nature. A multiple award-winning maker, her work has been exhibited internationally and is represented in major public and private collections in Ireland and abroad, including those of DCCI and the Office of Public Works.

Woods, Trevor

Trevor is a ceramic artist and owner of Mount Ida Pottery in Banbridge, Co Down, Northern Ireland. Deeply inspired by the landscapes around him—from the rolling hills of Co Down to the rugged Irish coastline—Trevor's work explores texture, form, and colour drawn from nature. Working in porcelain and stoneware, he combines throwing and hand-building techniques to create both functional and sculptural pieces that reflect his connection to place. Trevor and his daughter, Ellen, also run workshops and classes at Mount Ida Pottery in their purpose-built studio, welcoming visitors of all skill levels to experience and enjoy the creative process firsthand.