



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

April - June 2017

Issue 2





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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Aidan Lombard
Emma Fitzgerald
Margaret Walsh
Ciaran Coogan
Donal Smyth

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 Arts 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.

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Noticeboard

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

New Staff

Ciaran Coogan is an Actor/ Theater Manager with numerous credits on stage and screen.

Ciaran also studied Arts Facilitation and has been involved in various Community Arts projects. Now he is currently writing a piece for stage which he hopes to premier in the Autumn.



Donal comes from a successful business background importing and installing children's playground equipment.

He has strong interest in music and writing. He plans to further expand his skillset by studying computing and ITC subjects.

News from Claire

In this edition we have amazing photos of the St Patricks Day Parade and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff in Signal who embraced the challenge.



I would particularly like to acknowledge the sterling work of Gill, Nic, Helen, Patricia, Margaret, Stephanie, Donal, Ciaran and of course Brian. Ger, Mary and Patricia produced amazing Star Fish and Greg the incredible Gerald the seal. The Finding Dory scene on the truck was the mastermind of Gill Cassidy's creative genius, with a lot of help from staff. Again James excelled himself with the photos and video, and Aidan, as his able assistant.

The parade would be nothing without the costumes designed and worn by staff and some of the children from the classes run in Signal, so thank you so much for your input. I am sorry if I did not name everyone that was involved in the day but suffice it to say that there are a lot of people that stay in the background but are essential to events such as the parade. Lots of people walked and got involved on a voluntary basis and that included a parent of one of children's class, Vincent, who gave us his truck and his time for the parade, thank you Vincent.

**HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL THAT
MADE ST. PATRICKS DAY SUCH
A MEMORABLE EVENT!**



Claire Flood

Signal Open Exhibition Submissions

Signal Arts Centre is delighted to invite submissions from Artists for the 5+th Annual "Signal Open" exhibition, to be held in the Signal gallery from the 14th - 27th of August 2017.

**Closing date for submissions
Friday 7th July 5pm 2017**

**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 18th of August 7-9pm**

€1000 PRIZE

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

**Winner 2016
Irina Kuksova 'Safe Home'**



St. Parick's Day at Signal Arts







SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE

1 Albert Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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



EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME APRIL - JULY 2017

BIDDY SCOTT & RAY CRANLEY

'The Dargle - So Beautiful'

Monday 10th - Sunday 23rd April

Closing Reception:
Friday 21st April 7-9pm

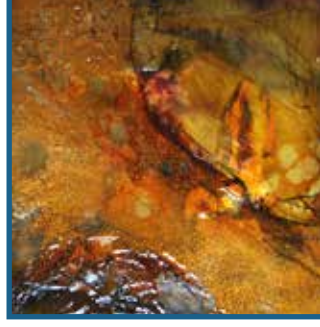


ISABELLE GABORIT

'Alchemy'

Monday 24th April - Sunday 7th May

Opening Reception:
Friday 28th April 7-9 pm



ANNE MCLEOD

'From Garden To Mountain'

Monday 8th - Sunday 21st May

Opening Reception:
Friday 12th May 7-9pm



BOZ MUGABE 'Crypsis'

Monday 22nd May – Sunday 4th June

Opening Reception:
Sunday 28th May 3-5 pm



SIGNAL ARTS SOCIETY

Monday 6th - Sunday 18th June

Opening Reception:
Friday 9th June 7-9pm



MARY DUFFY 'The Goose Field'

Tuesday 20th June – Sunday 2nd July

Opening Reception:
Friday 23rd June 7-9pm



Views and Reviews

Cafe Writers Wicklow Profile - Catherine O'Donoghue

A local writing group, welcoming new members!

Cafe Writers Wicklow are a local writing group based in Bray. Our group consists of writers who focus on a variety of forms including the short story, novel, memoir and poetry. One of the strengths of our group is, in fact, the way in which writers of different genres come together and share their thoughts, tips and tricks on writing. Although we may have very different projects on the go at any one time, we all share an interest in writing and enjoy hearing how we each go about beginning, continuing (one of the trickier parts!) and of course, completing a writing project.

Every Tuesday morning from 10.30-12.30 we meet in the Iveagh room of the Martello bar on the Seafront. Our meetings generally consist of chatting about writing, whether it be what we're reading or our latest writing project. We like to choose a prompt on which we will spend 10-15 minutes writing. The prompt is a loose guide and the fun is really in seeing how the imagination takes hold and everyone writes something unique. We like to read our piece aloud but this is completely optional and writers are free not to do so!

Writers of all levels welcome. All you need is pen and paper!

Contact cafewriterswicklow@gmail.com with any queries.



Gut Instinct Exhibition - by Helen Cleary

'Gut Instinct' is an art exhibition that ran recently at University College Cork. Gut Feelings relate to how our gut regulates our brain and behaviour. Fiona Kearney, Director of The Glucksman, quoted "the feelings we have about food – guilt, pleasure, disgust – are explored in startling ways" in the exhibition. The relationship between food and feeling connection between our mental state and what's going on in our digestive systems. Artist's involved include, Marina Abramovic, Sonja Alhäuser, Elif Erkan, Fiona Hallinan, Siobhan McGibbon, Abigail O'Brien, Thomas Rentmeister and Neil Shawcross. Some artists have also examined eating behaviours and the mechanisms of consumption as a way to comment on contemporary society.

This exhibition was researched by John Cryan, Professor and Chair of anatomy and neuroscience at UCC.

One of the artist's Thomas Rentmeister's nine metre by three metre piece of chipboard covered in Nutella spread painted in swirls giving off a sweet odour of Nutella that hits your nostrils as you walk into the gallery. The sickly-sweet fragrance of the wall is described as both enticing and revolting.

Food serves not simply as a means of sustenance, but also to encourage conversation, communication and conviviality, and in the artist's Fiona Hallinan's installation, plate-like platforms are suspended by cords and pulleys to create an interactive site that serves as both a sculptural arrangement and a space for public events.

Performance artist Marina Abramovic's film *The Onion* offers a uniquely physical take on language and identity. The artist eats a raw onion while recounting a litany of complaints, the camera offering an unflinching portrayal of her discomfort and disgust. The exhibition finished on 19th March 2017.



Views and Reviews

Beyond Caravaggio Exhibition - James Nolan



The term 'Genius' is too often used these days to describe someone who is outstanding in their chosen field of work, but Michelangelo Merisi Da Caravaggio was beyond a genius. He was a master of the Tenebrism (intense illumination) and Chiaroscuro (light and dark contrast) techniques. He revolutionised religious painting during the Baroque period by using real people as models and portraying them as they were, with decayed teeth, dirty fingernails, combined with filthy mud-stained feet and more often than not, dressed in their own threadbare clothes.

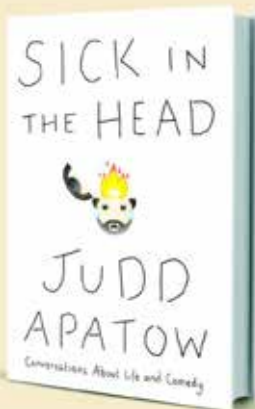
Incredibly, Caravaggio never drew or sketched when beginning an oil painting; he just marked a rough outline with the handle of his brush and began! Although his career only lasted for approximately twenty years (1592 -1610) before his early demise aged just forty, he has influenced a huge number of Artists down through the centuries.

I was very fortunate to see this wonderful exhibit in London last November where we had six Caravaggios (including the

amazing life-sized 'John the Baptist in the Wilderness') on view. The Dublin exhibition features four Caravaggios; including two that have never been exhibited in Ireland before, these are 'Boy Peeling Fruit' and 'Boy Bitten by a Lizard'. The centre piece of the exhibit is the masterpiece that is 'The Taking of Christ' supplemented by the astonishing 'Supper at Emmaus'. But that is not all, as there are about forty-nine pieces on show, all by Artists who were directly influenced by Caravaggio. Some of these art works have been loaned by regional galleries and others come from private collections. So under the 'Beyond Caravaggio' canopy we have fabulous works by the great Artemisia Gentileschi, Georges de la Tour, José (or Jusepe) de Ribera and many others.

This unique and very special exhibition runs until May 14th so for anyone with even a passing interest in Art, this collection is an absolute must-see event and it is worthy of repeated visits.

Book Review: Sick in The Head - Sean Nolan



Perhaps best known as the director of *Knocked Up* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*—and more recently as executive producer of HBO's *Girls*, but Apatow has been, by his own telling, obsessed with comedy for as long as he can remember.

As a relatively unpopular 10th grader in the mid-1980s, Apatow began working at his Long Island high school's radio station interviewing touring comedians, and, before he

was old enough to vote, Apatow had interviewed everyone from Jay Leno to Jerry Seinfeld, and those interviews were the foundation for a life spent pursuing both comedy and comedians. *Sick in the Head* is the result of those efforts so far: a weighty compendium of nearly 40 comedian interviews conducted over more than 30 years.

Several of the interviews in Apatow's book have appeared elsewhere, in magazines, on podcasts, during panels at festivals, but to read them together is to get an uncensored glimpse into the type of person who pursues comedy, and stand-up in particular. *Sick in the Head* is more than anything, an exploration of the kind of drive it takes to devote one's life to getting laughs, and a look at what that need for validation

often says about the person seeking it.

Perhaps surprisingly, there's a certain darkness to many of the conversations, especially as Apatow grows older and his presence as interviewer becomes less starry-eyed and more introspective. In a talk with Chris Rock, Apatow talks about seeing Richard Pryor backstage in the late '90s, after Pryor had been confined to a wheelchair because of his multiple sclerosis. "He was doing a bit about a girl walking up to him in his car, he's flirting with some pretty girl and he's pissing himself because he's sick and he can't control himself," Apatow tells Rock. "He's trying to act cool as he pisses his pants." In a 2005 interview with Harold Ramis (*Ghostbusters*), Ramis refers to Robin Williams, presciently, as "one of the most deeply melancholy people you'll ever meet."

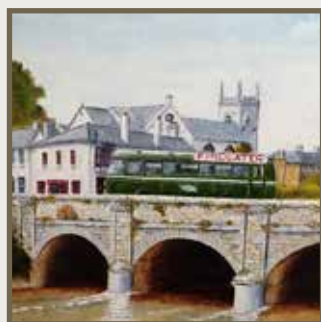
There's also a great deal of discussion about the craft. He is primarily concerned with how to be a working comedian, and this subject matter adds humor but also inspires some direct and poignant responses. As Apatow soberly describes his radio program in a 1984 interview with Shandling, "this is the comedy interview program that talks serious about comedy,"

For fans of stand-up, *Sick in the Head* is a Bible of sorts, and Apatow's interviews with Seinfeld, Leno and Rock serve as its gospels. For everyone else, the book is a glimpse into the mind of a comedian, or 38 of them, and the legacy of laughter-inducing honesty they live to protect. Which makes this an extremely relevant book. Because as George Saunders once wrote: "Humor is what happens when we're told the truth quicker and more directly than we're used to."

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Biddy Scott & Ray Cranley 'The Dargle – So Beautiful' - Monday 10th - Sunday 23rd April

The Dargle River rises in Glensroulan in the Wicklow mountains and after a short dramatic course meets the sea at Bray harbour. The aim of this exhibition is to re-appreciate our familiarity with this beautiful river and to re-address our interest in its rich cultural history.



From the mid-1700s to the early 1800s, the Dargle became one of the most popular sources of inspiration for Irish landscape artists. George Barret, Thomas Roberts, Thomas Sautell Roberts, James Arthur O'Connor and many others came to the Dargle to find that variety of 'Landscape' which this increasingly popular genre demanded.

The leading patrons of art, the owners of the landscape were informed by a growing interest in the natural sciences and

in the aesthetics of beauty, but throughout this period this proprietorship was marked, not only by this surging intellectual curiosity but by increasing fear of the marginalised and the dispossessed. This was the age of revolutions.

The Dargle's landscape provided a visual manifestation of both light and darkness: the charm of natural beauty and the disquiet of sublime drama, as delineated by the contemporary Irish philosopher, Edmund Burke (1729-97).

Ray Cranley and Biddy Scott are re-appreciating the Dargle's landscape in various media: Oil, acrylic, egg tempera, pen and graphite. During the time of the exhibition we also hope to stimulate conversation about the history of the beautiful Dargle



Isabelle Gaborit

'Alchemy' - Tuesday 24th April - Sunday 7th May

Isabelle is a contemporary artist, though her preferred medium of encaustic is ancient. In her studio located on the scenic shores of Lough Derg, she has rekindled the ancient painting process of Encaustics, an immediate and tactile painting method using molten pigmented beeswax.

Her creative process involves the application of semi-transparent layers of wax, paint, photography and pigment, striving to create depth and translucency without compromising the spirit of the medium or subject matter. The physical process of encaustic painting echoes the alchemist's repertoire of metamorphosis of all matter and the process of manipulating mediums; the subject matter emerging in its true light, via the transmutation of base materials, transformed through Fire and heat. During this alchemical process, matter shifts and transforms, resisting fixity, manifesting in between the boundaries of the intangible and the figurative, opening doors to a world both sensual and contemplative.

'In this body of work, I was compelled to explore the primal theme of Light embedded in our connection to watery depths and fiery furnaces. I strive to conjure up a sense of mystery in my work, in order to ignite the imagination of the viewer while I reflect on the aesthetic power of light enhanced through layers of translucent beeswax. Beeswax has been used since ancient

times to preserve, protect and seal. The encaustic layering process allows the capturing of the dynamics of flow, light and imagery emerging in unexpected ways, luring the viewer to dive in ghostly pools and through fiery gateways.'

As a student Isabelle has gained a foundation in sculpture, drawing and painting at l'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Poitiers, France and graduated in 2006 with an honours degree in fine arts in Ireland. Since then she has been exhibiting her work extensively nationally and internationally, in Northern Ireland, China and France. She is a former member of Artspace in Galway and G126, and is now one of the founding members of Art in studios, East Clare art trail. She is also experienced in conducting group workshops and demonstrations on demand for or art enthusiasts, absolute beginners and developing artists alike, wanting to discover a new versatile painting process.

You can view her work at www.isabellegaborit.com



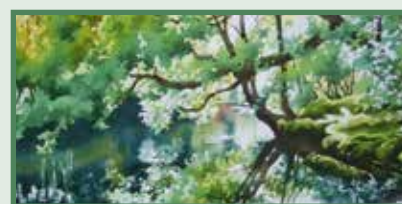
Anne McLeod

'From Garden To Mountain' - Monday 8th May - Sunday 21st May



Watercolourist Anne McLeod, who exhibits in the Signal Arts Centre from May 8th to 21st, lives in rural Wexford and draws her themes from her immediate environment. Her exhibition plots a loose route from her own yard and garden, along laneways with views to the hills and sea, and past ditches with flowers and foliage.

McLeod's distinctive, award-winning watercolours are charged with a depth of colour not often seen in the medium. Having started painting in Australia, where light and shade played a vital and defining role in every scene, it is still her aim to breathe life into her work by rendering the deep colours so that the light shines out by contrast. The result is a unique idiom of richness and clarity which lifts the heart.



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Boz Mugabe

'Crypsis' -

Monday 22nd May - Sunday 4th June

This exhibition consists of work I planned and executed from late 2015 into 2017. After several years of punctuating my work with bright spot-colour, this has purposely veered in a monochromatic direction, which twists and turns around visual ideas of stealth & tribalism.

Strange exoskeletal figures and singular-purpose forms populate the work - these exist in a predominantly featureless landscape that is part Petri dish, part circadian fragment - purgatorial resin leaking from a rusted vessel in psychological landfill.

Deformed and disfigured images are narrating a thread of something just out of reach. They don't come with instructions or requirements specification. I developed this work as a visual dialect, primarily to negate the trapping that a collection of images should, by necessity, be bound by a homogenising or pasteurising concept...



The one thing I owe this body of work is to avoid packaging it with an easy explanation that attempts to influence entertainment, disgust, curiosity and/or indifference.

Crypsis is the attribute of moving / existing without detection.

In 2014 I published a monograph entitled "Divine Turbulence" covering the previous 10 years of work. Although I tried to continue in the same direction (business as usual), I felt that some sort of capstone had been put on that trajectory and I needed, not necessarily a change in direction, but a slightly different master plan moving forward. After a brief foray back into painting (something I hadn't done in a decade), I decided to put together a new show of predominantly monochromatic show and work towards organising a small DIY exhibition tour. My first public exhibitions of work were on the walls of tattoo parlours, and it felt like the right time to embark on a grassroots adventure again.

Throughout the second half of 2017, CRYPSIS is making its way around Ireland, visiting small locations that occasionally put art on their walls.

SAS Exhibition

- Tuesday 6th - Sunday 18th June

Signal Arts Centre is pleased to present the 17th Annual Members Exhibition of works by members of the Signal Arts Society. The exhibition will run from 6th - 18th June 2017.

This exhibition is a showcase for members of Signal Arts Society and being a group show includes a diverse range of content, a varied selection of mediums and always something to delight even the most discerning of palettes.

Signal Arts Society was launched in 2001 and is affiliated with Signal Arts Centre. The society consists of artists working in many different arts practices but membership is not exclusive to artists, anybody with an interest in the arts can join.

The Society offers a range of facilities and discounts to members. For more information on Signal Arts Society go to www.signalartscentre.ie and click on the Society's tab. Alternatively the Society may be contacted through Signal Arts Centre.



Mary Duffy

'The Goose Field' -

Tuesday 20th June - Sunday 2nd July



The paintings in my forthcoming exhibition are based on what I see every day: the field next door. Known as The Goose Field, because of the wintering geese over from the Arctic, this big field provides endless opportunities for contemplation as it changes throughout the day and the seasons.

While I have been painting for ten years now, I see myself at a point of transition. While still deeply engaged in landscape, circumstances have led me to try to work more from my memory of places, rather than directly on site.

This transformation to working from my studio has led me to try to tease out what exactly I am looking for. As a result of working more from memory, my paintings are becoming bigger and more abstract while still essentially landscapes. This shift comes from a deep desire not to just paint places or things, but rather to use the paint itself to express the essence of space and place, and my response to it. I am allowing the paint to lead me now as much as the landscape led me in the past.

This is so not what I am used to. I am used to the wind in my face and the rain on my palette. Early in 2014, I injured my neck. As someone already without arms, it affected my ability to do most things, and I became very incapacitated as a result. This limitation stopped me painting for 18 months and has changed the way I approach a canvas. Now when I want to paint, I have to plan it carefully, think long and hard, and then very fast, and very swiftly apply the paint. As a result, my paintings are different. And for me, better. And its not just because I love big brushes.



Signal Book Club 2017

First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday April 4th

The Magpie Murders

by Anthony Horowitz

Tuesday 2nd May

Lying in Wait

by Liz Nugent

Tuesday 6th June

Days without End

by Sebastian Barry

SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE 2017 CLASSES



KIDS ART CLASSES

ADULT CERAMICS CLASSES

PLEASE CONTACT US
IN THE NEW YEAR FOR
FURTHER DETAILS

Dates to be confirmed

Phone: 01 276 2039

Email: info@signalartscentre.ie

Closing date for submissions for the next
Newsletter: 16th July 2017

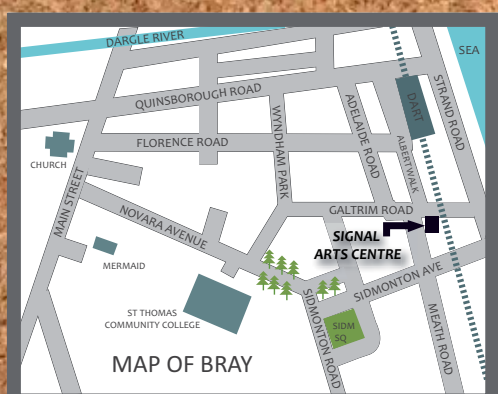
Bray Arts Club

Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at the Martello

Apr 3rd, May 8th, Jun 12th

New journal coming November



Signal Arts Centre

1 Albert Avenue,
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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