



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 15

July - September 2018

Issue 3



'Deep Purple No.2' by Denise French



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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Sean Murray
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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

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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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New Staff

Beata's philosophy is all about nature, a healthy lifestyle and natural hand-made products. She makes and markets her own natural soap and cosmetics through her Facebook Page 'Soap Marriage'. She also restores old furniture and does interior design. Her other passions include fashion and photography. She also loves to travel, explore new places and culture.



Beata loves to cook and spend time with her family and friends and walking her dog, sweet Lulu.

Whilst in Poland Beata was working in her local Post Office and running her own business. Here in Ireland she has studied and completed Business Management and Administration QQI Level 5 and just recently she completed a course in Payroll Accounting.

Jonathan comes from a background of Photography, achieving a BA in Photography from DIT in 2013. He has branched into Web Development and gone onto complete a Higher Diploma in Science in Web Technologies from NCI in 2017. Jonathan has a keen interest in sports and technology. Also enjoys playing computer games, soccer, hurling and more recently squash.



Originally from Galway but living in Dublin since 2009, Jonathan has made Dublin his home, while remaining a culchie in Dublin and still hearing 'there's a bit of a twang to your accent now' every time he comes home. Raised on a sheep farm and spent too many summers working in the bog, he prefers making websites to the forced child labour that was the bog and currently enjoys long commutes from Cabra to Bray.

News from Claire

Hi All,

As I write this we have been basking in the very unusual 4th week of brilliant sun, let us all hope it continues well into September. As usual we are working away in Signal running classes, developing training programmes, planning Culture Night and generally attempting to keep the centre current and viable.

Speaking of Culture Night, which is Friday 21st September, we are working on the theme of Circus and are hoping that lots of different groups will join us in creating an installation on the night from Signal up the Albert Walk. Kaisa Ypya, current staff member, and Audrey Kane, ex staff member, are the main organisers of this year's event and they hope to run some workshops in the afternoon and entertainment in the evening of Culture Night.

The Signal Open is running this year from 7th - 19th August - deadline for submission for inclusion in this year's show has passed but it promises to be another very interesting show and well worth a visit. Good luck to everyone that has entered work for it.

Have a lovely summer, talk to you again in the autumn.

Claire Flood

6th Annual Signal Open Exhibition

Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career. These exhibitions provide an opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally.

A founding tenet of Signal Arts Centre is the belief that there is a huge amount of talent that goes unrecognised and that an opportunity should be there for all artists to exhibit their work. The Signal Open is just such an opportunity.

The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 6th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.

The 6th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 7th - Sunday 19th August 2018. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Friday 10th August from 7-9pm. This year's judges for 'Best in Show' will include our newest board member artist Emma Finucane.

** 2017 Exhibition Winner **



Dianne Whyte - The Traprooms

In Memoriam: Jim Morrison

JIM MORRISON 1954 - 2017

Jim Morrison was a founder member of Signal Arts Centre, from the very beginning he was the key figure who ensured the survival and continued growth of Signal over nearly three decades.

Jim was a native of Newbridge, County Kildare, and was of proud peasant farmer stock. He moved to Bray in 1988 and initially lived on Putland Road. In the early 1990s he settled in Ardee Street in Little Bray and lived there for the rest of his life. He knew everyone in the area around Ardee Street and was a great neighbour.



In February 2001 Jim's beloved daughter Brigid was born. He was a devoted father, and her care and wellbeing were of the utmost importance to him. When Jim was working at his painting she rarely left his side. Her hobbies, friends and school life were as much a part of his life as her own. A Kildare man foremost; Jim was an Irishman to his bones. He loved the language, the folklore and the songs. He spoke Irish freely in Brigid's schools Gaelscoil Uí Chéadaigh and Coláiste Ráithín, and to anyone who enjoyed the "cúpla focal".

Jim was very hospitable. His door was always open, and he was a loyal friend. Many people came to him for help and advice, which he gave willingly. He had great insights into people and was the guy to go to in a crisis, steering many through dark nights of the soul. As well as his passion for art he had a myriad of other interests. He had a wide eclectic taste in music and was quite the HiFi magpie. Jim was in his element when having a good debate on a wide range of topics especially politics! His head was full of exceptional knowledge – philosophy, science to name but two. A self-proclaimed anarchist, Jim loved politics but believed foremost in the People. He loved election nights; excited as a child at Christmas, he stocked up on tea and sandwiches to pull an all-nighter. Friends said of him that although a provocateur planting seeds in peoples' minds, he was forever calm and constant.

Jim was playful too, amusing and witty. A lovely singer, he had a beautiful irresistible voice which was rich and resonating. He was often pressed into last-minute speeches which he didn't seem to mind at all. A maternal man with his Christmas cake, puddings, trifle and marmalade, all were made the only way, the Kildare way. In the words of Jim's friend Donal O'Shea "Jim will be missed, remembered and loved by those of us lucky enough to spend time in his company. All of us are better for that time spent together. In Newbridge he helped our group to conceive a world of greater wonder through his curiosity, perspectives and most of all through being Jim. We're all better for Jim being among us."

Jim was exceptionally talented at drawing from an early age. As a schoolboy, his fellow students, teachers and friends were enthralled by his talents. In Jim's drawings they could see themselves transformed, as he skilfully blended humour and sarcasm with keen observation that amazed them. After leaving school Jim studied accountancy and went on to work in Dublin. However, he soon realised accountancy was not for him and headed off to London. He spent some months travelling around Europe where he found his true calling. He returned to Ireland to study Art at the National College of Art and Design, graduating with a B.A. in Fine Art Painting in 1983. As an artist Jim had a very detailed, meticulously executed realist style. He exhibited in the RHA annual exhibition and group shows in Dublin and Bray to name but a few. He founded the Annual "Signal Open" exhibition, the first of which took place in August 2013.

Jim was a master heraldic artist, painting much sought-after family crests. He was also a skilled designer, turning his hand to painting on glass and mould casting. Heavily involved in community arts, he painted many murals and he also worked on various projects in schools such as Sunbeam House, Marino and Bray School Project. Nothing pleased him more than a bunch of enthusiastic children, some brushes and a few pots of paint!

Jim taught Art at the Bray Institute of Further Education, in Signal Arts Centre and to the Holy Redeemer Active Retirement Group in Bray. He related to all people in the community in a welcoming inclusive way, opening a door into the arts for everyone. He easily overcame any perceptions of the arts as being "exclusive" with his warm-hearted and direct approach.

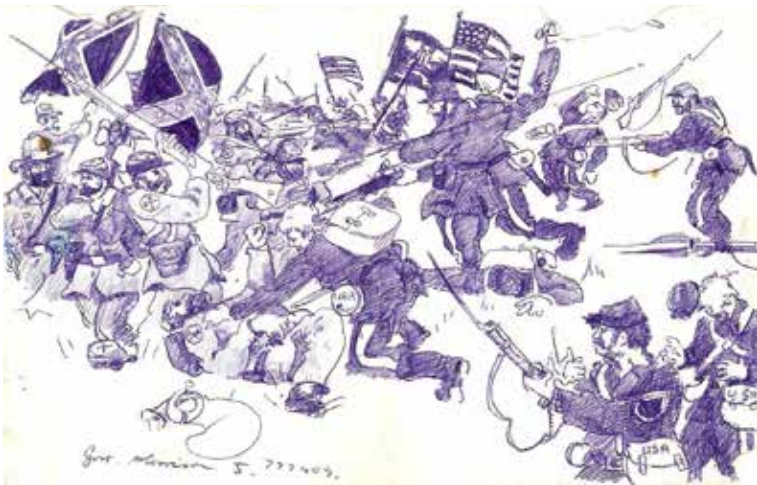


Jim Morrison's role in Signal Arts Centre

In 1989 the Artists' Association of Ireland were promoting the idea of FÁS-funded and artist-led Social Employment Schemes, where artists could work at their own Art and on community arts projects. Jim was the catalyst in the setting up of Signal, because when he saw the opportunity to set up a SES scheme for artists in Bray he acted on it and organised a series of meetings. In 1990 Jim met officials of the Bray Vocational Education Committee with Bray artists Douglas Ross and Brian Maguire, both of whom were members of the Artists' Association of Ireland. The VEC agreed to act as sponsor to facilitate the establishment of an SES scheme led by artists in Bray, and Signal Arts Centre was founded in 1990 at Albert Walk.

As a founder member and as a long-term member of the board, Jim Morrison's commitment to Signal Arts Centre was total. He believed that artists needed to be paid and recognised for their work as well as having a secure place in which to work at and develop their art. He often pressed these points. He kept a watchful eye on Signal, visiting the centre regularly, and over cups of tea he championed Signal's artistic aims and cultivated the social life of the centre. He steered Signal on a steady course through all its important developments and was helped greatly in his work for Signal by his late friend, fellow artist and Signal Board member Noel Cleary.

Because of Jim's training as an accountant he understood about long-term budgeting and organised the purchase of the building on Albert Avenue which was important in keeping Signal afloat. He knew how to negotiate with State agencies so that the centre was adequately funded but not swamped by bureaucracy. He was also politically savvy and knew how to put pressure on local politicians. For example, when the SES (FÁS) schemes were being dismantled countrywide around 2003, he



started a local campaign in Bray. In a highly unusual way and against all the odds, the scheme continued. A senior FÁS official confided to Jim "Well you know how it is Mr. Morrison, the squeaky wheel gets the grease."

Jim Morrison was the bedrock upon which Signal flourished over the course of nearly three decades. He planted the seeds of an arts community. He gathered people around him who believed in creating a centre where artists could work at and develop their own work, and which would also act as a resource making the arts more accessible to the wider community. This inclusive view mirrored his politics. The best thing that all Jim's friends could do to safeguard his legacy would be to support the development of Signal as an artist-focussed arts centre in Bray.

Jim Morrison was one of a kind; a truly singular man. A man who is sadly missed by his daughter Brigid, his family, many friends, fellow artists and many among the wider Bray community.

Many thanks to Jim's friend Johnny Hughes for putting together this memoir.

Contributors: Michelle Fullam, Oona McFarland, Clare Stephens, Marcia Nicholson, Aoife Fitzgerald, Conleth Gent, Maeve Stafford and Donal O'Shea.

A special thanks to Brigid Morrison for sharing her memories of her loving father which helped greatly in the writing of this memoir.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine. (People live in each other's shadows. i.e. no person is an island)

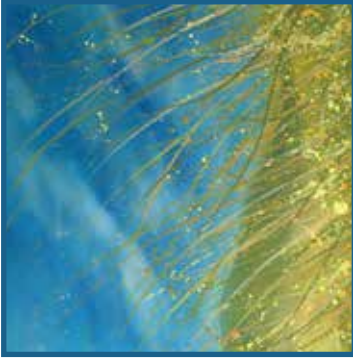




DENISE FRENCH
'Fragments of Reality'

Monday 25th June - Sunday 8th July

Opening Reception:
Friday 29th June (7 - 9 pm)



WICKLOW PATCHWORK
'Look What I Made'

Monday 9th – Sunday 22nd July

Opening Reception:
Sunday 15th July (7 - 9 pm)



EMILY VEALE & CIARAN DOYLE
'Whispered Dwellings'

Monday 23rd July – Sunday 5th August

Opening Reception:
Friday 27th July (7 - 9 pm)



SIGNAL OPEN

Tuesday 7th - Sunday 19th August

Opening Reception:
Friday 10th August (7 - 9 pm)



EMERGING ARTISTS
'Reflections'

Monday 20th August – Sunday 2nd September

Opening Reception:
Friday 24th August (7 - 9 pm)



Cathy Dillon & Shabnam Vassisht
'A Single Nest'

Monday 3rd – Sunday 16th September

Opening Reception:
Thursday 6th September (7 - 9 pm)



Views and Reviews

Wicklow Dementia Support Exhibition - Jade Butler

The "Hear Our Voice" exhibition took place recently at the Well, Bray and was a great success. The exhibition showcased work from Wicklow Dementia Support's "Our Voice" project which was facilitated by Signal Staff Artist Jade Butler who also curated this exhibition.

The project explored using art as a medium to express strengths, needs and personal identity while living with dementia. The overall aim of the project was to use the creative process to communicate the supports those with dementia and their carers need from the community and in terms of government policy, in order to



maintain a quality of life and to continue to engage in activities they enjoy.

The exhibition was opened by Minister for Health Simon Harris, who gave an excellent speech highlighting how we as a society need to challenge the stigma attached to dementia.

The "Our Voice" project was funded by the Community Foundation of Ireland.

Doom Thunder live performance - Kaisa Ypya

Since the formation of the 'Doom Thunder' band, the group has been a real breath of fresh air to everyone at the Signal Arts Centre with their a mix of colorful personalities, sense of humour, youthful and energetic performance style and love for music. Every member of the band has a different taste in music, but they all share a keen interest in country music and pop culture in general.

My co-art facilitator, Margaret Walsh, introduced the idea to form a band from these music loving and lively Signal Art Centre students in October 2017, and almost as soon as the group had been officially set up, the members made a joint decision about the songs to be rehearsed for the upcoming concert. The rehearsals began soon after that and carried on until this year with couple of breaks over the Christmas, Saint Patrick's Day mayhem and Easter.

The Doom Thunder concert started with an up-beat Katy Perry's song "Roar" which made the audience dance along and almost roar from excitement. The next song which was performed as a duet between Shannon and Matthew and the rest of the band joining in the chorus, was Olly Murs and Demi Lovato's "Up" which worked really well showing off the band



members' love for dance and right type of attitudes that are needed when performing on a stage. The last song of the set was a song loved by many for so many decades already, John Denver's "Country Road". This country western classic was a perfect ending for the first ever Doom Thunder concert and it really managed to wrap up all music styles heard at the concert – both modern and traditional – together.

The Doom Thunder's line up was definitely a trendy one: everyone of the members appeared so effortlessly cool and rock'n'roll on the day that it was truly inspiring experience for everyone. The stylishness of the two Mathews, Shauna, Shannon, Daniel and Steven definitely brought more into the show and enhanced the effect of the musical performances.

Signal Arts and Doom Thunder would like to thank the musician Niall Donnelly who provided the equipment such as the microphones and amplifiers, and our own art facilitator, Ciarán Coogan, who was the main man behind our stage design.

Everybody at the Signal Arts Centre is thrilled that the hard work that Doom Thunder has been putting in for all these months has finally paid off and we are really looking forward to the next concert which is already on the drawing board. At the moment The Doom Thunder is busy working on their fan club booklets which are going to be ready by the end of the summer.

Views and Reviews

Raku Kiln Test Firing - James Hayes

In May the Adult Ceramics Class students had the opportunity to create a unique ceramic piece using the relatively rare and inaccessible raku firing process, an ancient Japanese ceramics technique. The pots to be fired were made during the month leading up to the event, bisqued and glazed the week before in preparation. Facilitator and tutor James Hayes organised a Sunday afternoon event, bringing together students from 3 classes, which culminated in fire and smoke, chat, laughter, good food, and of course raku fired pots!

The process involved in raku firing hands over a large portion of control to the random elements of fire and smoke. To truly appreciate raku pottery the potter (and indeed the collector or aficionado) is looking for the happy accident that produces a pattern or contrast not possible in the traditional highly controlled environment of an electric kiln. Raku pots are for the most part decorative in nature as the resulting pots



and finishes are very fragile and not food safe. In the Japan the process is used to create cups for the traditional tea ceremony, and the ultimate goal is the pursuit of beauty in imperfection and that the vessel is quite visibly hand made.

The students were given a broad understanding of what to expect and aspire to, and images and videos were pursued as research. The students were encouraged to create simple hand built pots with

broad blank surfaces upon which the raku process could work its magic.

The pots were loaded into the purpose built, gas fired raku kiln and very quickly (2 hours) brought up to a glowing red temperature - approximately 1,000 degrees C. The pots are lifted out of the kiln glowing hot, and during a brief few minutes the students applied various combustible materials to the surface of the glaze. This included feathers, hair and sugar, all of which ignite on contact with the hot ceramic vessel. The pots are then quickly lifted into a "smoker" container, a metal bin with more combustible materials such as paper and wood chips, covered and left to smoke for 10 to 20 minutes. Overall we were delighted with the results! No two pots look alike, as the random nature of the process takes over to create truly distinctive glaze finishes.

Due to the popularity of the current three classes, Tuesday afternoons, Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, we encourage anyone interested to contact Signal ASAP to book a place or to ensure your name is on the next waiting list. Call 01-276-2039 today to avoid disappointment!



Central St. Martins UAL Graduate Fashion Press Show - Margaret Walsh

The end of year graduate show for the press is a notable fixture for fashionistas and savvy business people involved in the clothing industry on the lookout for the next 'big name' in the design world. With notable alumni including Stella McCartney, John Galliano and of course the late Alexander McQueen, the show departed from the norm this year with the students collectively agreeing to use their huge 20 meter workroom space as their catwalk to showcase their designs. This change was an exciting one as it meant all invitees were up close and personal to the bold and innovative designs of the students.

With individual students selections of block rocking beats going from Marilyn Manson via Sinatra to Schubert only adding another string to their bow of creative talents.



The graduates designs which ranged from political to conceptual and showed no fear in taking bold risks (and by and large carrying it off) were an explosion of colour and avant garde ideas. Each student showcased three pieces of their design and specialized in the areas of knit, print and tailoring for womenswear and menswear.

Paolina Russo won the overall Young Talent Award (her speciality being knitwear). There is no doubt that this talented designer is one to watch – she has already been involved in projects with Kendall Jenner, the band 'Dream Wife' and has been taken under the wing of John Galliano. Her ensembles draw heavily from contact sports where she weaves together footballs, elbow pads, boots and the like to create stunning structured outfits.



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Denise French

'Fragments of Reality' - Monday 28th June - Sunday 8th July

I am a graduate of IADT Dun Laoghaire, and have been creating in one way or another my entire life, whether its painting, drawing, writing or gardening, the joy for me is in creating new images or words or spaces that have never existed before. In my creative work I like to investigate the fragility of memory and remembering – the way in which remembering only comes to us in fragments of what was the reality, the layers of remembered events - the truth or untruth that changes our interpretation of our memories.

There can be many fragments and variations of each memory depending on who is telling the story and who is hearing it. My most recent subject is the landscape of my childhood memories. Remember when you had nothing to do and all day to do it? The memory of that is what this exhibition is all about. These landscape paintings are full of vibrancy and colour – inviting you to recapture warm summer days, in the garden or the meadow, lying in the grass, gazing up at the ever changing sky. I hope you can happily lose yourself in the atmosphere of calm and relaxation in these paintings. My creative practice is constantly evolving, I enjoy attending different workshops during the year at the RHA and other venues. I believe that each creative experience builds on the last and nothing is wasted, it all comes together in the end. I have worn a number of different creative hats over the years, including running a weekend Art Market in Dalkey and a Gallery in Dun Laoghaire.



'Windy Meadow'

At the moment my efforts are concentrated on my own practice and I work from my studio at home. As part of my creative practice this year I was lucky enough to be selected for an Artists Residency in the beautiful Cow House Studios, Rathnure, Co Wexford in the foothills of the Blackstairs Mountains. It was a great opportunity for reflection - and got me thinking about lots of things in a different way. With meals, accommodation and studio provided on this beautiful O'Gorman family farm I had lots of time to create and incubate new ideas, many of which I will be working on over the next year or so. I made a daily diary of my walks in response to the local roads and hedgerows which got me thinking about all the other walks and happenings that have been on those roads over the years and the memories that have been created there..... leave it with me for now and lets see what comes to the surface. You can follow me on Instagram DeniseFrenchArtist to keep up to date with my new work and news of upcoming exhibitions. You can also find me on FB and Twitter and my website is www.denisefrench.net

Wicklow Patchwork

'Look What I Made' - Monday 9th – Sunday 22nd July



Wicklow Patchwork Group is delighted to be holding its 2018 Exhibition in the Signal Arts Centre, Bray.

The Group first met in the spring of 2014 and have been meeting every month since. Today, we have over 100 members largely

from Wicklow, South Dublin and Wexford. We are a group of likeminded people whose aim is to share our love of patchwork and quilting among ourselves and with others. We welcome members of all standards, from the interested beginner to those who have many years of experience and are more than happy and willing to share their knowledge and wisdom with all! At our meetings we have guest speakers and demonstrations given by our members. We also hold regular workshops for members to improve their skills and learn new techniques.



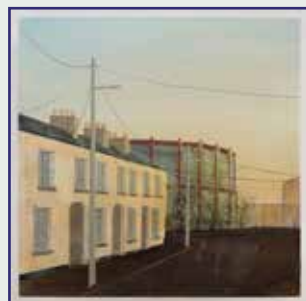
Visitors are always welcome to our meetings which are held in the Community Hall, Newtownmountkenndy on the third Saturday of each month.

"Look What I Made" represents the

diversity of work of the members of the group from the enthusiastic beginner to the very experienced quilter. WPG will be known in the area for the Quilt Fest which is held in Newtownmountkenndy, in conjunction with Appletree Crafts, every second year.

Emily Veale & Ciaran Doyle 'Whispered Dwellings' - Monday 23rd July – Sunday 5th Aug

Ciaran Doyle graduated from NCAD in 2015 and is currently based in Bray, Co Wicklow. His work draws inspiration from his surroundings. The paintings document an often overlooked beauty of somewhat ordinary and mundane, urban and suburban streetscapes. Using acrylic paint along with ink and pencil marks, He tries to translate this beauty into paintings. The paintings are architectural in style and he tries to contrast solid linear areas with looser layers of paint to recreate the atmosphere of these streets.



Emily Veale is a visual artist based in Bray, Co. Wicklow and a recent NCAD graduate. Her work varies from drawing to photography, video, collage and installation. Communication, interpretation and response are the key elements within her work and have become the main focus surrounding her artistic practise. Her current body of work consists of delicate hand collages created using found and recycled materials. Inspired by the everyday, though childlike in appearance, the collages capture the vibrant and gentle atmosphere of her surroundings through a meditative approach.

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Signal Open Exhibition

- Tuesday 7th - Sunday 19th August

Over the last 250 years 'Open Submission' exhibitions have become established as an essential element of Arts infrastructure. They act as one of the most accessible routes for artists to have their work seen by the public and are almost invariably amongst the stepping stones in an artist's career.

When Joshua Reynolds established the Royal Academy (RA) in the 18th century, one of his goals was the establishment of an annual exhibition which would be "open" to all artists for submission. The first such exhibition took place in 1769 to great acclaim and has been run annually ever since.

In Ireland the Royal Hibernian Academy (RHA) did likewise and over the years others have developed such as E.V.A., Claremorris, Oireachtas, Living Art, Iontas etc. These exhibitions provide an

opportunity for artists to come together as a community to show and sell their work and provide the public with an eclectic insight into what's happening in the arts both locally and nationally. The Signal Open Exhibition is now in its 6th year and has become an annual event in artists' calendars. We have been delighted by the response and the quality of work submitted each year and we are very grateful to all of the artists for their support.



'History' by Tony Clarke

Emerging Artists

'Reflections' - Monday 20th August – Sunday 2nd September

This eclectic group of Emerging artists, Catherine Allan, Gabriella Czinzer, Róisín Doherty, Noel Fanning, Jennifer Ferguson, Margot Jones, Audrey McCoy, Wesley McGrath, Gill Mac, Saorla O'Sullivan and Roy Turland.

They have a wide range of artistic practices. They have all been attending Drawing and Painting classes every Saturday morning at the Signal Arts Centre, under the guidance of experienced artist and tutor, Gill Mac. Gill worked at the Signal Arts Centre from 2014 until 2017 and also teaches Community Arts for the KWETB.

It has been an adventure of discovery for these artists. They express a variety of artistic styles with differing subject matter ranging from pints of Guinness, to Nature and Reflections. Many started as beginners and their work is now of a very high standard. They are a very social and close-knit group and it is a pleasure to present this collective show which displays the development of their skills.



'Nasturtium' by Audrey McCoy

Cathy Dillon & Shabnam Vassisht 'A Single Nest' - Monday 3rd – Sunday 16th September

For us this artistic collaboration has been a process of discovery. Our aim was not to make a direct comment on either Irish or Indian society – though some pieces address aspects of either or both – but to respond as one individual to another and trust that through this call-and-response endeavour, not only would we reflect the times but also that more subtle things would emerge that cast light on what it is to be Irish or Indian. The title of the exhibition, A Single Nest, is part of the motto of the famous university started by Indian poet and Nobel Prize winner Rabindranath Tagore. The university, in West Bengal, is called Visva-Bharati and its motto is: "Yatra visva bharati ekanidam" – which translates as "Where the whole world meets in a single nest".

Shabnam Vassisht:

As an Indian-born visual artist, I see colour as my cultural inheritance and express emotion through it. The fabric images reflect my profession as a dress designer and, hopefully, my personality. In a sense they are like Rorschach tests – multi-coloured reflections of my psychology which may reveal the subtleties in the fusion between my Irishness and Indianness. I have held solo shows in several countries and my pastel drawings were on permanent display in the corridors of Doyle's Jury Hotel, Ballsbridge, for ten years, until the hotel's closure. My commissions have ranged from the Grenadier Regiment in India to Irish Mensa. In 2015, I was on the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's panel that curated an exhibition of the State Art Collection in association with the Office of Public Works.

Cathy Dillon:

I am an Irish writer and editor, based in Dublin. As an arts journalist I have worked for, among many other publications, The Sunday Business Post and The Irish Times. I also take photographs and make paper collages and my work has been exhibited in the Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire, the Mill Theatre, Dundrum and the Dunamais Arts Centre in Port Laoise. In this collaboration, Shabnam's collages have also served as "inkblot tests" for me – stimulating emotional and imaginative rather than strictly logical responses. As a writer, I found that having another artist's work as a framework within which I could explore and experiment was liberating rather than constricting.



'Colour Coded' by Shabnam Vassisht



'Kanpur Story' by Shabnam Vassisht



Signal Book Club 2018

First Tuesday of every month at 5 pm in the gallery

3rd July: **The Killing Snows** by Charles Egan

In 1990, a box of very old documents was found on a small farm in the west of Ireland. They had been stored for well over a hundred years and told an incredible story of suffering, of love and of courage. In 1846, a young couple met during the worst days of the Great Irish Famine. The Killing Snows is a way to imagine what led to their meeting and what followed from it.

7th August: **The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris

The Tattooist of Auschwitz is based on the true story of Lale and Gita Sokolov, two Slovakian Jews, two ordinary people living in an extraordinary time, deprived of their freedom, their dignity, their families, and even their names replaced by numbers, and how they survived Auschwitz concentration camp.

4th September: **A Place Called Winter** by Patrick Gale

In the golden 1900s, Harry Cane, a shy, eligible gentleman of leisure is drawn from a life of quiet routine into courting and marrying Winnie, eldest daughter of the fatherless Wells clan, who are not quite as respectable as they would appear. They settle by the sea and have a daughter and conventional marriage does not seem such a tumultuous change after all. When a chance encounter awakens scandalous desires never acknowledged until now, however, Harry is forced to forsake the land and people he loves for a harsh new life as a homesteader on the newly colonized Canadian prairies. There, in a place called Winter, he will come to find a deep love within an alternative family, a love imperiled by war, madness and an evil man of undeniable magnetism.

2nd October: **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by Gail Honeyman

No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine.

Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.

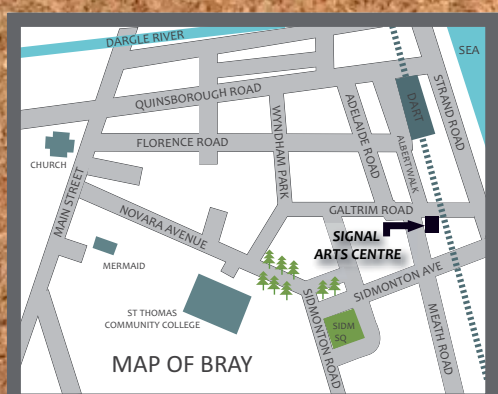
Closing date for submissions for the next Newsletter: 16th Aug

Bray Arts Club Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at Jim Doyles

25th July, 2nd Aug, 9th Aug

See www.brayarts.com



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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



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