



# SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 11

January - March 2014

Issue 1



Stranger by Tony Clarke



# 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.

**A 10% reduction** on all purchases at **Sapori**, the Italian Cafe-Winebar-Deli in Albert Ave, beside the bus depot, close to Signal and the seafront, and at **Mama Mia Café**, Parnell Rd, off Bray Main Street. Please bring your Membership Card.

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Andrea Paul

#### OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri 9.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00

#### GALLERY HOURS

Tuesday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5  
Sat and Sun 12 - 5

Signal Arts Centre, 1 Albert Avenue,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow

Tel: 01 2762039 - Fax: 01 2869982

Email: [info@signalartscentre.ie](mailto:info@signalartscentre.ie)

Web: [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://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](mailto: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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Please address all  
Newsletter correspondence  
to Claire Flood  
at Signal Arts Centre

## New Staff

### Ciara Brehony

Ciara studied Ceramics and Sculpture in I.A.D.T. but really should have done Textiles, as this is the main Medium she has worked in since. She also takes photos, draws, writes and blogs extensively. Ciara's other passion is in the area of food revolution, particularly Raw/Clean Vegan food, and also the possibility of an Alternative Economy.



### Nicos Nicolaou



Nicos Nicolaou studied at Hertfordshire College of Art and Falmouth School of Art, England. His work concentrates on Sculpture and Drawing. He has completed several Public Commissions, Residencies and has received a number of Bursaries and Awards. He lives in County Dublin.

## THE SIGNAL SHORT FILM FEST 2014

Signal Arts Centre Film Fest is an annual event, now in its third year, showcasing independent short films from around the world. We are currently accepting submissions for the festival. All films will be judged by our in-house panel and the films short listed will be screened on the 6th of June in the Mermaid Art Centre and judged by an outside panel including film critics and representatives from FilmBase and TV3 and the winning short film will be shown on 3e, see application details below:



Films should be no more than 12 minutes



All Submissions to be formatted for DVD, PC and pal.



A Submission fee of €5 should accompany each entry.



All Submissions for the Attention of Claire Flood.



Deadline 5pm on Friday the 25th of April 2014

If you would like your DVD to be returned to you please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope  
Application form available on [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie)  
For more details and deadline see our website.  
Terms and conditions will apply

## News from Claire

Hi All,

**A** very happy Christmas to everyone! I am just taking a moment to look back on the year and I am very happy with everything that we have achieved in that time. We successfully launched Signal Open which we are hoping will be an Annual event. The second Film Fest went off without a hitch and with a lot more submissions than last year. The exhibition schedule was very varied and interesting and the highlight of the year has to be the very successful Culture Night.



It has to be said that none of these events would be possible without the great enthusiasm and help from all the staff, both past and present. We are always very lucky with the staff we employ in Signal so I would like to take the opportunity now to thank them all for their tireless work!

We are running our 3rd Film Fest – submissions to be in by Friday 25th April 2014 - the panel will choose the top ten short films to be shown in the Mermaid Arts Centre on the 6th of June 2014. The top three films will be decided by an outside panel including representatives from 3e, where the winning film will be shown.

We are also looking for submissions of work to be shown in gallery for the 2015 calendar, details in this issue. We will also be looking for submissions for the Signal Open which will take place in Signal from 5th – 17th August.

On the Community side of things we are still working with a lot of local service providers, schools and communities in and around our environs and hope to continue into the future.

*Claire Flood*

## Open Submissions for 2015

Signal Arts Centre is now accepting submissions for exhibitions in 2015. Closing date for submissions:

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2014, 5pm**

When submitting your application please include the following:

- **A minimum of six images** (clearly marked with your name and title of picture), photographs or images on CD.  
All images should be suitable for print reproduction (300 dpi), in jpeg format, not exceeding 5mb in size.
- **A submission proposal** – covering what you would hope to exhibit if you are successful. Include proposed sizes of work where possible.
- **Artist CV** (art related only)
- **Artist Statement** (for PR purposes)

Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you require your photos etc. returned to you.  
Please feel free to call into the gallery at any time to assess size, dimensions etc. We usually hold openings every two weeks on a Thursday or Friday evening that you would be more than welcome to attend, no invitation necessary, just ring and ask any of our staff if we have an opening that week. There is an exhibition fee of €250 when selected.  
Contact: Signal Arts Centre, 1A Albert Ave, Bray, Co. Wicklow  
Phone: 01 - 2762039, email: [signalartscentre@eircom.net](mailto:signalartscentre@eircom.net)





# The Design House

*A New Retail and Design Hub in Dublin City Centre  
by Claire Flood*



Just to let you know that my daughter, Bébhinn Flood, has opened a new design centre and is being ably assisted by artist/photographer, Denis Dunne, who you might know from many projects he has been involved in, in Signal.

Offering a bespoke shopping experience in the city centre, The Design House at number 43 Dawson Street is set over three floors of a beautifully

restored Georgian building. The unique nature of the centre brings together a diverse range of Ireland's established and emerging designers along with some of the country's foremost artists and craftspeople making the Design House such an unmissable place to shop. Each floor is distinctly tailored to suit every occasion and taste, offering bridal wear and occasion wear, retro-inspired vintage and cutting edge urban clothing. Along with handcrafted jewellery and millinery, The Design House is proud to include the finest designs and designers amongst its in-house boutiques. Currently part of The Design House repertoire are Jennifer Rothwell, Maria Cardenas, Bebhinn Flood, Heather Finn, Lisa Shawgi, Lina Stein, Princess Palles Millinery, Anna Vahey Casey, Adam King, Rachel Mc Knight, Yvonne Ross & Chupi to name just a few. In bringing its patrons and customers the highest quality products they will constantly endeavor to include new names and labels. Most importantly, however, is



that they ensure that most of the products are hand-made, limited edition and guarantee that all of them are crafted here in Ireland. If you can't find anything on the rails to



suit you, they also offer a bespoke custom-design service where you can meet with the designers in one of their consultation areas and work together on creating a piece; be it a dress or a necklace or ring for that special occasion. In addition, they have a selection of art, photography and screen prints adorning the walls of The Design House all of which are for sale. With its own in-house seamstress, professional workrooms, studio space and consultation areas, The Design House will meet your needs as it showcases Ireland's most talented and accommodating designers all in one location.

## The Design House opening hours are

Monday - Wed	10am - 6pm
Thursday	10am - 8pm
Friday - Saturday	10am - 6pm
Sunday	12pm - 4pm

*For more information and a full list of designers and artists currently on display please visit our website at [www.thedesignhouse.ie](http://www.thedesignhouse.ie) or email us at [info@thedesignhouse.ie](mailto:info@thedesignhouse.ie) or contact Bébhinn 0861627887*



Opening Hours  
Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 5pm  
Saturday - Sunday 12 pm - 5pm  
3rd - 24th December



Jewellery  
Ceramics  
Paintings & Prints

# Aleitheal 2013

Covered Diaries & Notebooks  
Hand Made Christmas Stockings  
Hand Embroidered Cushions  
Christmas Cards

1 Albert Avenue, Bray, Co Wicklow. Ph 012762039 [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie)



## Common Ground

A LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUP

By Ciara Brehony

**C**ommon Ground is a new, local community group, whose aim is to create a place where like-minded people can come together and share skills, resources, and information.



They are eager to encourage the idea of an alternative economy, where money is kept in the local community as much as possible. In their own words: 'Common Ground began as a small group of like-minded people who sought alternatives to the consumer fueled ethos that dictates much of the modern world. We started by creating a wholefood buying club, but we have a vision, a vision of a place where we are a community, where we can create a common place for, among other things, sharing and swapping skills, seasonal food, community gardens, freeshops, book sharing, a place to discover and develop the multi-cultural nature of contemporary Ireland. We want to create a space that will have a positive impact on the community of North Wicklow, where members can come together in meaningful and energising ways that enhance our experience of being a community.'

A core group of them have been meeting on a weekly basis since January, and in that time have established themselves a wholefood buying club, and more recently organising events like pop-up restaurants, and markets, with a long term goal to establish a permanent premises with a cafe, and meeting space. They have a dedicated honorary committee now, and a growing number of members. Membership for the year is €15 for a single person, or €25 for a family, and this allows you to avail of, among other things, the discounted food buying club, discounted entry to events, and free entry to members only events such as film nights, talks etc.

For more information you can find them on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/commongroundbray>, or email them at [commongroundbray@gmail.com](mailto:commongroundbray@gmail.com).

## Joanna Kidney

At the RHA

By Ciara Brehony



**O**ccasionally we come across work which seems to speak to us beyond what we first observe it to be, work which unexpectedly leads us into something more poetic. Upon entering the Atrium

gallery in the RHA, we find a sculpture which is a drawing, a drawing which is a tactile object that enters the room, inviting us to examine its minutiae. *Naveander*, by Joanna Kidney, is a line drawing made of felt, wool, hemp, thread, a line drawing that asks us to pause for a moment, our eye traveling its length, considering its journey into a tangle of angles and lines here in this room. There is a quiet, meditative quality to the detail, each corner and angle held in place by a pin, as it crisscrosses back and forth over itself, until it is just right, before moving on. This meditative quality becomes something more poetic in *Everything and Everywhere*, the second piece in the show. High up above eye level, an assemblage made up of over a thousand pieces of felt and monotypes on paper, travels across the wall like a cloud of dreamy floating seeds, as though straight out of a scene from a Miyazaki film. There is magic and beauty to the work here, which is wholly enhanced by its placement so high up, out of reach and beyond what we would expect, and the provision of binoculars for detailed viewing adds to the playful quality of the experience. The detail here is phenomenal, and yes, minute, and its beauty is the kind you would expect to glimpse high in the sunlit trees in an autumnal woodland. Stepping out into the street after viewing this work, certainly carried this viewer home in an state of some entrancement. *Dig, Undig, Redig*, by Joanna Kidney, is showing in the RHA Atrium gallery from 5 September - 20 December.

## St Patrick's Day Parade 2014

**T**his year's parade is promising to be even more elaborate than last year!

We are going for a Mardi Gras type parade – a very eclectic mix of old Irish mythology, bling leprechauns, mythical creatures, fairies and a transformer/robotic leprechauns. If you are interested in getting involved in the Parade either to walk in it or help out beforehand please ring Claire in Signal and I am sure we could find something for you to do!



## Kids Art & Crafts Birthday Party

**Why not take the hassle out of Birthday Parties by Booking into Signal.**

**€8 per Child - Up to 10 Children**

**Qualified and Garda Vetted Facilitators**

**Food not provided but Parents/Guardians welcome to bring along party food.**

**Children will bring all work home with them on the day.**





# EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME JANUARY - MARCH 2014

Gallery Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5 | Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5 | For more information please check: [www.signalartscentre.ie](http://www.signalartscentre.ie)

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## INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

'Kick up the Arte'

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January

Opening Reception:  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 7-9pm



## PATRICIA CLELAND CLARK

'Colourfield'

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January - Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb

Opening Reception:  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 7-9pm



## SOFIA BURY

'Insideout'

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February

Opening Reception:  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 7-9pm

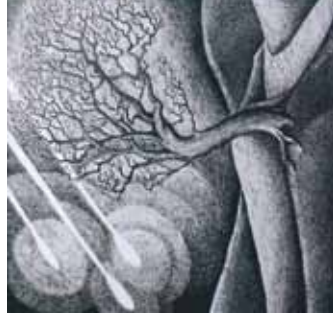
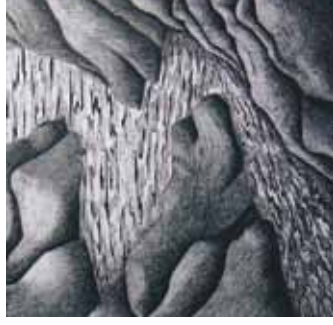


## BIDDY SCOTT

'Mankind'

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February- Sunday 2<sup>ND</sup> March

Opening Reception:  
Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 3-5pm



## BRAY ARTIST CIRCLE

'The Way We Art'

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March

Opening Reception:  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 7-9pm



## B.A.R.A

'B.A.R.A.5'

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Opening Reception:  
Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7-9pm





# Culture Night 2013 by Declan McMahon



I suppose I am most qualified to write this piece on Culture Night 2013 as I was filming the magic in front of me. From start to finish I watched as the preparation, dedication and inspiration unfolded. Culture Night has become incrementally bigger with each passing year at Signal Arts Centre.

While each Culture Night in

the past had its own unique qualities and charm, I think we all agree that this year's event was a huge success, and that something special happened on September 20th, on an Indian summer's night on Albert Avenue.

As a famous Corkonian once said: "Fail to prepare, prepare to fail". No one attached to Signal Arts Centre failed, as careful preparation and planning for weeks was the key for a successful Culture Night. This year's Culture Night was "Open Doors". The message here was "Signal's doors are open to the community, and all kinds of artists." This message was displayed through a collection of doors artistically decorated by all sorts of artists from schools, groups and individual artists. The contrast here between the different groups, schools and artists, not to mention the different skill levels, made for a spectacular, colourful mixture of art, humour and expression. There were also wonderful pieces of art dotted around the avenue from a wonderful billboard cardboard installation to in situ doors, to even video work. There was a Kids Wall, located gable side of the Art Centre which was a blank canvas of white emulsion for kids to paint anything they wished, a real crowd pleaser amongst the younger folk! If there is one thing that struck me while filming the day and night, it was the will to make it a success! The drive and determination of a few seemed to spread like a contagion. Denis Dunne, Noel Cleary and Pat Burns to name but a few were at the heart of this drive and they deserve all the accolades for a brilliant night. But let's not forget some wonderful individuals like Greg Murray, who was literally everywhere, mixing with people, rigging lights, interviewing, helping with set – up, a really great effort from the man! But he was not alone, Colum O' Neill and Jim Morrison were just a few that gave up their time to help make it a great success on the night.



The Signal staff also worked tirelessly from the off to the very end late into the night.

Not to be just happy with the wonderful doors installation, Signal put on some fine entertainment for the growing crowd, as the night progressed. Naoise Roo (Daughter of proud mother Sylvia Callan) was the first act on. A wonderful singer songwriter with a belting voice she entertained the developing masses. Next we had a traditional Irish band that, to their credit, jumped in at the last minute to play some well-known and some not so well known, Irish Ballads, just like Naoise before them they had the crowd engaged, and a sing song was developing between band and crowd on Albert Avenue as the sun set beyond the bridge.



Next up, we had the wonderful Zoryanna Tribal Belly Dancers. What a spectacle this was, it captured the circling crowd's imagination. As the sunset faded, we were treated to some wonderful, eastern choreography, and grace. Last, but by no means least, was a brass/jazz band called the "Wind Factory". After the last act, they seemed a perfect fit to relax the crowd once more, with some wonderful interpretations on old standards. The crowd sat on the pavement, or leaned back against the stone wall facing Signal Arts Centre, to listen to the mellow music on offer. At this point, a couple of comfy couches were



needed, such as the warm, relaxed atmosphere. The Night eventually came, the crowd thinned, and the shutters went down, the gazebos cascaded

back into their sacks, and tables and chairs put away. A cocktail mixture of relief and adrenaline seemed to be the feeling now amongst the many volunteers and staff. Relief, because the night went off without a hitch, and adrenaline-buzz because the night had gone so well! The question that, subconsciously, seems to be on everyone's lips now is: How are we going to top this next year? Watch this space.



# Views and Reviews

## "Tambourine"

reviewed by Ciara Brehony

On first listen, it's hard to pinpoint where this music has its roots, though there is a definite, romantic, Mediterranean flavour that swirls through it like an intoxicating gypsy potion, transporting the listener to sun-drenched, rocky beaches and olive groves, dusty roads, ploughed fields in hazy sunshine, and sparkling, lazuline seas. And yet...there is something else, some other sound hidden in there, in these very traditional sounding, wide-eyed songs, and that is what makes it less straight-forward to pinpoint. So, I had to find out. Tambourine are Gerry Anderson, Antonella Di Palo, Karima Dillon El-Toukhy, and Oona McFarland, who have been together since 2009, and are based in North Wicklow/Bray area. One of the main influences in the band's sound has its origins in Villanella, a form, of light secular vocal music dating back to the mid 16th century southern Italy, in particular, around Naples. The subject matter was usually simple, rustic themes, often comic, and Tambourine have combined these with another Italian tradition called the tammurriata, which is a dance which takes its name from the drum which marks the rhythm, and also the pizzica, another dance that is part of the tarantella dances. These are woven together, along with little slivers of something more modern, yet still folky and traditional sounding, which are bound up with it, so there is the barest hint

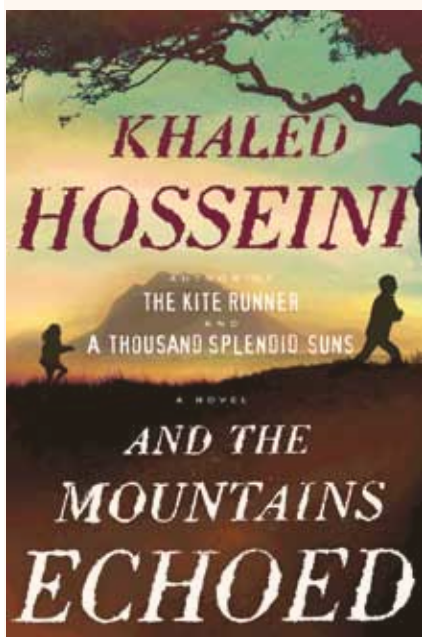
of something colder and more northern, dare I say, even, Irish? Seeing Tambourine perform live is a treat, and the audience is encouraged to participate in the dancing, which recreates something of the atmosphere of rustic Italian villages from a bygone time, and in many ways, of our own tradition of 'dancing at the crossroads'. There is a festive air to it that is hard to resist, and I highly recommend seeing them if you can. For upcoming events you can find them at <http://tambourineandroses.com/>, and you can listen to their music on SoundCloud at <https://soundcloud.com/tambourine-roses>.



## And The Mountain's Echoed

Khaled Hosseini

Reviewed by Paul Fitzgerald



Khaled Hosseini, best selling author of "The Kite Runner" and "A Thousand Splendid Suns," has set his latest novel once again in Afghanistan. As in his previous novels, a single decision, devastating to so many, takes us across decades of Afghan history, meeting a host of characters, and yet Hosseini holds us, his audience in thrall, truly a page turner. Afghanistan 1952, we meet two sweet children Pari and Abdullah, in a few pages we learn of their

devotion to each other, and then the rupture that devastates their lives and impinges on so many others. Fifty years of recent Afghan history is the tumultuous background to a story of loss, of lives shattered and yet there is a hope resonating through the novel, that resolution is possible for some, if not all, the players we meet. Hosseini, as always, writes with such clarity and pace, that he keeps us enthralled with his numerous plots and situations. Resolution is never simple or one dimensional, in an Hosseini novel, lives are complicated, messy, and yet bonds of family and love sustain his characters in times of great upheaval, pain, loss and, ultimately, death. Hosseini, as I have already said, gives us a page turner, not in the simplistic sense, "And the Mountains Echoed" is a novel shot through with images of war, of loss, of hope. His novel is complex, but never perplexing and we, his audience, are sustained throughout by great writing, and great storytelling.

## Shine On: By Denis Dunne

MichaelAngelo / Caravaggio

A part of his fame stems from his extraordinary life, he earned a reputation as a brawler and became a fugitive after killing a man over a death. He died prematurely at the age of thirty eight. Narcissus belongs to the early part of his career, not much is known about this stage of his work, some critics have even questioned whether this painting is actually by Caravaggio. But his trademark is very apparent, the dramatic device he used of placing his subjects in dark settings, like actors in a spotlight. He also had a tendency to use sensual young men as his models.



We are looking down on the figure and his reflection (probably a mirror on the studio floor) and the viewer appears close to him in the picture's imaginary space. Caravaggio stages manages the atmosphere with light and dark to produce a dramatic scene. Employing dramatic naturalism, Caravaggio places the lone figure in a strong, clear light, close to the frame to bring the viewer from the real world to this mythological event. 'Narcissus' hand is about to cup the water.

As is often the case in Caravaggio's works, the scene is shown at the height of the action, an instant before the drama: Narcissus has just leant down to drink (his right hand is already in the water, ready to take it up), when he notices his reflection and falls hopelessly in love with it. Unable to leave the beauty of his reflection, Narcissus died. The painter tells the whole story by creating a circle. Narcissus and his reflection form a closed circle, his attention is attracted to himself. The background is totally empty and dark and the whole scene suggests deep melancholy.

# The Albert Walk: Then & Now



The Albert Avenue runs eastward, from the junction at the northern end of Meath Road, to the Strand Road. Originally called Quin's Passage in 1860 – named after John Quin junior, who owned Quin's Hotel (now the Royal Hotel) – it was however unnamed on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1870. But in Thom's Directory of 1887, the road is named as Albert Avenue. The Albert Walk is a pedestrian walkway, which stretches from Albert Avenue (above) to the railway station. Once called 'Albert Lane', it was renamed Albert Walk in 1886. Business on the Albert Walk did very well during the summer seasons, especially from the 1940s to the 1960s. In the early days, Wallace Brothers had a demanding coal merchants business, and also owned their own schooner at Bray's harbour. Miss O'Donohue had a drapers shop, while next door, J. Plunkett had his plumbing and gas fitting business. There was Henry's; a jewellery and fancy goods shop, Donnelly's Tobacconist, and Foster's had a thriving hairstyling business for many years. At the top end of the Albert Walk was Donnelly's Hairdressing Salon, next door was the popular Mannion's Café, and two doors from there was Lyon's Café – both were never short of customers. Up to the 1950s, and 1960s, there was Mr&Mrs Harte's Gift Shop, which sold jewellery and name brooches, which were 'made while-U-wait'. The Sorrento Café was the first premises you would meet on the corner at Albert Avenue end, which sold tea, coffee, cakes, and sandwiches etc. Then there was Mick's Amusements whose Pongo games attracted many a passer by. The Cooke family ran the well known Manhattan Grill and Soda Fountain on the walk which always did a roaring trade, as did the Manhattan Amusements. At no. 9 Rice's shop sold confectionery, tobacco, stationery, and fancy goods, while upstairs there was a ladies hairdressing parlour, and was never short of business.



"Best Pong Games In Bray," is what the Monaco Amusement Centre advertised, and the neon sign at Eddie's Amusements was visible from the top end of the street. Silvercraft Ltd of 10B Albert Walk made, and sold solid silver trinkets from their premises, and by mail order, while photographer Hedley Wright and his young assistant, Brendan Flynn, developed film for tourists, from no. 2 Peader Byrne and

Harry Dawson, who took photographs of tourists for a small fee, were two of his best customers. P.J. Cullen Victualler, sold prime lamb and beef, and Candeli's Restaurant cooked it well, with their famous chips and peas! The wonderful smell of fish n' chips came from next doors outlet, and the queue's sometimes went as far as the Rock Shop, who sold all flavours and sizes of Bray rock, near to them was Batesmans Tobacco and Confectionery Shop, who like Mr. Wright had a very good film and processing businesses. But, if that was not enough, Henry & Rose had opened a fantastic fish n' chip shop round the corner, at the top of the walk and is still there today. Down at the other end, the Star Cinema which eventually became the Roxy Cinema, which in turn became the Panorama Theatre – featured all the best films and had an entrance on the walk, their main door being around the corner on Albert Avenue. Next door was Hipwell' tobacconist – later to become Charlie Deveney's shop, which still thrives today. However as soon as the era of the traditional seaside holiday ended, in the late 1960s, and early 1970s, the Albert Walk was about to change forever. The café's and wonderful little shops that sold the ice cream, souvenirs, fish n' chips, etc closed, one by one. The pedestrianised walkway at the centre of Bray's nascent Chinatown, has still got some good, shops including restaurants, Asian food supplies, casino's, coffee shop and bakers .

## Prelude by Greg Murray



**P**relude is a new creative initiative setting up base in No.10 Albert Walk. It is the brainchild of an innovative group of young local lads, with a varied selection of accomplishments and talents, consisting of an accountant, a finance manager, a business graduate, and a plasterer, all of whom are no stranger to a bit of hard graft. This inspiring foursome are Luke O'Rourke, Simon Byrne, Terence O'Neill, and headed by, MD Stephen Stratton. Appropriately meaning beginning, Prelude has come about from the four friends realisation that, with the current economical and business climate, it is essential to pool resources together as a group and create a strength of supportive unity. Prelude's ethos is to give a head start in business to the local Arts & Craft community here in Bray and the Wicklow area. This will be a much welcomed asset to the area, as there is an abundance of artistic talent here to avail of such a facility. Many artists find the business end of the arts a real challenge, so a supportive system like Prelude will be of great value to all. The premises on Albert Walk is currently taking shape, and the lads are hoping to have it open by mid December, but as with a lot of old buildings, renovation often takes a little longer than originally anticipated. The plan for the building is to have a small arts & crafts outlet, a creative business advisory office, some studio spaces, and a coffee dock, with an artistic ambience to promote a supportive policy of networking and creativity. The lads at Prelude are cleverly using their own expertise and experience to create their vision of an Independent Creative Social Enterprise, which we at Signal Arts Centre believe will be of great benefit to the arts community, we wish them every success with their endeavours, and look forward to collaborating with them in the future.

## Kel's Bakery by Greg Murray



**K**el's Bakery on Albert Walk is a wonderful new addition to an area of Bray, that offers a great mix of cultural cuisine. Kel's Bakery offers the wonderful traditional tasty treats of Polish bread and pastries, with a distinctive Irish slant. Krzysztof Nowinski, who opened the bakery in mid September, has over 30 years of experience as a baker, and has worked in Butlers Pantry and Avoca since coming to Ireland to further develop his passion. Since the age of 12, Krzysztof knew he wanted to be a baker, and he still

has that wonderful, youthful enthusiasm when talking about his produce, and the process.

He is very proud of the fact that his bread and cakes are made from all natural ingredients, and contain no additives.

Freshly made on site each morning, the large selection of breads and pastries is a

delightful, aromatic, and visual display to behold in the charming little shop front

of the bakery. There is something to suit every taste, from salad rolls to sweeter breads, and healthy nutritious seven seed breads. Along with the traditional baked goods, Krzysztof also produces a range of gluten free, and dairy free breads. And if you are looking for the perfect confection to accompany your tea/coffee break

, or an after dinner treat, take a trip to Kel's Bakery where your only difficulty will be making a decision.





# Exhibiting Artists about their Work

## The Way we Art

Noirin Dodd



Just as an author uses a full stop to catch a thought, likewise a painting can represent the end of a mysterious and unique personal journey taken by the artist. It is of a time, a place, an experience, a memory. This can be a private process for some, but the sense of being able to share the journey is what has brought members of the Bray Artists' Circle together every week since 2003. Each pursues their own style,

technique, medium and subject matter in a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere, sharing with friends the progress they have made over the week. The group of thirty plus members vary in age, experience and skill, but the enjoyment and learning within the group brings the members back again and again. Many have showcased and sold their work, but that is not the motivation. Sharing time and ideas is what generates the enthusiasm of the novice and professional artist members alike.

Ever innovative and eager to learn, the group holds two workshops per year which are run by guest artists! This is a very important part of the Bray Artists' Circle agenda as it enables the members to work alongside professional artists. They see not just the special techniques used but more importantly the get an insight into the philosophy that underpins the work of the guest tutor. Having the opportunity to exhibit in Signal has presented another target for the group. Knowing that the public will have the opportunity to view and discuss their work will challenge the members to define where their art comes from and what it represents about who they are.

### Another part of the artist's journey!

Bray Artists' Circle meet in St. Cronan's B.N.S., on the Vevay Road every Monday night from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

## New SAS Member

Gabrilie Conroy

I am married with four children who are all in their twenties, so I am a bit of a late starter, I have just finished 3 years in Bray Institute of Further Education, I now have a Higher National Diploma, and I have been accepted into second year in IADT, but I have deferred for a year, to paint and discover my own style. I am interested in Oil Painting, and I like abstract, although I am thinking of trying something with a surreal feel to it.

I live in Newtownmountkennedy, so I am surrounded by the beautiful colours of the Irish countryside, I have taken my inspiration from this, also from plant life and other organic shapes, I feel overwhelmed at what I could achieve and what I still have to learn. I have only become a member of the Signal Art Society in the last couple of weeks and already have been made to feel very welcome, when I attended the Hang and Share night (Sunday the 6th. October), I presented one of my paintings and was given some very helpful and friendly advice. Thank you.

## The Chicken Shed

Sofia Bury

My favourite place when I was a child was the roof of the chicken shed. The most beautiful wild dog rose trailed over the corrugated roof, and I would spend time inhaling its wonderful perfume. I liked to think that no-one knew I was there. But I'm not sure. My other favourite place was sitting on the swing in the paddock, watching the birds. So from a young age I spent much time watching and absorbing the world around me. During the past 30 years I have attended art classes in NCAD, and I also studied under Tony Kew and Sister Pauline of the Ecology Centre in Wicklow. From the age of 16 I began my spiritual search which led to becoming a Christian. But I also find great meaning and truth in Buddhism, the Sufis, Zen Buddhism and Celtic Christianity. The meditative aspects of these great movements affect my work. I sit very quietly in front of my easel. I make my first marks on the canvas. From there the painting evolves from the deep part of myself. I breathe in an atmosphere, a place, an idea, and then express it through my work. I have a strong imagination which fuses through everything I do. People ask me to explain my work. It is, of course, primarily abstract. I suppose the most recurrent symbol is that of the moon or sun. These appear consistently as symbols of the divine presence. Their perfect shape holds out a vision, a truth. The title of each painting will act as a guide to its content, but to me it is the fascination of the viewer's response to a painting which is of great interest. Often people's own imagination interplays with mine. And that's fine too!



## The Making of Mankind

Biddy Scott



The exhibition that I am currently working on, to be shown at the Signal in early 2014 is about a long poem 'The Making of Mankind' written in 1965. This poem constituted the inaugural lecture, which my father gave on the occasion of his gaining a personal chair in Dental Anatomy at Queens University in Belfast. The poem

doesn't say much about teeth, Instead he chose to address the dilemma's faced by humanity as it strives through history and evolution towards a meaningful equilibrium. These dilemmas were manifest at that time, in the north, in the world and for him, very personally in the recognition of his own approaching death. In addressing this testimony, so long after it was written, I have ended up with images that are not immediately reflective of the text, but rather derive, hesitantly, from the atmosphere that it creates. Several are based upon a series of box-camera photographs, taken on a day trip to Glendalough, about 1930. I found there again the rock upon which my father and grandfather took turns to pose for the camera. The rock, unchanging, defies their human frailty. In contrast in the poem the benefits of transience, change and loss are redeemed. The author began to fade early in my life, but in his last years, I remember as a gloriously defiant and creative disintegration. That defiance against the odds holds, I think the best of humanity. This is high and windy stuff which my struggling efforts so far, don't seem to be adequately addressing, but I hope that some readers will come to the exhibition, read some of the text and argue about the content!



## Signal Book Club

First Tuesday of every month  
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2014

### The Burnt out Town of Miracles

by Ray Jacobsen

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

### Doctor Sleep (sequel to the Shining)

by Stephen King

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### The Sense of an ending by Julian Barnes

## Bray Arts Club Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at the Martello

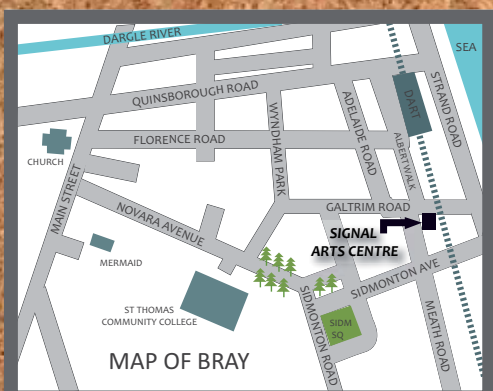
Monday 13th January

Monday 3rd February

Monday 3rd March



**Closing date** for submissions for the next  
Newsletter: **28<sup>th</sup> February 2014**



## Simple Sewing For Children

Every Sat Morning from Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>  
2 classes 10-11-30am - 12-1.30pm

Catering for ages 9 - 12 years

€30 for the full block

Contact us here at Signal for information  
and booking details.

## Life Drawing

with Sylvia Callan  
& Jenny Dann



Tuesday nights Facilitated by Sylvia  
Jan 7<sup>th</sup> - Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 10pm

Sat Mornings Facilitated by Jenny  
Jan 11<sup>th</sup> - Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 9am - 12pm

Tuesday nights Facilitated by Sylvia  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm - 10pm

Sat Mornings Facilitated by Jenny  
Feb 8<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup> 9am - 12pm

€50 for non members and €45 for mem-  
bers of Signal Art. (All monies must be  
received before classes commence)

## Signal Arts Centre

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## Gallery Hours

Tuesday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5  
Saturday and Sunday 12 - 5

## Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9 - 1 and 2 - 5



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