



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

October - December 2017

Issue 4



Photo: Barbara Flynn



SIGNAL ARTS SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP OFFERS YOU:

A 10% discount

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

Participation in the

Annual Signal Arts Society Exhibition

(subject to selection)

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

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

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

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

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Emma Fitzgerald
Margaret Walsh
Ciaran Coogan
Donal Smyth
Audrey Kane

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

GALLERY HOURS
Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Sat and Sun 10 - 5
Signal Arts Centre, 1 Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow
Tel: 01 2762039 - Fax: 01 2869982
Email: info@signalartscentre.ie
Web: www.signalartscentre.ie

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

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

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Noticeboard

New Staff

Audrey has just completed a QQI Level 9 Postgrad Diploma (PGDip) in Business in Cultural Management.

And she is eager to begin immersing herself in promoting Community Arts and Culture in the Signal environment.

Audrey also has a strong interest in comedy and theatre.



Kaisa is originally from Finland where she studied Fine Arts.

And she has also spent many years living and working in the UK and South Africa before moving to Ireland.

Recently Kaisa has studied Fashion Theatre and Media Make-Up in BIFE and has since worked on various Film Sets and in Theatre.

Her interests include World Travel, Art and Culture, Nature and Hiking.



News from Claire

So here we are looking at Christmas again and the end of another year! It has been a very difficult year for us all with the passing of Jim Morrison; he will always be remembered with fondness by me and all the staff that have come through the doors of Signal. Jim had the gift of driving you mad one minute and having you laughing the next, he is sadly missed on a daily basis.

We are extremely lucky with the staff we have on board and it is always hard to say Goodbye to staff that have been here for 3 or more years and unfortunately in the past few months we have had to say farewell to two of our amazing staff members that is Gill Cassidy and Nicos Nicolau both contributed so much of themselves to the Centre and to all the special needs classes that they facilitated – it will be difficult without them but hopefully they will continue to be members of the Signal Arts Society and drop in to see us regularly.

Obviously the biggest event in this quarter was Culture Night and I think we have kept up our sterling work and have reached the expectations of everyone with Signal's "Equinox" theme! Congratulations to all involved.

We are now looking forward to the Christmas Fair and hope that the gallery will become an Aladdin's Cave, full of homemade treasures, for all to enjoy! Signal Arts Centre is looking forward to producing another eventful and artful year of events in 2018. Hope to see you all at one or all of the events scheduled.



Claire Flood

Signal Open Exhibition Winner: Dianne Whyte



Dianne Whyte - The Traprooms

I am a photographic artist living in Dublin. Initially from a design background I decided to take up photography after having my second child, initially as a hobby but then I went on to study full time for a BA (Hons) degree in photography at IADT and then an MFA Fine Art Photography with distinction from the University of Ulster, graduating in 2016.

I heard about the Signal Arts Open from The VAI newsletter and I was delighted to hear my work was selected as Best in Show, especially as it was the first time a photographic piece was chosen to win.

The photograph that won the Signal Arts award depicts the Trap Room of the Abbey theatre. This is one image from a project that I have worked on for the two years of my MFA called 'The Trap Rooms'.

These trap rooms that lie hidden from view beneath the stages of theatres are a metaphor for the staging of reality that underlies contemporary life. The normally hidden machinery of the theatre, what really drives the spectacle, acts as the social and economic forces that shape our lives. In a philosophical sense they ask questions about the nature of observable reality, what we see is never just what is seen, but merely all that is available to us.

My work to date usually is centred around spaces that are not necessarily familiar to us, or spaces that we don't think about, but once exposed to these normally hidden spaces one is prompted to contemplate.

Culture Night at Signal Arts Center 2017





Photo: Barbara Flynn



Photo: Barbara Flynn



Photo: Barbara Flynn





SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE

1 Albert Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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



EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

MARY HICKEY

'Earthwatch'

Monday 25th Sept - Sunday 8th Oct

Opening Reception: 7 - 9 pm
Friday 29th September

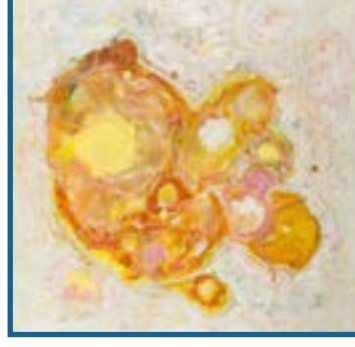
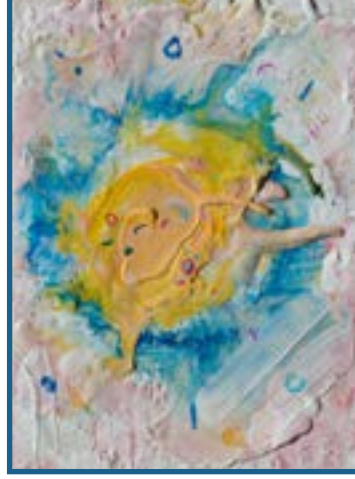


FIONA CAREY

'The Nothing of Everything'

Monday 9th - Sunday 22nd October

Opening Reception:
Sunday 15th October: 3 - 5 pm



MEITHEAL

'Equinox'

Monday 23rd Oct - Sunday 5th Nov

Opening Reception:
Friday 27th October: 7 - 9 pm



PHELIM O'LAOGHAIRE

'Between Two Waves of The Sea'

Monday 6th - Sunday 19th November

Opening Reception: 7 - 9 pm

Thursday 9th November



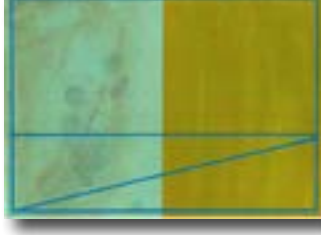
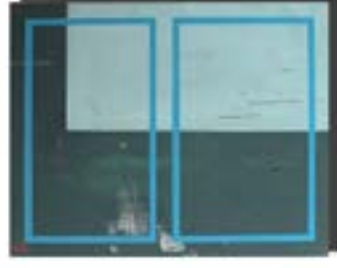
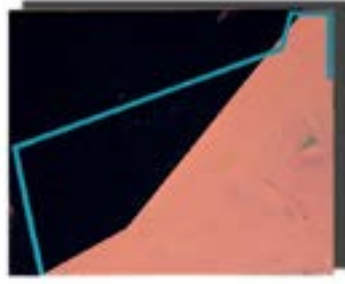
MARKUS DAVIES

'Nonetheless Here'

Monday 20th Nov – Sunday 3rd Dec

Opening Reception: 7 - 9 pm

Friday 24th November



SIGNAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Monday 4th – Sunday 24th December



Views and Reviews

Signal Arts Internship Retrospective - Wren and Miranda

After eight weeks of being here it's hard to believe that time has passed so quickly. Interning at Signal has been unlike anything I have ever done before. I feel grateful to have had the opportunity to be a part of the community here, even just for a little while and I look forward to seeing the pictures of Culture Night come September! Thank you to everyone for always being so welcoming and kind, I'll miss you! - **Miranda**

I'm glad to have met such wonderful people, to have helped in classes as well as in the gallery and to have pitched in preparation for Culture Night. Before coming here, I was very nervous because this was my first internship but I think I was lucky to be placed in Signal. I'll never forget my experience here and thank you to everyone! - **Wren**



Pride of Place Nomination - Helen Cleary

Pride of Place Award acknowledges the work done by community centres throughout Ireland and is run by Co-Operation Ireland and a steering committee. This year one of those hard working community centres is our very own Signal Arts Centre! All hands were on deck to create a slightly more polished Signal for the occasion, and that they did!

Our garden space became a 'jardin a La Francaise'. Intricate garden furniture sat amongst the light beige stones to create an ambience of wonderfulness. The wilderness rockery adorned with edible orange nasturtiums, was lovingly painted by our Ger Keenan, while Stephanie one our staff artists created a gathering of purple hues and pinks with her recycled flower pots made with her Sunbeam classes. The new beige garden gravel was courtesy of a grant by Wicklow County Council.*



The preparation in Signal Arts Centre caused great excitement among Signal staff. The Pride of Place competition aims to recognise the involvement of the local community in all aspects of rural and urban regeneration, including promoting social cohesion, heritage and environmental awareness, across 32 counties. The IPB Pride of Place judging panel came to see Signal Arts Centre on 11th July 2017. A wonderful PowerPoint presentation was shown, outlining Signals work since 1990

when it first opened its doors.

Signal works with many community centre's around the Bray area. Purple House, Festina Lente, Sunbeam House and Rehab care are to name just a few of the great organisations that take part in art classes in Signal.



The presentation was delivered by artist and board member Michelle Fullam and snippets from Signal's very own Signal TV were shown to the judges. The judges were given a tour of Signal Arts Centre including the beautifully French looking courtyard at the back lovingly restored by Signal Artists and a tour of our artist in residence Fontio's studio.

An important part of the experience was the preparation and tea party held to welcome the Pride of Place judges. A frenzy of tea making and coffee brewing took place, dollops of cream and succulent jam where plopped on plump scones, tea towels where whipped out and folded in preparation of tea pot pouring.

Views and Reviews

Colours of the Wind - Ariadne's Thread - Erika Tyner

Anne Madden at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin until September 10th 2017:



Anne Madden's new paintings are full of colour and elemental struggle. In her long career she has sought an understanding of the natural order of nature and the tragedy of existence.

Madden is one of Ireland's most significant contemporary painters. Born in London, she lived in Chile before studying at the Chelsea School of Art in the 1950's. There she met her husband, the artist, Louis le Brocqy. Madden was heavily influenced by Mark Rothko and a show of the New York School entitled 'The New American Painting' at the Tate in 1959. Exposure to these large colour intense works evoked a sense of freedom when there was little emerging in modern art.

In the current exhibition at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Madden is inspired by the ancient Greek myth of Ariadne. Ariadne's Golden Thread is metaphor for the solving of a problem with different ways of proceeding. The thread is a key feature of the paintings. Madden's response to colour was also triggered by nature when witnessing the Aurora Borealis on a flight from New York to Europe. This challenged her to manage the intensity of light as colour, and to use the vividness of complementary colours. Side by side they intensify the visual explosion of their neighbour.

Her work is an inspiration for anyone working in abstract colour.

In Colours of the Wind - Ariadne's Thread, Madden provides the visual metaphors for personal and universal challenges both psychological and physical, along with current ecological and political threats. In essence light conquering the darkness, the oldest story ever told.



Beautiful large scale colour saturated oil paintings await you. This exhibition is an invitation into a mythical world..why not enter in?

The Hugh Lane is open Tuesday to Sunday, closed Mondays. Admission is free and a cafe is on site. See www.hughlane.ie for details

Record Breaking Blanket - Ger Keenan

A few months ago, while browsing through facebook, I noticed a post about an attempt to knit the largest blanket in the world! This grabbed my attention and when I read more about it I discovered it was the brainchild of a lady in County Clare, Valery, who was asking for donations of 6X6 inch knitted squares which would be stitched together and then divided up into individual blankets which would be donated to the Red Cross. She is receiving knitted squares from all over the world. I thought this was a brilliant idea and how great it would be to get a few of my friends together to knit a few squares and send them over to Valery.

I spoke to Claire Flood first of all to ask could I use a room in the Signal Arts Centre so that I could invite some friends along some day to have an afternoon of knitting these squares together. Claire was delighted with the idea and gave me the go-ahead to organise it. I sent out messages to my friends asking who could knit, who would like to get involved and the response was brilliant. Everyone jumped at the idea of having an afternoon sitting around knitting and chatting. Even the people who were not confident about their knitting skills agreed to come along and join in anyway. Some had wool and knitting needles that they would bring and I had enough wool and needles at home to supply everyone anyway. The response was much better than I had anticipated and I was excited about organising this little gathering of friends.

On Saturday, 8th July, the sun shone, the temperature was very pleasant and so between 11am and 4pm the back yard of the Signal Arts Centre was filled with chatter, laughter and the clicking of knitting needles! There were 15 of us and we managed to knit 31 squares on the day – the tea, coffee and cakes helped! One of my friends brought her 12 yr old foster



son along, who originally was happy to be given paints and brushes so he could paint all afternoon, but he ended up asking to be shown how to knit and happily sat with the rest of us learning a new skill!

Another friend of mine, whose mother had recently passed away, could not make it on the day but herself and her daughter got knitting at home and dropped 13 squares into me the following week. One of my other friends took some wool and needles home with her and gave them to an elderly neighbour who knit up 30 squares! So, 2 weeks after the 'gathering' I posted 74 knitted squares to Valery. Some of the group are still knitting and I will post more as soon as they are dropped into me. It was a fantastic way to get involved in a charitable cause as well as being part of a world breaking record. Valery still needs more squares and the details are on the facebook page: Largest Knitted Blanket Record Breaking Attempt.

'Thank you' to everyone who volunteered their time and to Signal Arts Centre for covering the cost of the postage.

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Mary Hickey

'Earthwatch' - Monday 25th Sept - Sunday 8th Oct



Earthwatch takes the viewer on a wonderful journey of colour fusion and movement, with abstract forms suggesting images of imagined land masses. Mary Hickey is a visual artist who lives and works in Limerick, she graduated from the Limerick School of Art and Design 2015 with a BA Honours degree in Fine Art. Mary's earliest memories of drawing and painting were influenced by her many visits to the Dublin Botanic Gardens and the T.V. programme Amuigh Faoin Speir. As a child she painted many birds she saw in her own garden always wondering what they had flown over.

"On leaving school I had intended going to Art College but at the last minute my career took a different direction. Looking back on all my working experiences it was the most recent time spent working with Ordnance Survey maps that was the more influential in terms of looking at things from a different perspective. Viewing things from above whether it was maps, aerial photography or views of places I have seen through aircraft windows or just standing on bridges looking down on my native Shannon River. This present body of work is my reaction to what I see in nature, how it repairs itself, and its rebirth after extreme weather. Always a keen observer of nature I am amazed by the effect water has on life and colour. From desert to the rich banks of the Nile, to my native river Shannon which has burst its banks all too often, water brings colour. My work is process based, I always work flat and do all the pouring of water etc. on the floor. It has its own challenges as regards space and each canvas has to be primed six times to prevent water from seeping through as evaporation takes place. Painting watered down acrylic entails a collaboration of the artist with a living medium that they cannot control or erase. Watercolour or watered down acrylic will flow, settle, blend, separate and invent on its own before it dries. It bears a resemblance to the unpredictable flow of nature."

Since graduating college, Mary has exhibited in group shows in Limerick and Drogheda. Her paintings hang in private homes and offices and some are in America, Canada and South Africa. Mary's portfolio is very diverse contrasting her work between free flowing abstraction and the discipline of commissioned portraits, always appreciating the balance and contrast.

Supported by the Arts Council



Fiona Carey

'The Nothing of Everything' - Monday 9th Oct - Sunday 22nd Oct



For thousands of years, Kabbalah (a Jewish mystic religion) has been based on a fundamental contradiction; that God or 'Ein Sof' exists in all things, and yet is ultimately unknowable. As scientific research advances into the future, at the level of quantum theory, we also find inherent contradictions; that sub-atomic particles can behave in seemingly impossible ways, and that there are fundamental limits to our ability to know something for certain. Kabbalah teaches that God is all-permeating, and is the nothingness within everything. Meanwhile, science shows that matter - that which to us seems so concrete & so real - is mostly empty space, subject to the paradoxical laws of quantum mechanics. This body of work explores not the opposing - seemingly incompatible - views of science, religion, theology, and

spirituality, but the areas where they intersect and overlap. This exhibition consists of two bodies of work; drawings and watercolours, and encaustic paintings.

The human quest for the truth about the meaning of life is as old as our species. But can there be one absolute truth? Would we recognise it if we found it? Can there be anything truer than our own experience - be it physical or metaphysical - of the universe?

At a time when we are seeing a renewed curiosity and hunger for something more than rational and logical thought, this work does not attempt to arrive at answers to these questions, rather to highlight the importance and enjoyment of the very act of pondering them in the first place.



Signal Arts Meitheal

'Equinox' - Monday 23rd Oct - Sunday 5th Nov

The current and past Staff Artists of the Signal Arts Centre are an eclectic group from a wide range of artistic practices and mediums who come together every year to take part in this annual event.

The theme for this year's 'Meitheal' Exhibition is Equinox. As the days get shorter, and the nights get longer, the Autumn Equinox is celebrated in many different ways by different cultures throughout the world.

Based on this theme, this year's 'Meitheal' exhibition promises to be an exceptional showcase with works of art being described as beautiful, mystical and spiritual.



Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Phelim O'Laoghaire 'Between Two Waves of The Sea' - Mon 6th Nov - Sun 19th Nov



Widely traveled and working on different subjects, Phelim constantly seeks to learn something about life and the world. Yet in photographing life's individual and interconnecting complexities, a self-conscious element pervades. His work attempts to reveal universal qualities brought to light through personal reflection.

When offered a chance to work in Crimea, naturally he agreed. In 2015 this annexed territory had only recently reopened its borders, and was perhaps Europe's most significant political controversy. But Phelim came to realise he was poorly located to depict the political change in the region. Still he photographed tirelessly. In the small coastal town, Morskoe (literally 'of the sea' or marine), where he taught English, Phelim spend his free time swimming and photographing the Black Sea. He worked passionately, though without preconceptions or determined subjects, at a distance from his ordinary life.

Only later after he returned home, did Phelim begin to look back and see his work as having achieved something. Aside from curiosity about the lives of others, he recognise emotions and questions of his own. Uncertainties and apprehensions, natural in adolescence, when one is faced with the decisions and actions towards a future they are responsible for, and the strangeness of this independence in a world seemingly determined by forces beyond us. Themes befitting Crimea and the figures who find themselves along the desolate shores or in the waters of the Black Sea. And although the place and people are barely identifiable, they evoke emotions we all might recognise.

'Between two waves of the sea.' may be a coming of age story of sorts. Still it reflects on moments of existential apprehension, changes and decisions, prevalent throughout life. Curiously difficult actions, lost in the passing of time.

A self-taught photographer, Phelim grew up influenced by Magnum photographers but also literature and art. In 2015 he won the Irish Times Amateur Photographer of the Year gold medal for street photography. After deferring college for a year to work and travel, he now studies Russian and Philosophy in Trinity College Dublin.

Markus Davies

'Nonetheless Here' - Monday 20th Nov - Sunday 3rd



Artist Markus Davies will be showing, his latest series of paintings, for the first time in his hometown of Bray with the support of the Signal Art Center. Originally from Germany Markus studied Fine Art at the National college of Art and Design in Dublin. He has widely exhibited his work in Ireland and the UK. In the past Markus has collaborated with Irish and international Artists in the aim to raise awareness of disused spaces within our towns and cities. He's currently planning a new project in London, which will see him collaborating with UK based artists trying to create a dialogue between Artists across different disciplines, with similar interests and influences in relation to the urban environment.

"Nonetheless Here" inaugurates elements of Architecture and encounters the spaces, places and structures that surround us in day to day life. The paintings are typically generated in response to the Artist own personal experience of the built environment we live in. Questioning how he perceives these spatial experiences and what he senses and feels while encountering these places.

Each painting oversteps the boundaries between art and everyday space, exploring tangible elements, unforeseen spatial configuration and ever changing conditions of our surroundings. Markus is constantly analyzing images of the built environment trying to confront the blandness of these commodified urban spaces through the medium of paint and a format of human reflection.



Signal Christmas Fair

- Monday 11th Dec - Sunday 24th Dec





Signal Book Club 2017

First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

October 3rd

To Kill the President

by Sam Bourne

November 7th

The Handmaid's Tale

by Margaret Atwood

December 5th

2 A.M. at The Cats Pyjamas

by Marie-Helen Bertino

SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE, 1 ALBERT AVENUE, BRAY

MEITHEAL

AN ANNUAL EXHIBITION BY
CURRENT AND PAST STAFF ARTISTS

MON 23RD OCT - SUN 5TH NOV
OPENING: FRI 27TH OCT 7-9PM

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FRI 28TH SEPT

THIS YEAR'S 'MEITHEAL' THEME IS **EQUINOX**

AS THE DAYS GET SHORTER, AND THE NIGHTS GET LONGER, THE AUTUMN EQUINOX IS CELEBRATED BY DIFFERENT CULTURES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

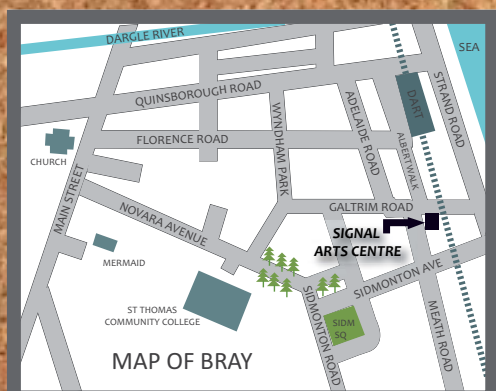
**Closing date for submissions for
the next Newsletter: 16th Feb 2018**

Bray Arts Club Performance Nights

Mondays 8 pm at the Martello

2ND Oct, 6TH Nov, 4TH Dec

See www.brayarts.com



Signal Arts Centre

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Fax: 01 2869982

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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



This project is funded
by the Department
of Social Protection