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signal arts centre

Vol. 3 Issue 3. December 2003



Once again we find ourselves in December and another year has passed. It has been a good year for the Society, with several events under our belts. In the summer we had our most successful exhibition yet in which we formed strong relations with the business community and the Bray Seafest organisation. We had several cultural events including a performance evening and a music evening. This year we welcomed in seventeen new members and the society is continuing to grow and go from strength to strength.

During the summer we also changed the Society's name to the Signal Arts Society. With next years changes to the staffing levels the Signal Arts Centre will rely more heavily on support from outside artists and the Society.

The Centre is currently trying to update its database with artists who are prepared to run courses and workshops, if you are interested contact the centre or the Society committee.

The closing date for submissions for the next newsletter is Friday 20th February 2004.

Send to Newsletter Editor, Signal Arts Centre, 1 Albert Ave., Bray.

Email signalsociety@hotmail.com

Txt: 086-8319592

The Committee would like to wish all members a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Front cover: *When I was a Sapling* by Linda O' Neill.

Back cover: *Peace* By Damian Flood.

DADA? IS IT ART?

Dada was formed by a group of intellectuals, poets, writers, and artists. Reaction to World War 1 gave impetus to the declaration of a manifesto that decried the lies generated by political leaders and governments and supported by artists and the press. There was a feeling that the entrenched values of the bourgeoisie - nationalism, militarism and capitalism - were responsible for the terrible brutality of the war and that traditional art was complicit in supporting these values. It was time for a change, art that could represent the new modernity, the change in values, the sense of dysjunction; art that could express the feelings of loss and of pain on the one hand and some hope for the future on the other.

The Dada manifesto enshrined play as the highest human activity. Its main tool was chance. It believed in an anonymous and collective art and it believed in the power of art to save mankind. Spontaneity was another aspect of Dada and it looked to other cultures especially the primitive. Photomontage was an adaptation of the Zurich collage but in the Berlin Dadaists hands it became a very powerful political weapon. Hannah Hoch and John Heartfield were two biting proponents of politically directed photomontage.

Dada in Berlin took off with a vengeance. Publications, soirees, cabarets, events, demonstrations, every creative act geared to satirize, poke fun at, and undermine the authorities. Artworks – collages by Max Ernst and Kurt Schwitters were produced. In 1920, a Dada Fair was held. However shortly after this, after years of feverish political activity, the Berlin Dadaists began to break apart.

Destruction was a foundation of Dada. So in the end it was inevitable that if Dada followed through to its proper conclusion then it would self-destruct.

In Paris, where most Dadaists had returned, the major participants, Tzara, Ernst, Picabia, Duchamp, Man Ray and Arp were joined by writers and other artists and Dada was reborn into Surrealism. Dada had fulfilled its goal. It had brought the art canon into question, it had enabled artists to break out of tradition and follow new perceptions of art forms and of expression, a philosophy that has underpinned modern art to this day.

Opportunities

Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown Artists in Schools Programme 2004.

A call to all artists interested in working with Primary schools in the Dun Laoghaire/ Rathdown area on their artists in residency programme 2004

If you are a professional artist who would like to contact a school to arrange forming a proposal together please contact the arts office for a list of primary schools in the county.

The closing date for applications is the **10th of December 2003**. If you would like any more information on the Artists in Schools Programme please call the Arts Office 012054749.

VIA CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS (DUBLIN)

Via is a collaborative artist-led initiative whose primary concern is the use of everyday spaces as a platform to address history, culture and art practice. We aim to address new audiences in innovative ways, encouraging the viewer/public to explore and interact with Dublin city while experiencing artworks in a unique environment.

Via Camden Street 2002 exhibited temporary works from 33 artists in 25 venues and received a hugely favourable response from venue proprietors, visitors and the media.

The next Via event will be situated once again on Camden Street Dublin and we are inviting submissions for work to be included in an exhibition scheduled for April 2004. For further information. Please visit www.via.ie

Address: 56 Synge Street, Dublin 8

Email: info@via.ie

Website: www.via.ie

Deadline: January 15th 2004

ART HISTORY LECTURES

DATES: Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Giotto's Arena Chapel in Padua

Tuesday, December 9, 2003

Duccio, Sienna

VENUE: SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE

TIME: 8 P.M.

Donation € 5

Concession € 3

TO BOOK: Please contact Pat Burns

286 9366 or 087 674 6661

Places are limited

EV+A 2004 submission reminder

The Committee of EV+A, the exhibition of visual+ art in 2004 invites all artists to participate in the pre-eminent annual exhibition of contemporary art in Ireland. EV+A is an open submission exhibition, is open not only to all artists, but to work in all media, materials, methods, styles and practices.

2004 Curator is ZDENKA BADOVINAC (Slovenia)

Last date for receipt of applications is **December 5th 2003** for details see: www.eva.ie

Signal Art Centre Prospectus

Signal Art Centre is currently compiling a database of artists in an attempt to establish a Prospectus of classes to be available in 2004.

To this end, we are looking for artists to put forward proposals for classes in different media to take place in the Centre next year.

If you are interested please Contact Signal Arts Centre
Closing date for proposals end of January 2004.

Christmas Crackers At Signal Art Centre.

From Monday 15th December to Monday 22nd December 2003

Why not spend the day with us Massage away that Seasonal stress whilst buying beautifully handcrafted presents.

Enjoy a glass of mulled wine or Have your Tarot Cards read. Lots of great ideas with a difference for the someone you love including:

- ❖ Aromatherapy Products
- ❖ Water Colour & Oil Paintings
- ❖ Ceramics from various local potters including Ellen Horan
- ❖ Beautifully crafted toys
- ❖ Hand woven shawls and Scarves from Shuttleknit Wicklow
- ❖ Aromatherapy Candles
- ❖ Cards
- ❖ Unique Handmade Gifts
- ❖ Many other hand crafted goodies

Upcoming Members' Exhibition.

1+0NE

The Spirit of The Bray Landscape

An Exhibition of Artworks By

Signal Arts Society members Patricia Burns & Yvonne Robinson-Cahill

The Exhibition will be opened by Frank Gallanagh, MIAVI, President of Bray Chamber of Commerce

On Friday, December 5, 2003 at 8pm

Website: www.signalarts.ie Email: info@signalarts.ie
Deadline: January 15, 2004

OPPORTUNITY FOR ARTISTS / DESIGNERS (CARLOW)

Carlow Local Authorities wish to establish a three-year panel of artists in relation to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Percent for Art Scheme and other commissions. The Panels will be categorised as follows;

Panel 1 Artists in all media; painting/sculpture/photography / film/video/music/poetry/writing and artists working in temporary art/installation/performance.

Panel 2 Artists in all media who have experience or wish to work in community arts/outreach projects.

Panel 3 We are also inviting artist/designers in the field of street /furniture/light and fabric design.

While it is permissible to apply for ALL panels, applications must be clearly referenced: Panel 1 or Panel 2 or Panel 3 or ALL Panels. Joint/Group submissions are also acceptable.

Applications must include: Letter of intent/interest; Curriculum Vitae; Photographs/CD/slides/video etc.;

Where applicable dimensions of works/ clearly indicated.
Selections will be by an independent selection board.

Applications to: Emma Keating, Visual Art Coordinator, Arts Office, Carlow County Council, Athy Road Carlow.

Deadline **DECEMBER 22nd 2003 5:30pm**

CORK CO.COUNCIL PUBLIC ART COMMISSIONS

Cork County Council invites proposals from artists for the following public art commissions.

(1.) Ballincollig Bypass

€58,000 Two stage competition

Brief available: December 3rd

Closing Date, Stage 1. February 9th

(2.) Skibbereen Relief Road

€35,000 Single Stage Competition

Brief available: December 3rd

Closing date: March 15th

To register for further information, including artists brief, details of site visits, etc contact:

The Arts Office

Cork County Council,

County hall, Cork

Tel. 021 4346210

Email: corkcountyarts@eircom.net

Patricia Burns is a member of the management and Signal Arts Society committees. Patricia looks after the Society discount scheme and is currently working on the new prospectus for the centre. I asked her to tell us a little about herself.

What is your job title?

I am a member of the Management Committee of Signal Arts Society which of course is the committee that directs the activities and development of Signal Arts Centre.

What are your duties/responsibilities in Signal Art Centre?

I am responsible for the Update of the Signal Arts Society Discount Scheme which includes art supply shops around Bray and Dublin as well as important items like Pizza and printing.

What did you do before joining Signal Art Centre?

I had spent many years in Canada and finally happily returned to Bray with my family in 1996.

Do you have a background in any area of the arts?

I have an Associate Diploma from RHODEC in Interior Design and I have always had a passion for the arts in general, music, drama and particularly painting.

Do you have a favourite artist?

I love artists from the early Impressionists to the mad antics of the Dadaists and then Joseph Beuys who I think has really important philosophies about art and healing. As for Irish painters, besides the wonderful textural late paintings of Jack Yeats, those amazing colours and textures, I love the work of Hughie O'Donoghue, and the recent paintings of Mark Joyce are full of celebration, colour and subtle layering of the Sligo countryside. And of course the ethereal faces of Louis Le Brocq (one of which is on display at the Mermaid Arts Centre right now) never cease to delight.

Is art important in your life? - Why?

I would like to say that art is my life but I think that my family might object to that idea. Nevertheless, I will say that art is my abiding passion and I devote as much time as I possibly can.

What changes, if any, have you made since joining?

Since joining Signal Art Society, I have been active in promoting Signal Arts Centre to the business community and artists in Bray. In particular, the Bray Seaside Festival, we had artists from Signal Society contribute art which was then displayed in shops around Bray Town. We will do the same thing next year for the Bray Sea Festival and perhaps

enlarge it with other visual art promotions, 'Art on the Promenade' comes to mind. But the details of that has yet to be worked out.

What can you tell our readers about the facilities in Signal Art Centre?

Signal Arts Centre is truly an exciting and viable resource for artists, particularly for those who live in the Bray Area, as it is so handy and along with our sister centre The Mermaid Arts Centre, the artists in Bray can count themselves lucky. In Signal Arts Centre we have a number of facilities that include a darkroom for photography for which instruction can be arranged, we also have the Ceramics area which contains two potter wheels and a kiln, again instruction can be arranged. We have computers that support graphics and are for the use of artists in the community. Our staff provide support for art exhibitions which are open to emerging artists and a new exhibition opens every two weeks. Our Centre also provides life drawing classes and classes for various community organizations.

And what plans do you have for the future?

My plans are to expand and develop my art practice as an individual practicing art and also as part of the art community connecting with the community at large. Included in this of course in the near future is my exhibition at Signal Arts Centre, The Spirit of the Bray Landscape, with Yvonne Robinson-Cahill running from Dec2 to Dec13. And well known around Bray and its environs, Frank Gallanagh, current President of the Bray Chamber of Commerce will open the exhibition, Friday, December 5, at 8pm.

What areas of art particularly interest you?

Painting is the area of art that is of particular interest to me but I am open and willing to explore other media, sometimes an idea will require moving into different media be it video, installation or sculpture.

What do you think will happen to Signal in the future?

Happily here in Bray we have a very fine business community who are very amenable to supporting the arts. We also have the support of Bray Town Council and the Wicklow County Council. Most importantly we have a technically competent and professional staff at Signal Arts Centre and behind the scenes a very committed Management Committee who are determined that Signal Arts will grow from strength to strength in the future.

EDUCATION@DRIOCHT (BLANCHARDSTOWN)

**Visual Arts Educational Opportunities for Adults Winter
2003/Spring 2004**

Drawing from Life

Draiocht Workshop Room

Starting Tuesday January 20, for 10 weeks, 7.30-9.30pm,

Course Fee: €70

Painting for Beginners

Draiocht Workshop Room

Starting Wednesday January 21, for 8 weeks, 7.30-9.30pm,

Course Fee, €75

Draiocht, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Direct Line : (01) 809 8021

Fax : (01) 824 3434

Email: nicola@draiocht.ie

Website: <http://www.artsinblanch.com>

LONDON PRINT STUDIO RESIDENCIES

London print studio, arts centre is offering residencies to provide opportunities that will make a difference to an artist's practice. Providing

flexible programmes of access to print & digital equipment, courses and

personal training sessions.

Deadline 9th Jan 04

Application packs from:

London print studio,

425, Harrow Road,

London W10 4RE

Tel: 020 89693247

F: 020 89640008

E:info@londonprintstudio.org.uk

**Everyman Palace Theatre and Cork 2005: European Capital of Culture Presents:
The 05 Commission.**

The Everyman Palace Theatre in association with Cork 2005: European Capital of Culture is looking to commission a new play for a full-scale production on the main stage of the Everyman Palace Theatre in late 2005.

Playwrights are invited to submit an idea for the play they propose to write, along with an example of previously produced work. In 2005, Cork will be the European Capital of Culture; an experience that provokes questions about the meaning of *culture*, *Europe* and *city life in general*. We invite playwrights to take any of these ideas as a point of departure and encourage them to respond in any way they choose.

A shortlist of entries will be compiled and writers will be called for interview at the Everyman Palace in March/April 2004. These interviews will include an opportunity to discuss the idea for the play they would write if selected for commission.

We are looking for play ideas that take on the challenge of writing for the large Everyman stage and auditorium, recognizing the dearth of new writing for stages of this size in Ireland.

Please note that we are not interested in commissioning plays that have already been written. We are looking for a writer who has previously proven their ability as a playwright to write a new play inspired by the ideas stated above. We will be issuing an open call for previously written plays as part of the New Voices @ the Everyman Palace project in the new year. Please do *not* send us unsolicited scripts except as part of an application for The 05 Commission until then.

If you have any further questions, please contact Tom Creed at the Everyman Palace Studio on (021) 4557827 or email tcreeddept@eircom.net

The 05 Commission.

CE Update

In the last newsletter Linda O' Neill reported that FÁS had announced that the CE scheme for Signal Arts Centre would not be renewed. This announcement was met with fierce resistance from the management committee. A major campaign led by the Chairman, James Morisson, was mounted. Local TDs were lobbied and a large amount of support was amassed.

Armed with a large number of support letters from all the major community groups the management presented a very strong case to keep the scheme going. This case was aided in no small part by representation in political circles by councillors and TDs. Honourable mentions must go to Mildred Fox, David Grant, Liz McManus and Billy Timmins who were very strong supporters of the cause.

The Signal Arts Society committee were just about to organise a meeting of the membership when the news came through that FÁS had relented and that the scheme would be renewed. The renewal allows only for eight staff members and considering that this time last year there were nineteen staff this means that there will still be a lot of reorganising to do internally but this will not affect the day to day running of the centre.

The management committee would like to thank all those who offered support. Business will continue as usual.

Colum O' Neill

A glimpse of past genius – Sol LeWitt

Sol LeWitt was heavily influenced by the concept held by artists such as Hanne Darboven, Joseph Kosuth and Lawrence Weiner. They held the concept that art could be generated by ideas rather than emotions. This was executed by the means of mathematical and logistic methods.

LeWitt introduced a system of logic in the form of written instructions – he would telephone the gallery and instruct them how to carry out the work. The outcome was an artwork which existed ahead of its own execution. LeWitt was interested in sequences, simple forms, observation causing a reality to happen. Therefore for any physicality's that happen there are many that do not.

Although LeWitt was a minimalist artist his work often crossed the borders into conceptualism. He wrote in an article for *Artforums* in 1967 entitled "Paragraphs on Conceptual Art" – *When an artist uses a conceptual form of art, it means that all of the planning and decisions are made beforehand and the execution is a perfunctory affair. The idea becomes a machine that makes the art. This kind of art is not theoretical or illustrative of theories; it is instructive; it is involved with all types of mental process, and it is purposeless. It is unusually free from the dependence on the skill of the artist as a craftsman.* LeWitt believed that the idea was more important than the work and the finished piece was just the manifestation of the idea.



Win a bottle of
Champagne in
time for
Christmas.



To enter our fabulous festive competition all you have to do is fill the box on the opposite page. All entries will be entered into the draw. The only limitations are your imagination. Pictures, photos, drawings, poetry, prose, musings or whatever. Send them in and you could win a bottle of champagne in time for Christmas. Please keep entries to around the size of an A4 sheet or less. Send to- Newsletter Competition, Signal Arts Centre, 1, Albert Ave., Bray, Co. Wicklow or by email to the usual address. This competition is only open to members of the Signal Arts Society. Full set of rules available on request. And remember if you're not in you can't win. All entries must be in by 5pm on Friday 19th December.



The Views and opinions expressed in this newsletter
are those of the writer and not necessarily of the
Signal Society.

Contact the newsletter at:
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