

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

- 10.15 – 10.45: Registration & Coffee
- 10.45 – 10.50: Welcome
- 10.50 – 11.00: Conference Introduction - Chair, **Emily Mark-Fitzgerald**, Lecturer & Acting Director
MA in Arts Management & Cultural Policy - University College Dublin
- 11.00 – 11.40: *'Only Connect': craft writing, curating and collecting in context*
Martina Margetts, Senior Tutor in Critical & Historical Studies - Royal College of Art, UK

Session 1: Approaches to Contemporary Craft Writing

The first panel explores approaches to writing about contemporary craft; addressing aspects such as interpretive texts, responsive texts, writing to contextualize and writing parallel to a craft practice. This session also aims to consider critical thinking and the culture of critique in relation to craft practice.

- 11.45 – 11.50: Session 1 Introduction
- 11.50 – 12.15: **Gemma Tipton**, Journalist, Writer and Editor
- 12.15 – 12.40: **Joe Hogan**, Master Basket Maker and Writer on Craft
- 12.40 – 1.05: **Eleanor Flegg**, Writer

1.05 – 1.25: Morning Panels Q&A

1.25 – 2.25: Lunch break - Lunch not provided

Session 2: Curating Contemporary Craft

What are the considerations in curating contemporary craft, compared to visual arts or historic objects? What impact do key stakeholders, including the institutions, makers or artists, and audiences, have on the process of curating?

- 2:25 – 2.30: Session 2 Introduction
- 2.30 – 2.55: **Ann Mulrooney**, CEO, Visual Centre for Contemporary Art, Carlow
- 2.55 – 3.20: **Róisín de Buitléar**, Artist, Educator and Curator

Session 3: Collections: Politics & Potential

This session will consider the future for contemporary craft collections and the potential for using collections in innovative ways. What is the impact of institutional and private collecting within the craft economy? What are the relationships of cultural institutions to contemporary craft?

- 3.20 – 3.25: Session 3 Introduction
- 3.25 – 3.50: **Oliver Sears**, Director, Oliver Sears Gallery
- 3.50 – 4.15: **Jennifer Goff**, Curator, National Museum of Ireland, Decorative Arts & History

4.15 – 4.35: Afternoon Panels Q&A

4.35 - 4.45: Closing Remarks: **Martina Margetts** and **Emily Mark-Fitzgerald**

The programme may be subject to change on the day.

Contemporary Craft:

Curating, Collecting, Critical Writing

Saturday 1st March 2014

Registration 10.15am, Conference 10.45am – 4.45pm

National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Dublin



In partnership with the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland and the National College of Art and Design, the National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History hosts a one-day conference examining critical concerns around contemporary craft within the Irish context.

This conference seeks to address the contemporary positioning of craft by investigating the contexts through which craft objects are represented. The day is designed around three sessions, which will discuss curating contemporary craft; writing and critical thinking about craft and craft collections.

Admission €10 / €5 Students

If you would like to attend the seminar please contact:
E: Bookings@museum.ie T: +353 1 6486 453

BIOGRAPHIES:

CHAIR: DR EMILY MARK-FITZGERALD

is lecturer in the School of Art History and Cultural Policy at University College Dublin, where she co-coordinates the MA in Arts Management and Cultural Policy. Originally from Los Angeles, Emily holds an MA in Arts Administration from Indiana University and a PhD from University College Dublin. Emily is a member of the Executive Board of the Irish Museums Association and Irish Theatre Magazine, and speaks regularly and publishes on a range of subjects including public art, memory and commemoration and contemporary Irish and international art.

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: MARTINA MARGETTS

is Senior Tutor in Critical & Historical Studies at the Royal College of Art in London, teaching postgraduate and doctoral research students in the applied arts for more than 20 years. Editor of *Crafts* magazine for nine years. Writing, curating and working with collections have been central to her career. Her first curated show was in Japan in 1990 and her latest exhibition, *Daniel Weil: the Art of Design*, opens in London at the Design Museum in May 2014. In the 1990s she curated international touring exhibitions, including *The Raw and the Cooked: new work in clay in Britain* (with Alison Britton); *Objects of Our Time*, the UK Crafts Council's 25th anniversary exhibition, and *Only Human*, the Crafts Council's millennium exhibition. Publications include *International Crafts* and monographs on the silversmith Michael Rowe and designer Tord Boontje. She has written numerous catalogue essays and published in journals worldwide. She has judged international competitions, including the 2009 International Crafts Biennale in South Korea. As an adviser to Arts Council England, the British Council, Crafts Council and the Victoria and Albert Museum and as a former trustee of Contemporary Applied Arts, London and the National Glass Centre, she has worked on the development of public collections and institutional development.

GEMMA TIPTON

is a journalist, writer and editor of a number of books. She writes about art, architecture and various aspects of culture for The Irish Times, and contributes regularly on arts subjects to radio

and TV. She believes that you can have some of your most exciting (legal) experiences in art galleries, and divides her time between Dublin and West Cork. Gemma has also curated a number of art exhibitions and projects, and apart from art, her other passion in life is horses.

JOE HOGAN

is a master basket maker, honing his craft for more than 35 years. His work has become increasingly sculptural, prompted by a desire to develop a deeper connection to the natural world. Poetry is another rich source of inspiration. Joe has written extensively on the craft of basket making and has published two books on the subject; *Basketmaking in Ireland*, 2001, and more recently *Bare Branches, Blue Black Sky*, 2011. He has participated in many international exhibitions and will have solo shows in 2014 at the Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh and at the Source Arts Centre in Thurles. Awards include Irish Crafts Council Bursary, 2006 and 1st prize Artistic Baskets, Pinoloere International Basketry Competition, 2005. He was selected for the living legends programme at the World Crafts Council Summit in Chennai, India in 2012. Work in public collections includes the Ulster Museum, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Pinolere International Basket Collection.

DR ELEANOR FLEGG

is a lecturer, journalist, broadcaster, craft historian and writer of speculative fiction. She is the co-editor, with Dr Jessica Hemmings, of www.makebelieve.ie, an online publication of explorative writing about craft. In 2010 she initiated the Dublin Craft Writers Group, an open group of makers and writers that meets monthly to share and discuss craft writing. Eleanor recently wrote and presented a radio documentary about the Kilkenny Design Workshops for RTE Lyric FM. Her current project is a science-fiction novel about the work of the potter Jack Doherty.

RÓISÍN DE BUITLÉAR

is an artist and educator who has worked in the medium of glass as a primary material since 1983. An alumna of the National College of Art and Design, she has completed many site-specific installations of blown, cast and architectural work, drawing her inspiration from her cultural heritage. These can be seen in public and private buildings throughout Ireland.

Following a Crafts Council of Ireland bursary in 2009, and a residency at the Museum of Glass, Tacoma, USA in 2010, Róisín began working on *CAUTION! Fragile*, a collaborative exhibition with Irish glass masters, expanding on her experience of participatory and collaborative practice, currently showing at the Museum of Glass until September 2014. Curated exhibitions also include *Pupil to Master* at Dublin's Solomon Gallery in 2012. Her work is represented in national collections in Ireland, Britain, Japan, China and USA. Róisín is cofounder of the Glass Society of Ireland Contemporary makers.

ANN MULROONEY

is CEO of VISUAL Centre for Contemporary Art in Carlow. She graduated from the Royal College of Art, London and worked as a freelance curator in Ireland and the UK before joining the Crafts Council of Ireland. As Manager and Curator of the National Craft Gallery (NCG) in Kilkenny, she successfully led its strategic development as a critically-acclaimed exhibition space in the areas of craft, design and material culture. She has curated a number of national and international touring exhibitions including Deirdre McLoughlin's solo exhibition, *Shaping the Void* (NCG Kilkenny, CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery, Cork, Centre Cultural Irlandaise, Paris), 2012; co-curation of *Out of the Marvellous*, a touring exhibition with Solstice Arts Centre and Poetry Ireland, 2012–14; and *Vernacular* (London Design Festival, NCG Kilkenny) 2013–14. She also devised and produced the *IDEATE* Festival of craft, design and technology in Kilkenny in 2013 and is a regular contributor on the arts in cultural media.

OLIVER SEARS

co-founded Oliver Sears Gallery, with Jane Norton, on Molesworth Street in 2010. Specialising in the exhibition and sale of modern and contemporary fine art, Sears Gallery provides consultancy services associated with art collecting. In recent years Oliver Sears Gallery has extended its remit to contemporary craft, exhibiting and representing select Irish makers. The gallery represents a small stable of established and emerging artists from Ireland and overseas including Katherine Boucher Beug, Colin Davidson, Jason Ellis, Sean Hillen, Stephen Lawlor, Hughie O'Donoghue, Patrick O'Reilly, Amelia Stein, Donald Teskey, Joseph Walsh and Keith Wilson.

JENNIFER GOFF

is a curator at the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks. She is responsible for the furniture, silver and metalwork collections; and also for the musical and scientific instruments and the Eileen Gray collections. Jennifer curated the *Eileen Gray* exhibition at the National Museum and was involved with *Eileen Gray* at the Centre Pompidou and recently at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. She curated the *Four Centuries of Furnishings* exhibition at the National Museum and most recently in 2013 an exhibition on the furniture of design duo *Zelouf and Bell* at the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris. Author of numerous articles and catalogues on craft, art, design and architecture for various publications, she is publishing a book on the work of Eileen Gray in October 2014.

