



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18

July - September 2021

Issue 3



Elena Kotovenko



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Ruth Louise Murphy

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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

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Signal Arts Centre is represented on the following: Bray Partnership,
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Contact Signal Arts Society: society@signalartscentre.ie

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

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Noticeboard

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

New Staff



Don Rorke

Don Rorke has been involved in filmmaking since 2010, as an Producer, Director and Editor. He has worked on a huge body of work that encompasses a wide range of genres and styles, including Documentary, Short Films, Feature Films, Promotional, Corporate Videos and Music Videos, where a number of the films which have won awards. In 2015 he completed a Higher National Diploma in Moving Image with a distinction. Currently he is still working on projects both large and small and working on a number of ideas for his next feature documentary.

Textile artist, felt maker and quilter. Ruth had previously worked in Signal between 2018 and 2019 before taking up a teaching position in Kuwait. Now she's back with a bang and is looking forward to initially working with Don creating video profiles of various local artists and of course incorporating her "tactile textile talents" into the warp & weft of everyday life in Signal.



Ruth Louise Murphy



Santa Silina

Santa has a degree in graphic design and has studied classical art education. She has a great passion for drawing and sketching is interested in cultural history and all art related topics. Originally from Latvia but is in love with Ireland, where she has lived from 2007. She enjoys hiking and live outdoor sketching. Loves to give her knowledge to others.

Margaret Walsh comes from a music industry background. Her ambition is to raise the profile of Signal Arts Centre to an even higher level. Margaret's interests include Interior Design, Art History and 20th century Literature.



Margaret Walsh

News from Claire

Hello there everyone

Thankfully the world is opening up again as the vaccination programme rolls out. We have been open to the public since the 10th of May and have been able to exhibit shows in the gallery and online and it has been great. Hopefully in the next couple of months we will be able to have all our classes back up and running in the Centre.

As it is we are working on Culture Night already and we would love some interaction with S.A.S. members, so if you want to get involved just ring the Centre. So far, the theme we are working on is Irish Mythology and the ideas are coming fast and furious. It is a delight to see some of our normal, annual events returning to the Centre and there is a palpable air of creativity and magical imaging in abundance throughout the building. See article from Margaret who has taken on the task of co-ordinating the proceedings using all the tricks she gained from completing the QQI Level 6 module "Arts Event Management" while on the scheme here in Signal.

The Ceramic classes are slowly coming back with 2 participants at a time safely distancing and wearing masks, creating beautiful work both hand building and throwing on the wheel.

DEASP have agreed more extensions for some of the participants that we were expecting to leave in July - Conor, Jonathan and Drew have been extended to October so we are delighted that we will have another few months of their company and expertise. We also have been able to recruit new staff members and we have been lucky enough to get some very talented people on board. (See new staff on the left). Because we have a very talented filmmaker in Don we are developing a media and video content strategy looking towards producing lots of videos going forward.

Now that the Covid restrictions are opening up society we look forward to meeting you all at exhibitions, openings and other events.

All the best

Claire Flood

signalartscentre.ie



01-2762039

My name is Deirdre Ridgway, I am a photographer and a native to Bray. I have a great passion for photography and have spent many hours walking throughout Bray observing and photographing life. On these walks I would pick up "treasure", little pieces of ceramic, delft, glass, metal – "stuff". A couple of years ago, I thought it would be a great idea to incorporate some of this treasure into jewellery design. I then decided to take a summer course with The Irish school of jewellery, and I knew that this was a creative skill that I could develop and love. But at the same time, create a new direction for my working life.

I took the knowledge I learnt from this course and came up with a plan to create a jewellery collection of my own, that would be fun and quirky. But, at the same time still had an injection of personality. I designed my first collection around Area 51, a place which I have always found interesting and thought the images around this place would transfer well over to my jewellery design. The collection included cacti, rocket and flying saucer earrings. I then went on to design more individual pieces and made a collection for the Signal Arts Christmas Fair - Christmas ornaments, pendants, bangles and a wide variety of different styles and pieces of jewellery.

I mainly work in copper and try to use recycled materials wherever possible. Showing my work at the Signal Christmas Fair, has Allowed me to showcase my body of work and it has been selling with great success. But this experience has above all given me confidence as a Jeweller and the skills to continue this artform as career. Since then I have been commissioned to create bespoke pieces for clients. I am looking forward to entering in a new collection for this year's coming Christmas Fair, which I hope will include Silver and Enamelling.



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Can you tell me a little about yourself and your artistic journey?

I started to draw as a child and it was something that I did with my Mom. I currently work as a Commercial Design Artist for a firm in Dublin. Prior to this I was selected for a portfolio course in BIFE and then a four-year course in IADT. I am currently involved with the Bray Artists' Circle

How has your practice changed over time?

When I studied art in school, I found it very formal, structured, and formulaic. I prefer to be freer in my work but sometimes when I'm doing my doodles I find my mind returning to the way I was taught to work in school.

What is your process?

I work generally on A4 paper as it's not too big and I do not want to miss anything, which I may do if I spread it out or scaled it up. I do a pencil sketching first. If I were to draw a skull for instance good lighting is essential. I use a grid section. This will require meticulous precision. I then complete it with a ballpoint pen.



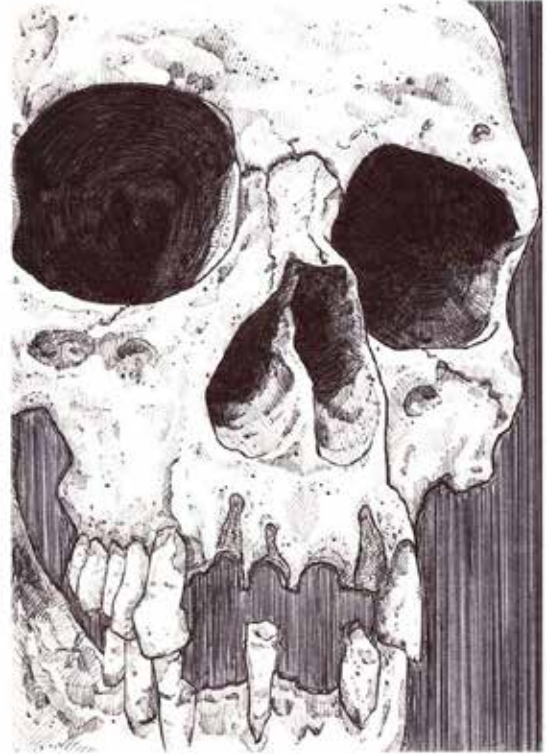
What themes currently inspire you?

Now it is elderly people. Particularly men I'm fascinated by their wrinkles and I find myself very focused on their noses. I tend to draw only their heads. I source the images and I find Pinterest most helpful for this.



What artists do you most identify with or inspire you?

Caravaggio. I love the way he plays with light and his work is emotive and there's a gothic element to it. Part of me wishes I could have met him but given what I know of him it's probably best that that could not happen. I also like Kat Von D. When I was a teenager I was obsessed with LA Ink. She is an amazing artist. Punk Zines really interest me at the moment too.



Where is your favourite place to work and or a place that inspires you?

I like to work at home and often in the mornings, before work I will do doodles in McDonalds with a coffee. When I was on my J1 I travelled a lot. I have lots of journals filled with drawings from Thailand and Cambodia.

Is there anything about the art world that you do not like?

I think that it can be pretentious and snobbish and very class led. If someone is from a fairly affluent background then their work is often applauded whilst often someone from a more disadvantaged background won't be. Also, often for these artists their friends would not have the same disposable income to support them.

What is your goal professionally?

I will always continue to work in the creative sphere. If money were not an issue I would like to work on my art and as a part time barmaid.

Is there any advice that you've been given that you can share?

A design lecturer told me that "Anxiety is the biggest reason for procrastination". I think that this is true and that it's not laziness I often use this as a push start.

ZOE MULVANEYS' WORK WILL APPEAR AS PART
OF THE 'BRAY ARTISTS' CIRCLE EXHIBITION' RUNNING IN THE
SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE
FROM JULY 19TH - AUGUST 1ST 2021



Gallery Opening Hours
Monday / Friday - 10 - 1 / 2-5
Saturday / Sunday - 10 - 5

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021

For more information go to www.signalartscentre.ie



Elena Kotovenko

‘Fragments’

Monday July 5th
Sunday July 18th



Bray Artists' Circle

‘The Way we Art’

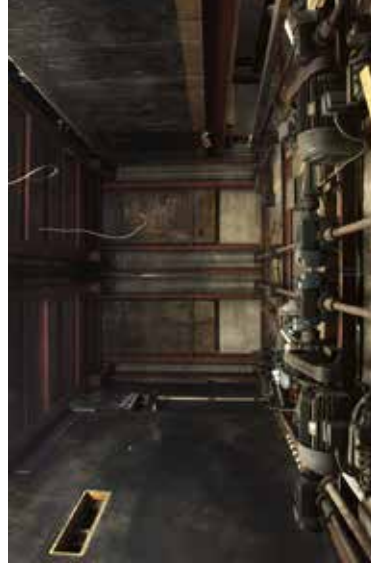
Monday July 19th
Sunday 1st August



Signal Open

‘Signal Open 2021’

Tuesday August 3rd
Sunday August 15th



Derval Freeman

'A Way to Equilibrium'

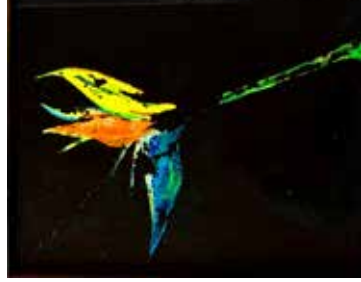
Monday 16th August
Sunday 29th August



Papillon

'Divergence'

Monday August 30th
Sunday September 12th



Kaisa Ypya

'Into Nature'

Monday September 13th
Sunday September 26th



Signal Arts Centre will be celebrating culture night this year on Friday the 17th September. Our theme is Irish mythology. As in previous years we hope to engage with schools and community centres but this is obviously dependent on restrictions surrounding Covid. Please keep an eye on our website for further details of workshops on the day and hopefully some entertainment on the night in the gallery. If you have any ideas that could contribute to the event, please contact Signal Arts Centre and you can be part of this wonderful community cultural event.





2021

irish mythology

Views and Reviews

Nomadland; Reviewed by Lorna Lennon

Nomadland, the new movie starring Frances McDormand, is an exploration of the nomadic lifestyle of those who have lost their homes and are living in camper vans. Or, as McDormand puts it in the movie, "I'm not homeless, I'm just houseless." McDormand's performance is a tour-de-force however most of the rest of the cast are not professional actors but people who are actually living the nomadic life in the USA. It's questionable whether mixing actor and non-professionals in this way paid off.

The subject of the movie is a real issue for many people who, through economic necessity, find themselves having to leave their bricks and mortar homes and live on the road and the movie takes this very seriously. If this were a documentary it would be very worthy but the problem is that the movie doesn't seem to know what it wants to be. Is it a documentary or is it a movie? It teeters on the brink of being both and perhaps because of that it doesn't seem to fulfil either as well as it should. The other mainstream recognizable actor who plays opposite McDormand is David Strathairn so when we see him in one of the scenes it's a given that he is going to play a role in the main character's life.

This is too much of a give-away and it's not a surprise when we see recurring interactions between him and McDormand. Strathairn and McDormand both give measured and deep performances and interact well with the non-professionals. However, in many scenes it seems McDormand is just here to facilitate the real people telling their story. Why not just let them tell it in a documentary and explore it fully without the fictional element added by the actors' story arc? From a cynical viewpoint, it might be said that more people would watch a movie starring McDormand than would choose to watch such a documentary. Overall, Nomadland is a good and informative film which falls short of being great because it tries too hard to be worthy.



Views and Reviews

Vegan Chocolate Brownies Recipe



Recipe

Ingredients

5 tablespoons sunflower oil, plus extra for greasing
200 g dairy-free dark chocolate
170 g self-raising flour
3 heaped teaspoons cocoa powder
180 g golden caster sugar
sea salt
1 vanilla pod
230 ml unsweetened organic soya milk
200 g pecan nuts

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas 4. Grease a square baking tin (roughly 20cm) with a little oil, then line with greaseproof paper.
2. Place a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water, making sure the base doesn't touch the water. Break 150g of chocolate into the bowl and allow it to melt, then set aside to cool slightly.
3. Meanwhile, sieve the flour and cocoa powder into a large bowl, then stir in the sugar and a pinch of salt. Halve the vanilla pod lengthways, scrape out the seeds, then add them to the bowl. Stir in the oil, soya milk and melted chocolate until combined.
4. Roughly chop and stir in the remaining chocolate and most of the pecans, reserving a few for the top. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin, spreading it out evenly. Sprinkle over the remaining pecans, then place into the hot oven for 20 to 25 minutes, or until cooked on the outside, but still gooey in the middle.
5. Leave to cool for around 5 minutes, turn out onto a wire cooling rack, then serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, if you're feeling extra indulgent.

Views and Reviews

Arts in Covid by Lorna Lennon

How does an artist make sense of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic? That's a question many creative people have been asking themselves over the past months in the face of closed galleries, theatres and other familiar outlets. Even before facing the challenges involved in selling their work many artists have had to grapple with the depression and anxiety brought about by rolling lockdowns and the isolation that resulted from social distancing policies. Through the ages creative people have responded in different ways to pandemics and natural disasters. Some have merely documented the events around them while others looked away from the chaos and chose to create cheerful life-affirming work that helped to lift the mood of others.

In 1630 the French artist, Nicolas Poussin, painted "The Plague of Ashdod" in the middle of a plague outbreak in Italy. His choice was to compare the current situation with a biblical plague in Ashdod, thus anchoring the prevalent misery in a relatable historic setting.

In 1918 the Spanish Flu raged across the world killing an estimated 50 million people and infecting over one third of the world's population. Norwegian artist, Edvard Munch, caught the flu and responded by painting himself while ill. Munch seized the chance to document what he was going through at the time thus creating a piece to which other sufferers could relate.

By contrast, some artists have used the isolation caused by difficult times not to document the difficulties but by taking the opportunity to become more productive in their work.

For example, when the bubonic plague hit Florence in 1348 writer and poet, Giovanni Boccaccio, fled to Tuscany where he wrote "The Decameron" which became a pivotal book of its time. Later, in the 17th century, when the bubonic plague was rife in London forcing theatres to close, William Shakespeare isolated himself and wrote three plays "King Lear", "Macbeth" and "Antony and Cleopatra" all within the space of a single year.

Whether by documenting the experiences of themselves and others or by dedicating themselves to increasing their own productivity, artists have responded in various ways to pandemics in the past. In the next edition of the Signal Newsletter we will explore how contemporary artists are responding to the current Coronavirus pandemic.



Nicolas Poussin
'The Plague of Ashdod' 1630



Edvard Munch, 'Self Portrait with Spanish Flu 1919



Kenneth Branagh as Shakespeare's Macbeth

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Elena Kotovenko 'Fragments'

Mon, July 5th - Sun, July 18th

A solo exhibition by Elena Kotovenko is taking place in the Signal Arts Centre. This exhibition provides an insight into the work of an artist who has various styles and some very strong ideologies, that echo in her work. A fascination with colour and impressionism results in pointillist-like night city scenes and landscapes. The love of nature makes her explore the use of raw materials and incorporate them into her landscapes. As a keen gardener and lover of flowers she experiments with clay to reproduce life-like 3-dimensional flower canvasses, in deep edged box frames. As a lover of nature and wildlife she constantly works on reducing waste and re-uses discarded plastic and other small objects into her mixed media pieces. This process led her to the discovery of the steampunk movement and experimenting with various media and materials. All these different styles represent one artistic career, which is constantly evolving and changing, just like the world around us. Step into the experience at the Signal Arts Centre, Bray from 5th July to the 18th July 2021.



Bray Artist's Circle 'The Way We Art'

Mon, July 19th - Sun, August 1st



Bray Artists' Circle has been providing opportunities for local artists to develop their artistic talent since 2003. The members range from artists who have been painting for many years, to others who have taken it up more recently as a hobby. A cross-section of styles and media preferences from oils to watercolour, acrylics to pastels is displayed within the group. While there is no formal teaching, more experienced artists are willing to give advice as members

work on their own subject preferences in a relaxed atmosphere. Workshops led by professional artists are organised annually.



Trips to art galleries such as the National Gallery have also been organised for members. Some members have also travelled to France, Spain and Italy for painting workshops. The group meet throughout the year on Monday evenings for two hours in St. Cronan's B.N.S., Bray. At present there are approximately 25 members many of which have successfully sold their work in a variety of exhibitions. The past twelve months have been particularly challenging as the Covid 19 pandemic has prevented us from meeting, but we look forward to a time when we can once again get together. This exhibition includes a selection of work in oils, watercolour, acrylic and pastel by our members, all of whom have their very individual styles

Signal Open 'Signal Open 2021'

Tue, August 3rd - Sun, August 15th

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 9th 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 9th Annual Signal Open Exhibition takes place at the Signal Arts Centre from Tuesday 3rd – Sunday 15th August 2020. The 'Best in Show' winner will be awarded €1,000 and will be announced at the Exhibition Opening on Sunday 8th of August from 3-5pm.



2016: Irina Kuksova 'Safe Home'



2017: Dianne Whyte 'The Trap Rooms'



2018: Brian Manning 'Garden of Eden'



2019: Laurence O'Toole 'Enjoy Yourself, Its Later Than You Think'



2020: Lynn Kennedy 'Portrait of an Artist'

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Derval Freeman 'A Way to Equilibrium'

Mon, August 16th - Sun, August 29th

A new body of work by artist Derval Freeman goes on exhibit at the Signal Arts Centre running this August the 16th to the 29th. Titled, 'A Way to Equilibrium' her paintings began as a journey back into abstraction focusing on drawing, colour, shape and composition. Since graduating from Limerick School of Art and Design, Derval's style has evolved over 25 years or more and her exhibition will showcase a significant change in her direction, especially over these past two years. Her art is an exploration and response to life, nature and the wonders of the universe. She paints in oils and cold wax medium and often begins with the drawing. Her paintings can be described as playful and vibrantly colourful with a thick application, in contrast with washes of bright sweeping colour transparencies.



Papillion 'Divergence'

Mon, August 30th - Sun, September 12th

Papillion Art Group is an eclectic group of artists from a wide range of artistic backgrounds and practices. They meet in the Signal Arts Centre on Saturday mornings, and work on their own projects and subjects of interest. The group was originally founded by artist and tutor Gill Mac, who sadly passed-away in 2019. Being a socially close-knit team, the artists decided to continue painting together at Signal and to invite other artists to give occasional workshops in different disciplines. 'Divergence' represents the group's transformation from having a much-missed friend and tutor to individual learning and exploration within the framework of a supportive and motivated team.



The exhibition is colourful and vibrant, depicting various subjects, such as animals, nature, landscapes, still life and maritime.



Exhibiting Artists

Aisling McMorrow
Catherine Russell
David Swail
Declan Vaughan
Jennifer Moran
Catherine Finn
Ciara Nolan
Mark Diggin
Gerry Parle
Audrey McCoy

Kaisa Ypya 'Into Nature'

Mon, September 13th - Sun, September 26th



Kaisa Ypya has always been fascinated by the way light and shadows change our perception of what we see and how we view the outdoors and nature. The paintings in this exhibition have become a collection of snapshots of moments the artist has spent out in the wilderness, captured by her camera, and her attempts to translate the images into watercolour paintings. Our shared longing to return to a more connected life and the feeling that we have become so far-removed from nature is now more obvious than it has ever been before.

Ypya's paintings are a method of escaping that feeling of being trapped in the routines of a man-made world with its creeping sense of restlessness. This is Kaisa Ypya's first solo exhibition. She has a background in art facilitation and has studied fine arts in her native Finland. She is the owner of the Secret Garden Art Studio in Greystones which will begin offering art classes for both adults and children in the near future. Having lived in South Africa and England, Kaisa Ypya settled in Ireland fourteen short years ago.





Signal Book Club 2021

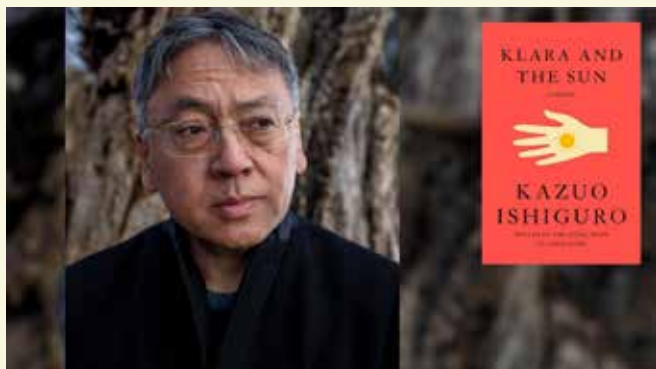
First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

The book club is taking a break for the Summer months and will be back in September and will be able to meet again in the gallery in the flesh Yea! #

See below for the first date and book title.

Tuesday 7th September 2021

Klara and the Sun
by
Kazuo Ishiguro



**Closing date for submissions for the next
Newsletter: 10TH September 2021**



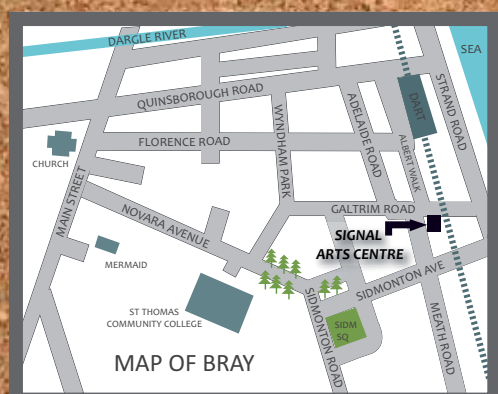
**SIGNAL
ARTS
SOCIETY**

Membership is open to
artists and non artists.

For membership queries
contact
society@signalartscentre.ie

THE BENEFITS

- Invitation to participate in the annual Signal Arts Society exhibition.
- A printed copy of the quarterly newsletter posted directly to each member.
- **10%** discount on the purchase of artwork in the Signal Arts Centre.
- Reduced commission on sales of your work in the Signal Arts Centre from 25% to 15%.
- **10%** discount on the price of classes run by the Signal Arts Centre.
- Opportunity to have a piece published in the newsletter relating to your work or area of artistic interest.
- Invitations to exhibition openings and other events staged by the Signal Arts Centre.
- **10%** discount when hiring facilities in the Signal Arts Centre including the kiln and the darkroom.
- Opportunity to promote your work through the online members page on the Signal Arts Centre's website.
- **12%** discount on purchases made in Michael Doherty's School Supplies, Bray.
- **10%** discount on purchases made in Craft Framing, Bray.



Signal Arts Centre

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Bray, Co. Wicklow.

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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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by the Department
of Social Protection