



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 18

October - December 2021

Issue 4



Culture Night
'Art Trail' Photo by DMR

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.

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New Staff Members

Dylan Clucas

Dylan is a graphic designer. He studied art before transitioning to graphic design. He has been active in video editing and professional gaming for many years. He has a keen interest in graffiti and paints occasionally when he can find the time.



Audrey Kane



Audrey is delighted to be back on the Signal team and is really looking forward to all the future events and classes that will be happening here again as the country opens up. Audrey has just completed a QQI Level 9 Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Business in Cultural Management. 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.

News from Claire

Hello there



The weather has been very kind to us this year and as I write the sun is still shining outside so no excuse for negativity presently. We have had a good year in Signal Arts Centre with a huge response to the Signal Open and the public have really gotten behind us in lots of different ways. It is so good to be actually busy and almost back to normal in the Centre.

We just celebrated Culture Night and it was very well attended as you will see from the photographs it was not as big as previous Culture Nights but it was beautifully formed. Good craic with the kids in the afternoon when the weather again was good to us and stopped raining for the couple of hours that the kids were painting etc. outside. The evening went very well with the Artist Trail taking place from the Centre at 6.30 and the Opening Reception for past staff member, Kaisa Ypya, taking place in the gallery enhanced by the beautiful guitar playing of Dan Laffan, current staff member. Well done to all the people who worked tirelessly on all the installation for the day/night.

Nearly all classes are back albeit in a cosier form, we are very lucky that we now have Ceramic classes taking place in the Centre almost every day so if you are interested in doing a 6-week course please get in touch and we can put your name on a waiting list. Keep an eye on the website as we are hoping to run some more classes in the near future.

All the best

Claire Flood

SAS Member's News

As the nights close in and we approach the end of what has been yet another extremely challenging year we are imbued with a renewed sense of optimism as the restrictions relating to the Coronavirus (Covid 19) pandemic gradually begin to ease. The Centre is once again staging exhibitions, the classes are steadily returning and we are playing host to Opening Receptions once more.

This easing of restrictions also allowed the Society to stage its first event outside of the Centre since February 2020 with the first Signal Art and Sketching Trail taking place on Culture Night, September 17th. This was a magnificent occasion with many people in attendance as the Trail visited a number of areas of artistic interest around Bray and heard from speakers Biddy Scott, Deirdre Maher Ridgway and Eleanor Phillips who provided background information relating to each of the areas visited. This was the success of the event another Trail is planned before the end of the year, so keep an eye on our website and social media pages as further details will be posted there.

Finally, the Signal Arts Society annual member's exhibition will take place in April 2022 and members are advised that we will begin accepting submissions for this show in December this year. We will contact you by email while further details on how to submit will be made available through our website. As always, if you wish to submit an article for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter, simply email newsletter@signalartscentre.ie by November 24th 2021.



SIGNAL OPEN WINNER 2021

Congratulations to **Michael O'Leary** on Winning the Best in Show 2021 with his piece

'Fanta, Lemons'

Read Michael's review on page 8

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Emma Finucane
Trustee Role – Chair
Sub-Committee –Community Employment Management Committee



Susie Markey
Trustee Role – Treasurer
Sub-Committee –Community Employment Management Committee



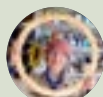
Michelle Fullam
Trustee Role – Children & Vulnerable Adults
Sub-Committee –Community Employment Management Committee



Colum O'Neill
Trustee Role – Health & Safety
Sub-Committee –Community Employment Management Committee



Yanny Petters
Trustee Role - Membership Development
Sub-Committee - Signal Arts Society Committee



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Director
Acting Company Secretary



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Susie Markey
Colum O'Neill
Greg Murray (PDO)



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Keith Clucas
Ruth Louise Murphy
Donal Smyth
David Crowe
Santa Silina
Lorna Lennon
Jonathan Higgins
Deirdre Ridgway
Margaret Walsh
Don Rorke
Dylan Clucas
Audrey Kane
Andrew Freeland

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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Claire Flood

Layout, Editing, Printing
Deirdre Ridgway

Photography - Deirdre Ridgway

Newsletter Committee:
Claire Flood, Margaret Walsh,
Deirdre Ridgway, Erika Tyner

Signal Arts Society Committee:
Conor Rafferty, Margaret Walsh,
Erika Tyner, Deirdre Ridgway, Claire Jeffares, Myra Jago, Yanny Petters

OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri 9.00 - 1.00 and 2.00 - 5.00

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

GALLERY HOURS

Monday to Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 5
Sat and Sun 10 - 5

Tel: 01 2762039
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: 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.

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

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Culture Night September 2021

Signal Arts Centre is delighted that after a hiatus of two years we were able to use our combined creative talents to develop and stage a Culture Night programme, albeit on a slightly smaller scale than in previous years. Culture Night and St Patrick's Day are two of the highlights in our annual calendar and everybody in the Centre always tries to get involved and lend a hand.

Our theme this year was Irish Mythology and unfortunately due to the ongoing Coronavirus (Covid 19) restrictions we were unable to involve local community groups or in-house groups that would normally work alongside us as we prepared for the day. It was wonderful however, to see so many of them turn up and support us throughout the course of the day.

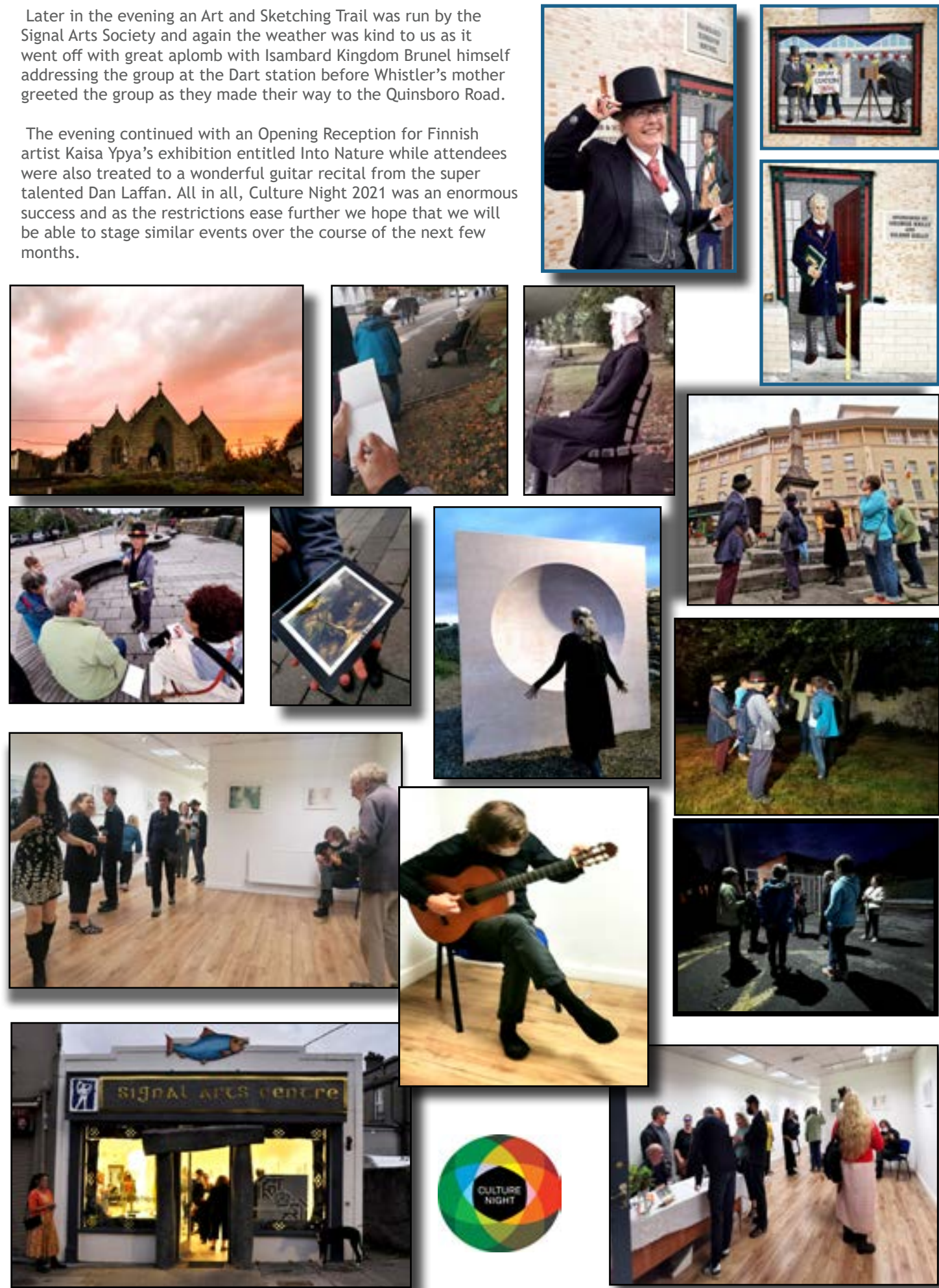
To say that the day began on the damp and dreary side would be an understatement, however we put a smile on our faces, made the best of it and ploughed on with dressing the building. The activities we had planned for the children began at three and unbelievably the rain stopped at exactly that time. Two sessions of storytelling with Audrey Kane were extremely popular as she delighted the children with her tales.



Irish Mythology & Storytelling

Later in the evening an Art and Sketching Trail was run by the Signal Arts Society and again the weather was kind to us as it went off with great aplomb with Isambard Kingdom Brunel himself addressing the group at the Dart station before Whistler's mother greeted the group as they made their way to the Quinsboro Road.

The evening continued with an Opening Reception for Finnish artist Kaisa Ypya's exhibition entitled Into Nature while attendees were also treated to a wonderful guitar recital from the super talented Dan Laffan. All in all, Culture Night 2021 was an enormous success and as the restrictions ease further we hope that we will be able to stage similar events over the course of the next few months.





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

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2021

For more information go to www.signalartscentre.ie



Laurence O'Toole

'Framing the Theatre of Life'

Monday, September 27th
Sunday, October 10th

Opening Reception
Friday, 1st October 7pm – 9pm



Bray Active Retirement

'The Joy of Painting'

Monday, October 11th
Sunday, October 24th

Opening Reception
Sunday, 17th October 3pm – 5pm



Nóirín Dodd & Fergal Flanagan

'Changing Horizons'

Tuesday, October 26th
Sunday, November 7th

Opening Reception
Friday, 29th October 7pm - 9pm



Brigid Conroy

'Moments'

Monday, November 8th
Sunday, November 21st

Opening Reception
Friday, 12th November 7pm - 9pm



Nicholas B. Robinson

'Akademiska Stilleben'

Monday, November 22nd
Sunday, December 5th

Opening Reception
Friday, 26th November 6pm – 8pm

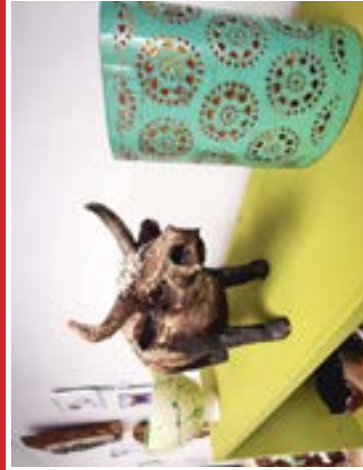


Signal Arts

Christmas Fair

Monday, December 6th
Friday, December 24th

Open Every Day
From 10am to 5pm



Hi, my name is Michael O'Leary and I am a self-taught amateur artist living and working in Co Wexford. I was thrilled to win the Signal Open Exhibition 2021, with my piece "Fanta, Lemons".

I have always had an interest in drawing and sketching, but only in the past 6-8 years, have I got into painting, dabbling first in watercolour, then acrylic, before finally settling for water mixable oils, which I find excellent, especially when cleaning up after painting. With the fine detail in my work, I am on a constant search of the ultimate fine-grained canvas, and have recently turned to Birch Ply Panels, which due to their very smooth finish, complement my work very well.

As only a very recent convert to the social media side of the Art world, I had seen that Lynn Kennedy, was the winner in 2020. I then saw the call for artists and the closing date for Signal Open 21 on Instagram. I decided to enter and submit three pieces. My initial thoughts were to get my art out to a wider audience, and Signal would bring the greater South Dublin Area within easy reach.



'Fanta, Lemons' Winning Painting by Michael O'Leary 2021

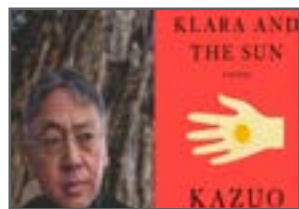
I am foremost a realist and photorealism painter, mainly working in the time honoured still life genre. I like to paint normal, mundane items, from everyday life, portraying them in a contemporary manner. I dislike fussy, cluttered still life's, and like to concentrate on singular items set against a plain background, in order to focus the viewers eye to the object. I do find myself drawn to quite technical pieces, which can be reflections, shiny or transparent objects, bags, both paper and plastic, or silver foil to name a few inspiration's.

I was particularly shocked to get all three pieces, shortlisted into the final twelve, given the standard of works on show. The winning entry comes about as a three-part process, firstly the lemons and dark background, leads to the more traditional side of still life, with the can and plastic bag giving the piece a more contemporary feel and the bag itself satisfying my technical nature and quest for detail

I must take this opportunity to again thank, all at Signal for their professionalism and dedication to the Arts, in the hosting of the Open Exhibition.

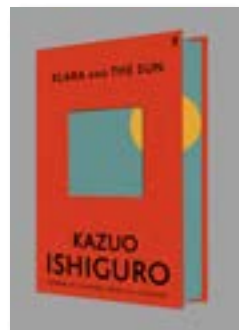
Views and Reviews

'Klara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro Review by Claire Flood



"Klara and the Sun," by Nobel-winning writer Kazuo Ishiguro, takes readers on a journey through the mind of Klara, one of many artificial friends who have been built to keep lonely children company. The book considers artificial life, lost children and parental grief, At the heart of the novel is the relationship between Klara, an 'AF' ('Artificial Friend'), and Josie, whose mother buys Klara as a companion for her precocious daughter. Klara becomes, by design, devoted to Josie, helping her through periods of illness caused by the elective genetic enhancements that are now a standard investment for wealthy and ambitious parents in the near future. Solar-powered herself, like all AFs, Klara convinces herself that Josie's fate depends on the energising power of the sun.

Schools are a thing of the past, and the children of the well-off learn at home, attending regular playdates to prepare them for colleges occupied exclusively by the gene-boosted. The unenhanced, like Josie's neighbour and childhood boyfriend Rick, are destined to become an underclass, excluded from education and superseded by robotic labour.



Klara is, in a sense, an adopted child, and like other fictional adoptees she works hard to understand her new family and her role in it. Becoming a confidante of both Josie and her mother, she begins to piece together a story of past family bereavement. Klara's capacity to observe and synthesise serves her well as the narrator, though there are also instances of estrangement, reminding us that the voice we are listening to is not a human one. At times though she cannot comprehend the human emotions so her visual field seems to fracture into segments.

Klara and the Sun is a fairytale of sorts, one in which Klara begins as the orphan servant and ends up playing the Fairy Godmother. That transformation comes about, as fairytale transformations often do, through the power of selfless love. The Book Club had a lot to say about this although we thought we might find it hard to find too much to say about it. I think that we would all recommend it.



Views and Reviews

Art in the Time of Covid (Part 2) By Lorna Lennon

In our last issue we looked at how artists in the past responded to pandemics such as the Spanish Flu and the Great Plague. Now we are going to see how some contemporary artists have coped with the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of the serious challenges for artists has been lockdowns and some people have responded to this by finding creative ways to continue sharing their art. Music photographer Ruth Medjber could no longer go to concerts to photograph performers. She hit upon the idea of photographing people through their windows at twilight. This project, which she continued every night for over three months, gave her an outlet for her creativity and a way to meet and interact with people, albeit through glass.



'Twilight Photography' by Ruth Medjber

Here at the Signal Art Centre we have been through challenging times as the Gallery had to close during the lockdowns and many exhibitions were postponed. We were able to move some shows onto our website and display digital exhibitions where the pieces were also offered for sale. Now that the gallery is open again we are continuing with online exhibitions as well which adds to the exposure for the artist. This has been at least one positive result to come out of difficult times.



'Facemask Art' by Megan Duncanson

Artist Megan Duncanson used facemasks as an outlet for her painting skills. This became both a creative way to sell her art on a printed facemask and also a way for buyers to display their own creativity. Masks became a part of all our lives and being able to personalise them in many ways helped to make them more acceptable and, let's face it, a lot more fun.

There is no doubt that technology such as online video platforms, podcasts and social media have provided useful outlets for visual and vocal artists. Many entertainers kept themselves busy by posting videos of themselves singing, playing, reciting poetry or acting. Actors David Tennant and Michael Sheen played fictional versions of themselves in ZOOM exchanges which were broadcast on the BBC as the programme "Staged". Many performing artists took part, live from their own homes, in the concert "One World – Together at Home".

Street artists have also been very active during the pandemic, often using COVID as a source of inspiration for their work. One image which has become well-known worldwide is "Super Nurse!".

This mural was made by a street artist known as FAKE and was painted in Amsterdam. It shows a nurse wearing a face mask emblazoned with the Superman Logo. "Super Nurse!" was also projected in London as part of one of the world's biggest permanent digital public art installation's and has also been projected onto the side of the NYU Langone Hospital in Manhattan. In fact, in many countries numerous spray-paintings, stencils and posters have popped up to spread messages of encouragement and hope to many people.

So, we can see that all over the world creative people have been able to find new ways to express themselves even in the most challenging circumstances. In one way or another, art (and artists) find a way to go on!

"Super Nurse!" street art by FAKE

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Laurence O'Toole 'Framing the Theatre of Life'

Monday, September 27th
Sunday, October 10th



A new collection of works by international artist Laurence O'Toole, where he teases out his narrative based concepts, into a visual format, a modern 2-dimensional play.

Here he is using his home town of Bray Co. Wicklow, where he was born and grew up, to be the stage set. Taking images and memories, experiences and old photographs to construct a vignette of thoughts and ideas, all brought together by the changing narrative of his town and county.

Each piece will be accompanied by its own written narrative, not to explain the piece, but to engage and include the viewer in the piece. He has parcelled these in elaborate painted frames on linen, adding to the theatre set that is this life, where all of life's great plays are inevitably acted out.



Bray Active Retirement 'The Joy of Painting'

Monday, October 11th
Sunday, October 24th

We meet as a group every week for our painting class. A place to share, stay connected and inspire one another with art. **Henri Matisse** viewed his masterpiece 'Le Bonheur de Vivre' of 1905 as 'Creating an art of balance, of purity and serenity, devoid of troubling or depressing subject matter.



An art that could be for every worker, for the businessman as well as the man of letters. For example, a soothing, calming influence on the mind, or something like a good armchair that provides relaxation from fatigue'.

When this painting became a recognised 'work of art' the up and coming **Picasso** was disconcerted, which prompted him to out-do Matisse with his 1907 canvas 'Les Femmes d'Alger'. However, Matisse appears the guardian in our darkest times of something that human beings need to be able to imagine and believe in. Happiness is a human right and Matisse speaks up for it beautifully.



The Bray Active Retirement Group might not all want the angst of being a Matisse or Picasso but come together every week to create art, share enthusiasm, fun, and the possibility of taking home a masterpiece.

They bring their work to share with you from Monday October 11th until Sunday 24th 2021. The Joy of Painting is at heart the joy of sharing and the works exhibited here reflect not just hours, but years of work by the participants.

There is always a process of revealing oneself in the art we make and that is possibly the hardest journey we undertake. Sharing our art with others is the joy. Your feedback and patronage are important, please feel free to let us know what you think.

Nóirín Dodd & Fergal Flanagan's 'Changing Horizons'

Tuesday, October 26th
Sunday, October 7th

Fergal Flanagan's paintings consist mainly of rural scenes with the emphasis on land, sea and sky, with some local scenes, painted at different times of the year to compliment the works.



Nóirín Dodd's paintings are a contrasting variety of rural and urban scenes. Her urban scenes reflect the changes taking place in her locality and beyond, with an emphasis on transport and development, while her landscapes reflect woodlands, coastal scenes and the natural environment.



Mostly painted 'en plein air' and completed back in his studio, they capture the beauty of the countryside using a bold colourful palette. His inspiration comes from being outdoors, immersed in the scene he is painting and the joy of capturing the light as it changes throughout the day.

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Brigid Conroy 'Moments'

Monday, November 8th
Sunday, November 21st

Brigid Conroy is an 83-year young self-taught artist who has been drawing and painting since childhood. She very often had to draw on the back of cornflake boxes when she couldn't find any paper.

Painting has always been an important part of her life and now as an older woman she is consciously aware of how fleeting life is and it has become increasingly important for her to capture "Moments" in time.

Of her painting she opines "I allow the paint to capture and tell the story, painting for me is like breathing" This collection of paintings is the Moments that she sees in her daily life, the places and people she observes.



Nicholas B. Robinson 'Akademiska Stilleben'

Monday, November 22nd
Sunday, December 5th



Akademiska Stilleben is an exhibition of still-life and cast paintings by artist Nicholas Benedict Robinson.

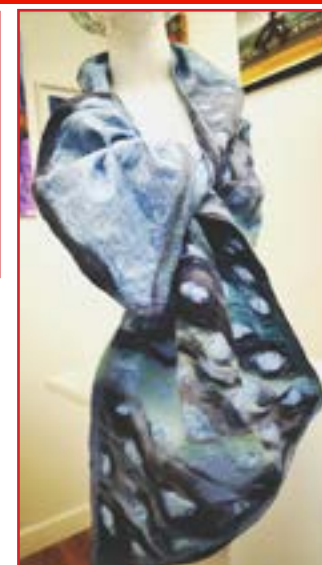
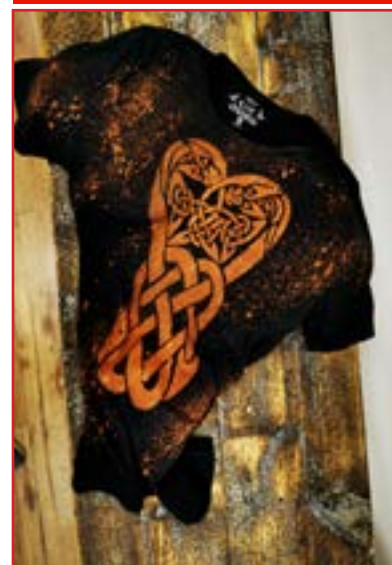
The paintings are made with specific consideration to formal elements of the academic style such as the effect of light and space on form. This is Robinson's second solo show and second show at Signal Arts Centre, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow artist Robinson is a prize-winning artist gaining accolades from the Florence Academy of Art - Sweden graduate - Royal Society of Portrait Painters - Royal Society of Oil Painters - Hennessy Portrait Prize and has been Zurich Portrait Prize exhibitor.



Christmas Fair 2021 Open Every Day from 10am to 5pm

Monday, December 6th
Friday, December 24th





Signal Book Club 2021

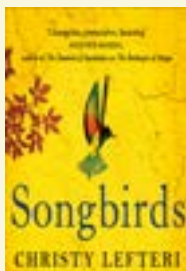
First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday 5th October

Songbirds by Christy Lefteri

Yiannis is a poacher, trapping the tiny protected songbirds that stop in Cyprus as they migrate each year from Africa to Europe and selling them on the black market. He dreams of finding a new way of life, and of marrying Nisha, who works on the island as a nanny and maid--having left her native Sri Lanka to try to earn enough to support her daughter, left behind and raised by relatives.

But Nisha has vanished; one evening, she steps out on a mysterious errand and doesn't return. The police write off her disappearance as just another runaway domestic worker, so her employer, Petra, undertakes the investigation.



**Tuesday 2nd November -
Hamnet by Maggie O Farrell**

Drawing on Maggie O'Farrell's long-term fascination with the little-known story behind Shakespeare's most enigmatic play, HAMNET is a luminous portrait of a marriage, at its heart the loss of a beloved child.

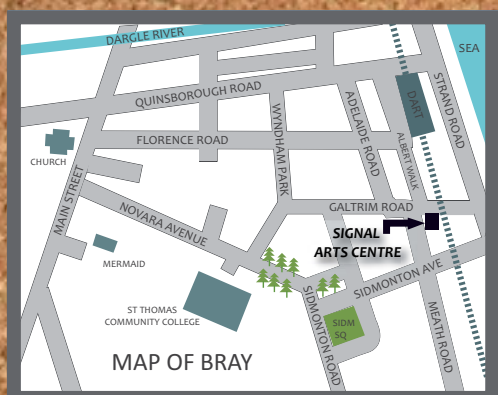
Warwickshire in the 1580s. Agnes is a woman as feared as she is sought after for her unusual gifts. She settles with her husband in Henley street, Stratford, and has three children: a daughter, Susanna, and then twins, Hamnet and Judith. The boy, Hamnet, dies in 1596, aged eleven. Four years or so later, the husband writes a play called Hamlet.



Tuesday 7th December

Checkout 19 by Claire Louise Bennet

Checkout 19 is a deeply felt, original and devastatingly moving novel from the astonishingly accomplished author of Pond. It follows a young woman who finds herself in love, in conflict with life and death, and in a life made of books, where the act of turning the page is a way of carrying on living. Fearlessly inventive in its form, merging linguistic ingenuity and a searing emotional depth, this book explores class, the notion of freedom, adolescence, transcendence, sexual politics and artistic synthesis. Bennett's singular prose ensnares the reader from the off and surprises them at every turn.



CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

24TH NOVEMBER 2021

Signal Arts Centre

1a Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2762039

Fax: 01 2869982

www.signalartscentre.ie

info@signalartscentre.ie

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