



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 12

April - June 2015

Issue 2

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2015





SIGNAL ARTS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU:

A 10% discount

- On any purchase of artwork on sale in Signal Arts Centre
- On life drawing and other art courses
- On the Hire of darkroom and ceramics facilities

Participation in the

Annual Signal Arts Society Exhibition

(subject to selection)

Reduced commission on sales of your work from 25% to 15%

Our **quarterly newsletter** will keep you in touch with what is happening in the arts community. You have the opportunity to publish a profile of your work, advertise your upcoming shows or projects, write about your favourite artist or review an exhibition that impressed you.

The opportunity to display images of your work and an artist's statement on **a page of the Signal website**. See links on the SAS page on the Signal website for examples

Invitations to exhibition openings and other cultural events organised by the Centre.

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Nigel Holohan
Andrea Paul
Brian Smith
David Flynn
Patricia Allison

OFFICE HOURS
Mon to Fri 9.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00

GALLERY HOURS
Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Sat and Sun 10 - 5
Signal Arts Centre, 1 Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 2762039 - Fax: 01 2869982
Email: info@signalartscentre.ie
Web: www.signalartscentre.ie

Signal Art Centre is represented on the following: Bray Partnership,
Wicklow Arts Network, Bray Chamber of Commerce.
Contact Signal Arts Society: signalsociety@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in this magazine will not always be those of Signal Arts Centre and of course we reserve the right to edit all submissions where necessary.

Printed by Central Press, Bray

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Noticeboard

Please address all
Newsletter correspondence
to Claire Flood
at Signal Arts Centre

New Staff

Brian Smith



Brian comes from a logistics and transport background, after running a successful business he is looking to increase his skills in the world of IT, Brian will be going for his ECDL Cert in the near future.

Mary Kelly is an Artist from Co Wicklow, she comes from an accounts background and has worked for many years as a Credit Controller. Mary Took up Art a number of years ago, she studied Watercolour with Vincent Hunt and Oils with Joyce Murray. She has just completed a FETAC Level 5 Overall award in Fine Arts at the BAEC in Bray. Her passion is Painting, Especially Painting her Springer Spaniels which she paints in the old Flemish Technique

Mary Kelly



David Flynn



David graduated from Art College in the 80s and only returned full-time to art in 2007. My work has been mainly representational, as well as occasionally narrative or abstract, and aimed to reveal beauty and honesty, as well as giving value to mark making not only as an aim to an end, but also as an integral part of the finished work. My main media currently are oil paint, pencil and sometimes watercolour.

Patricia Allison, Artist/Writer has been giving classes and Summer Art Camps for children for many years. She has taught Adults, Teenagers, and in Nursing homes. she has had writings, and articles published in the Irish Times. Patricia is a Montessori teacher with years of art therapy study, she has just finished a two year fine arts course in BAEC in Bray Her Passion is English ,Reading, Writing, Poetry, Theatre, Tennis and Sailing.

Patricia Allison



News from Claire

Spring is definitely in the air and to go with it we are in the process of planning and making the St Patrick's Day Parade another spectacular event. The theme this year is Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory. Greg and Nic are working away furiously on the boat on the river of chocolate! Aoife and Andrea have made a cardboard factory, Nigel and Brian are working on cameras etc. for TV Mike and it has to be said that Gill is now known as Wilhelmina Wonka because she has made so many lollies and sweets. Everybody in the building has contributed time and effort into this one! Will we take home the prize 3 years on the trot!!!! Of course we will!! By the time this comes out we will have images and feedback.



The Film Fest has been postponed for this year and hopefully will return again next year if the calendar allows for it. The Signal Open is running this year from 4th – 16th August – deadline for submission for inclusion in this years show is Friday 10th July 5pm,. The annual SAS show will take place from 16th – 29th March so please come down for the opening on Sunday 22nd March between 3 - 5 o'clock and enjoy a glass of wine and the company of like minded people.

You will notice that we now have some contributions from the Bray Arts Club; we are hoping to develop this into two pages of prose, poems and art work from them. We are very happy to have them and look forward to collaborating into the future.

Have a lovely spring, talk to you again in the summer

Claire

Claire Flood

SIGNAL OPEN 2015

Signal Arts Centre is delighted to invite submissions from Artists for its 3rd Annual "Signal Open" exhibition, to be held in the Signal gallery from the 4th - 16th of August 2015.

Closing date for submissions
Friday 10th July 5pm 2015

Submission guidelines

€9 per work entered
2-D work only (photography/paintings etc)
Maximum size 92 x 92 cm
forms available on www.signalartscentre.ie

The show will have a formal opening on
Friday 7th of August 7-9pm

Signal will present on the night a prize of

€1000

to the Artist whose piece is selected as best in show.

St Patricks day Parade 2015 by Declan McMahon

It seems when Signal Arts Centre gets involved with major events in Bray, people really appreciate the gigantic effort the Signal artists and friends put in. And boy what a shift these creative enthusiasts put in. The theme this year was Willy Wonka.

Greg Murray like last year was ably supported by Nick Nicolaou in the creation of the Wonka Factory Boat. This was, in fact, a rickshaw, but when the transformation was finished it truly took on the appearance of a boat. A fantastic effort from both men as the rickshaw was in poor condition.

Andrea Paul and Aoife Patterson worked on the Wonka factory which was a scaled down version that was dressed around a shopping trolley; again a lot of hours went in here and a brilliant team effort by the girls. Nigel Holahan and Brian Smith worked on the Mike TV/Wonka Video Recorder. This really was one of the most unusual pieces in the parade and they even had a standoff with an RTE Camera man! Andrea Paul worked on a violet bubble costume and really got into the part as Violet Beauregarde.

Dave Flynn and Greg Murray had a shootout as to who was the best Willy Wonka, all agreed it was a gentlemanly draw! Jim Morrison lent a hand pushing the boat which was no mean feat either and biceps and calves were tired and sore by the end of the day! After all that though, this was only half the story as many more contributed immensely including Claire Flood who did a lot of organising and literally acted like a caterer on the big day. Gill Cassidy worked tirelessly on Lollipops and everyone above helped with make-up, touch ups, signs and all sorts of accessories.

This is Signal Arts Centre, everyone gets stuck in, and the community gets involved. The budget is not huge for these events but we are rich in people participation who wants to promote the Centre. The feedback from the crowd makes this mammoth effort all worthwhile and all the chocolate in the world can't make that taste any sweeter!

Declan McMahon





Poetry by Shirley McClure

Illustration by Bridgid O'Brien

RED HEN

We know nothing
about hens, yet find ourselves
in charge of half a dozen.

The odd girl out -
you call her Mrs. One - loses
her footing in the mud.

You carry her
into the hen-house
with piano player hands.

Still there the next day,
she has turned her blunt
red beak to the wall.

We talk to neighbours
about red mites, infections,
wonder if she's egg-bound.

We fill her bowl
with cabbage-leaves,
stroke her tight wings.

Her sisters cry out,
foul her water,
shit on her plumage.

We are told you'd get
a new hen for the price
of the vet. For the first time

I want to crack a bird's neck.
Instead we hand her back,
ailing but alive.

Weeks later you find me
in quick tears
for the red hen;

you brush the rust
of my feathers, fill up
my hopper with oyster shells.

DOG WHISPERER

He has taken to quoting
from César Millan,
dog whisperer to the stars,
or at least to the dogs
of the stars.

*It's all about nose,
then eyes, then ears,*
as he sifts the dog's dinner
through his fingers,
folding it with his scent.

He practises the *soft bite*
on my shoulder,
forming a jaw with his hand,
restrains me as a bitch would her pups;
then practises on the hound.

He turns down the volume
on our favourite series
to nuzzle me gently,
stroke my back, remind me
to *get inside the canine mind*.

He tries out some whispering
during the ads,
some rehabilitation,
and Minnie does active submission
like she's read the book herself.

Be more like your dog,
he whispers: *forgive, take naps,*
fill your head with every new scent,
she is our Sirius, our summer,
our companion star.

IRISH SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO READERS

I am trying
to take the cruelty
out of my poems,

to give you everything
except
the barbed wire.

Raincoats have been
snagged, innocent
civilians nicked

while commenting
on storm-clouds
over Camaderry mountain.

Walkers, determined to enjoy
the Wicklow Way,
have stumbled on dead ponies.

Let me try something else -
the confidence
of way- marked trails,

the ductile smoothness
of sheepwire, the example
of *Leave No Trace*.



Living in Bray, Shirley McClure won Cork Literary Review's Manuscript Competition 2009 and Listowel Writers' Week Originals Poetry Competition 2014. Her collection, *Who's Counting?* is available from Bradshaw Books or via www.thepoetryvein.com. Shirley facilitates creative writing workshops and courses. Her CD/audiobook, 'Spanish Affair' will be launched in June, with proceeds to Arklow Cancer Support Group, where she works with a writers' group.

EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME APRIL - JUNE 2015

Gallery Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5 | Saturday and Sunday 10 - 5 | For more information please check: www.signalartcentre.ie



KATHERINE GEOGHEGAN

'JEWELLED WASTELAND'

Monday 30th March - Sunday 12th April

Opening Reception:
Thursday 2nd April 7-9pm



NICOLA SEDGWICK

'JOURNEYS'

Monday 13th April - Sunday 26th April

Opening Reception:
Sunday 19th April 3-5pm

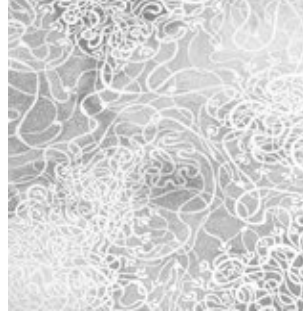
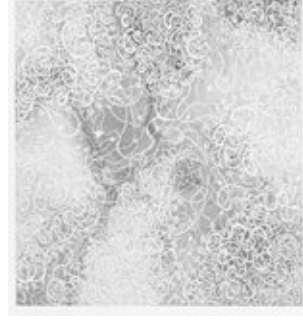


MICHAEL GEDDIS

'CROUCHING IN NEWTON'S SHADOW'

Monday 27th April - Sunday 10th May

Opening Reception:
Friday 1st May 7-9pm



KEVIN RYAN

'PAINTINGS IN THE THIRD DEGREE'

Monday 11th May - Sunday 25th May

Opening Reception:

Friday 15th May 7-9pm



MIDE QUINLAN REDDIN

MICHELLE HANNON

'Ceramics'

Monday 26th May - Sunday 7th June

Opening Reception:

Friday 29th May 7-9pm



MAIREAD LAHER

'IN MY ELEMENT'

Monday 8th June - Sunday 21st June

Opening Reception:

Friday 12th June 7-9pm



DOUGLAS ROSS

'FELLOW TRAVELLERS'

Monday 22nd June - Sunday 5th July

Opening Reception:

Friday 26th 7-9pm



Views and Reviews

The Secrets we share Emma Hannigan



Emma Hannigan

Clara Conway is a woman with secrets. But consequently, Clara's family is falling apart. Her son Max emigrated to the US years ago and she has yet to meet her teenage granddaughter, Nathalie...because Max and his mother no longer speak. Meanwhile Clara's daughter Ava is fighting for a piece of happiness. When Clara unexpectedly reaches out to Nathalie and her niece comes to visit, Ava's thoughts turn to

Max, the brother she loved and lost. The brother whose abrupt disappearance left the Conway family heartbroken. When Nathalie finds a pile of torn, faded letters, she unlocks the door to Clara's past. Can Nathalie's time with her grandmother start to right some very old wrongs? And can Clara find a way to reach out to Max and thereby begin to heal the whole family once

more? After all, some secrets are meant to be shared... This novel was inspired by Emma's grandmothers story as she came to Ireland from Austria during World War 2. Tomi Reichental is also a family friend and his accounts as a holocaust survivor prompted Emma to write about Bergen Belsen concentration camp. Although parts of this novel are harrowing, it is essentially a story where love conquers all...

The Secrets we Share by Emma Hannigan is published by Hachette Ireland, available from April 9th 2015



Views and Reviews

Pavlova Recipe

Margaret McCann



Ingredients

3 egg whites
6 oz of caster sugar
Half a teaspoon of vanilla extract
Half a teaspoon of vinegar
2 level teaspoons of cornflour



Preparation

Whisk egg whites until stiff, add half the sugar and whisk until stiff again, add the vanilla extract, vinegar and corn flour and fold into egg whites, bake at 140 degrees for 1 hour and leave to cool, I like to leave it to cool and set overnight, finally whisk and add fresh cream and some of your favorite fruit for topping.



Web Sites by John McCann

www.stumbleupon.com



For years I have searched the internet for new and interesting websites, and as corny as it might sound I stumbled upon stumbleupon. It acts like a browser within a browser, type in any topic and it will bring up pages that you never knew existed. Not only that but create a free account and you will be able to save the pages that most interest you, by hitting a like button, but be careful it is highly addictive, one of my favorite sites. Get stumbling

www.grooveshark.com

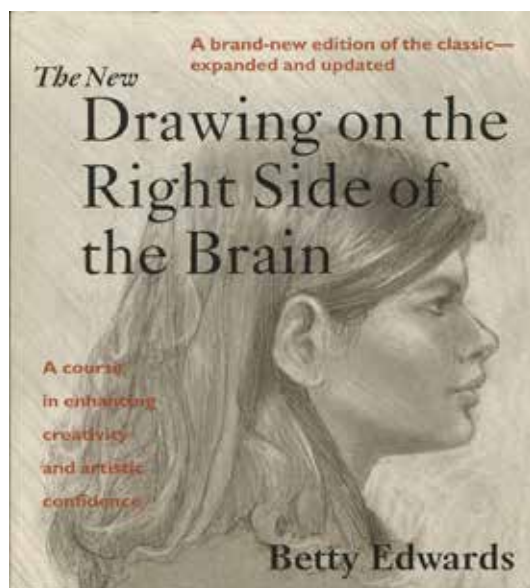
There are plenty of music sites on the web that let you listen to your favorite music, most of them will look for payment, but grooveshark is free. You can listen without signing up, if you create your free account you have access to one of the biggest music libraries on the net, you can make and save your playlists and play them when and wherever you like, it also has a video and radio function. Top music site.



Grooveshark

Views and Reviews

Book Review by Lauren Rose



Are you left-brained or right-brained? The two halves of the brain work differently, with left-brained people, people being more logical, verbal and analytical, while their right-brained friends are more imaginative and intuitive, seeing relationships and connections between things. "Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain" teaches you, step by step, to access the right side of the brain in order to draw well from life, whether you want to draw portraits, animals, landscapes, houses or anything else. Copying a picture that's upsidedown, or drawing your hand without looking at the paper, are typical exercises.

They train you to be aware of

shapes, spaces, line, light and dark, which are skills you can use to draw anything. Because you are accessing the right-brain state, you are learning to see in a different way. For most people, this process is easy, and I found it extremely relaxing and pleasant – like meditation, but better. I used this book to teach myself to draw well, though I wasn't considered to have any talent for it as a child.

If you think there is an artist inside you waiting to get out, this book is definitely worth a try.

Betty Edwards has written other books, including one on colour, which is useful for painters and designers at any level.



Before & After



Views and Reviews

Film Review by Declan McMahon



Every now and then a film comes along that surprises, conflicts and leaves a bitter sweet after taste.

"Whiplash" is by all accounts a gem of a film with a cocktail of ingredients that platforms the talents of Miles Teller, the wonderful direction from Damien Chazelle, who builds tension with gradual brilliance, and of course, the ominous JK Simmons, whose stellar performance along with Teller grows to obsessional extremes as the tale progresses.

Andrew Neyman (Miles Teller) is a talented, dedicated 19-year-old drummer at the fictional Schaffer Conservatory of Music

in New York City. He's cherry-picked for a place in the school's studio jazz band by Terence Fletcher (Oscar winner Best Male Support JK Simmons), a conductor who wanders the halls at night and listens at classroom doors in search of the next prodigy. Fletcher is extreme, his methods to bring the best out of students borders on humiliation and cruelty and reminiscent of R. Lee Emery's Gunnery Sargent Hartman in Full Metal Jacket for quick witted humiliation tactics. This film is not a story about how humiliation galvanizes a young buck to come back and show the world his metal, no; it's a story about what happens when people believe that very humiliation is the key ingredient to achieve genius. This key ingredient is dished out a plenty by Fletcher.

The chemistry between Teller and Simmons is pardon the pun; the Jazz, and the final scenes are a high octane symbol smashing rollercoaster ride. These two are also ably supported by the evergreen Paul Reiser and newcomer Melissa Benoist. Simmons won an Oscar for best supporting actor for his ferocious portrayal of Fletcher and this under rated actor (till now) will hopefully only get more relevant roles to showcase his talent.

The film is wonderfully tied together

by a Jazz theme soundtrack which builds tempo as tensions and competitive tendencies grows between Fletcher and Neyman. Director Damien Chazelle has to take all the credit

here for this with really effective cinematography especially around drum kits and symbols allowing us quirky camera angles. You really get a "I'm sitting on the stool" feel to the whole experience. All in all a great film, although the central message is a bit cryptic and you might feel a tad cheated at the end. Having said that, and on reflection, it's a great cat and mouse spectacle between tutor and student, so just sit back and revel in the unfolding story and make sure you don't miss a beat...



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Journeys

Nicola Sedgwick



3 pears

might suddenly see something beautiful, or when perusing some photos I have taken I spot something special I know I can use in a future work. I can't force myself to be creative; that never works. It is when I just can't wait to get started on a picture that I know it is the right time. Then I find myself in the zone and can work away, oblivious of time passing. It is often the stillness in an image that intrigues me, and it is a pleasurable task to try and reproduce

I draw and paint because I feel it expresses me truthfully. Anything that has a good mix of symmetry and colour attracts me. I find this most often in the natural world. What inspires me almost always comes upon me by surprise: that fleeting and spontaneous moment when I

that. Often I am attracted to a certain tone, and enjoy the feeling it gives me as I introduce it in a particular painting. I know when I have done enough work on a picture at any given time; then I take a break for a while. When I return that I am renewed and can approach the picture with fresh eyes. I can only paint when I do not have any pressing appointments, as that would restrict my creativity. There are times when it takes many efforts and layers of paint to achieve what I am looking for - but I always keep going as I know I will finally get there. When I think I have finished a picture I leave it for a day or so. Every single time I find there are always a few extra tweaks needed, and actually that is my most favourite part of any painting - applying those final small but essential touches that complete the work.



After sunset
Dun Laoghaire



Tide out
Seapoint



Tomatoes
and pot

Crouching in Newton's Shadow

Michael Geddis

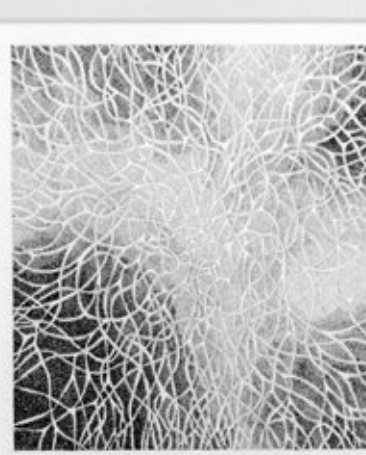
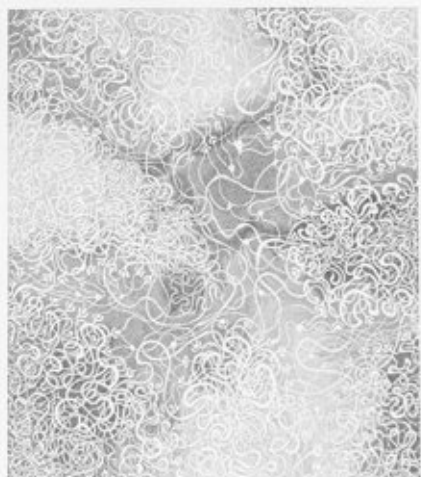
I am inspired by the sheer splendour of nature's complex forms and patterns. I find the microscopic structures of living things particularly interesting. The fact that they are so tiny and fragile amplifies their appeal to me. My work primarily reflects my delight in this delicate beauty. I practiced as a vet for over 25 years before ill health forced my early retirement. I took a "Painting for Pleasure" course during my lengthy convalescence and was encouraged by my inspirational tutor Jane Swanston to apply to Belfast School of Art. Three years later I graduated with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art. Since graduating, I have pursued my artistic endeavours with the same methodical inquisitiveness that

I adopted as a vet. I often incorporate fading memories of patterns or forms seen in my past veterinary career in my current work. The theme for my exhibition comes from key research concepts that underpin my current artistic practice.

I am intrigued by the muddy historic relationship between art and science. Many art theorists argue that Darwinian (biological) science displaced Newtonian (mathematical/mechanistic) science in its effects on Western Art.

In reality, dogmatic Newtonian science embedded itself so deeply in philosophy and culture that it remains as the dominant influence. I challenge this paradigm by suggesting that both forms of science

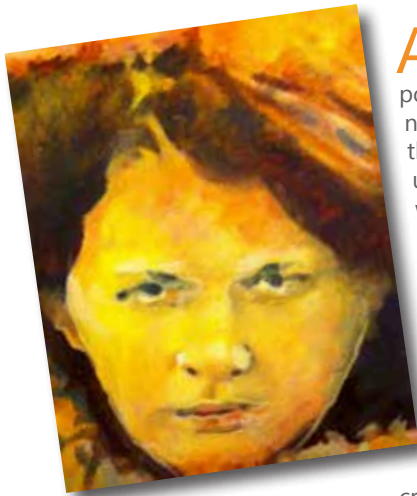
are needed to form a balanced view and understanding of the world around us. I have adopted my own lexicon in my work where hard-edged linear forms represent Newtonian thinking and fuzzier, branching or rounded forms correspond to Darwinian thinking. There is often a sense of dynamism as patterns appear to expand to compress and extinguish each other like the conflicting ideologies that they represent. I am currently working on an Arts Council funded project which enabled me to purchase micro-surgeons magnifying loupes. I am using these to develop small drawings with very fine details. I have included a few of these in the show.



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Paintings in the third degree

Kevin Ryan



As an artist, I am fascinated about how imagery from popular culture such as newspapers, film and TV and the visual arts can inform our understanding of the world we live in. How the visual world seems to seep into us wherever we go and in an almost subconscious way influence our understanding of people or events. I find that using images from various sources and found images in particular, is a great way of starting the creative juices flowing. A lot

of the time I will use them as a starting point for developing ideas or a particular project and over the years I have built up a sort of a memory bank of such images that jog my memory and help me recall certain events and people in my own past. I have experimented in various mediums over the last few years, mainly drawing and animation and am now returning to painting. One of the first paintings I ever became fascinated

with was by Diego Velázquez, a work called Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus at the National Gallery. Going to school in the CBS Westland Row meant that the gallery was a place I could get to quite easily and as I became more and more interested in art a regular escape from more academic studies! The sheer skill of his painting and the humanity Velázquez captured in that and his other genre portraits of ordinary Spanish people is something that really inspired me and he is the one artist that I wished at one time I could paint like! Therefore, you could say that my exhibition here at the Signal, is an example of me dipping into my memory bank and going back to one of my first art influences and inspirations.



Fellow Travellers

Doug Ross



Slipping away

For twelve years I have been working on photo based work with three essential characteristics:

1. The work is an attempt to create a contemporary mythic iconography. I see all our lives as epic adventures and the era that we live in presenting particular challenges and rewards.
2. The work is figurative. The 90 women and 15 men that have worked with me have done so nude or partially nude. Any clothing or adornment that we use is used expressively* and we try to create images outside of a specific ethnic context or fashion. Clothing is usually functional or has a social purpose. In my work is has

primarily a role in interpreting the story and secondarily an aesthetic role.)
3. The work is often collaborative. Long before photographing them, I am engaged with the people who will feature in the work in co-scripting the stories behind the images. Our aim is to find areas of shared



Anima

experience or understanding as a starting point for the creation of the images. Some of the people that I photograph also bring other artistic disciplines into the work such as acting, dance, fashion design and writing. I have also worked with two artists in collaborative post-production work. Most of the work involves photo-montage, though some of it is single capture photography. The overall approach is much more like film making than solo visual art making.

I started my artistic career over thirty years ago as a painter and sculptor. Photography and computer technology are new and exciting art tools for me. I've always seen the content of my work as more important than any particular medium. I believe that whatever the medium, if you are passionate about what you do, you will strive to master your tools.

Website:
www.dougrossart.com



The wide open window



Signal Book Club 2015

First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday 7th April 2015

Unravelling Oliver by Liz Nugent

Tuesday 5th May 2015

In Love and war by Alex Preston

Tuesday 2nd June 2015

The girl on the train by Paula Hawkins

LIFE DRAWING SESSION



Starts March 24th - April 28th
6 week session €75
SAS member €67.50
Contact Suzanne on 01-2762039

Bray Arts Club

Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at the Martello

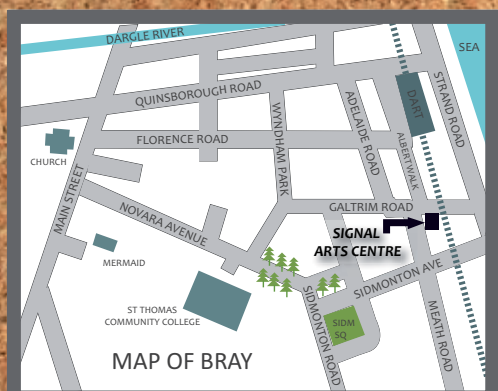
Monday 6th April

Monday 4th May

Monday 1st June



Closing date for submissions for the next
Newsletter: **23rd May 2015**



Signal Arts Centre

1 Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2762039

Fax: 01 2869982

www.signalartscentre.ie
info@signalartscentre.ie

Gallery Hours

Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Saturday and Sunday 10 - 5

Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 - 1 and 2 - 5



This project is funded
by the Department
of Social Protection