



SIGNAL ARTS NEWSLETTER

Volume 19

January - March 2022

Issue 1



Shane Harrison
'The Snow Tree'



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.

Content

3

News from Claire, S.A.S. Member's News, Mug Gate, Signal Open Call 2022, Signal Arts Centre Submission Call 2023

4

Signal Arts Centre Christmas Fair 2021

5

At Home with Carole Cullen by Margaret Walsh, Signal Arts Centre 30th Anniversary Gala by Conor Rafferty

6/7

Exhibition Programme January - March 2022

8

Foraging in Winter by Santa Silina, Signal Art Trail by Conor Rafferty

9

Notes from the Gallery by Dan Laffan

10

Exhibiting Artists about their Work: ReVerve 'Rhythms', Shane Harrison 'On the Road', Bray Camera Club 'Celebrating 50 years'

11

Exhibiting Artists about their Work: Karen Hickey 'Wall Flowers', Lenore Collins 'Transition', Luisne Art Group 'Luisne Art Group Exhibition 2022'

12

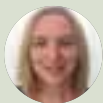
Noticeboard

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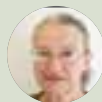


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OFFICE HOURS

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

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.

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

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

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S.A.S. Member's News

As we move into a new year, the Signal Arts Centre is once again a hive of activity. We are preparing for what promises to be an exciting and diverse programme of exhibitions but we are also looking towards the future.

Members should be aware that we are currently accepting submissions for exhibitions in 2023. Should you wish to apply, all the details you will need are listed in this newsletter and are available through the Signal Arts Centre's website.

In addition, as we move towards the Spring it is once again time for the annual Signal Arts Society Member's Exhibition. This will run from Monday, March 28th until Sunday, April 10th and all members are encouraged to submit work for possible inclusion. Each member is entitled to submit a maximum of three pieces and are guaranteed to have at least one piece accepted. The closing date for submissions for this exhibition is Friday, February 25th at 5pm.

Finally, as many of you will be aware the Signal Arts Centre turned 30 years old in June 2020 however due to the various lockdowns we have been unable to celebrate reaching this milestone. In an effort to rectify this we will be staging a Gala evening in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkenedy on Saturday, April 9th 2022. We hope to see as many members there as possible. Tickets are priced at €50pp and are available to purchase in the gallery, over the phone on 01-2762039 and online at <https://signalartscentre.ie/>.

Signal Arts Centre Submission Call 2023



We are now accepting submissions for exhibitions for 2023

Closing Date: 5pm Friday, March 25th 2022

A submission should include:

- A proposal outlining what you will exhibit if you are successful.
- A minimum of six images clearly marked with your name and the title of the image. (All images should be suitable for printing, reproduction and accompanied with their dimensions).
- Artist C.V. (art related only) Artist statement for P.R. purposes.

There is an exhibition fee of €250 to be paid by the artist if selected

Submit by post to: Exhibitions Co-ordinator, Signal Arts Centre, 1A Albert Avenue, Bray Co. Wicklow
Or email directly to: exhibitions@signalartscentre.ie Telephone: 01-2762039

Mug Gate...

Once upon a time, a staff artist decided to clear out the over-laden shelves in the quaint kitchen at the back of the Signal Arts Centre.

She texted everyone to say that she was doing the same and asked was there anything in particular wanting to be kept...

At least that's what she THOUGHT she said.

Busying herself in a flurry of industriousness, several mugs were chucked unceremoniously into the bin.

The shelves were dusted, washed, dried and painted. Fast-forward to a plaintive voice from one staff member (who

had been given a mug as a gift from her Latvian Choir) ... "Ruth, where is my mug?"

Another, more masculine and flummoxed voice asked "Where's my THE WHO mug?" The voice of yet another artist demanded, "Where's my Mr. Men mug? That was given to me by someone special!?"

Needless to say, the culprit was mortified, embarrassed but ever so slightly incredulous.

"But, but, but... I did ASK you all...", then her voice petered off into the ethereal mists of shame. From now on, anything that goes missing in Signal is ALL my fault.

So long Signal, thanks for all the fish - Ruth



News from Claire

Hello there everyone

Well, here we are, the last newsletter for 2021 or the first of 2022.

We have been spending our time setting up the Christmas Fair to open on 6th December until Christmas Eve. Please come along to purchase your Christmas gifts. As usual the Fair will be full of locally sourced crafts and art work; all needs are catered for so please come in and have a look.

The departure of Conor, Drew and Jonathan has been extended to the new year and we are very happy that we have had them for an extended time and will be sorry to see them leave. But we will be saying a fond farewell to Ruth who will be starting a new chapter in her life in Bangor, she has been like Santa's little helper getting all our furniture spruced up for the Christmas Fair. She has been a great asset to the Centre and to the local community and we wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Thank you for all your support during these very trying times and look forward to seeing you at some of the events/exhibitions planned for the new year.

Wishing everyone a Happy Christmas and normal New Year!

Claire Flood



SIGNAL ARTS SOCIETY

MEMBERS EXHIBITION 2022

Monday, March 28th - Sunday, April 10th 2022

Deadline for Submissions

Friday, February 25th At 5pm

Submit by post to: Exhibitions Co-ordinator, Signal Arts Centre, 1A Albert Avenue, Bray Co. Wicklow
email directly to: exhibitions@signalartscentre.ie Telephone: 01-2762039



Something for Everyone



Signal Arts Centre
Christmas Fair
2021

Open Daily to
Christmas Eve
10 am to 5pm



In the Studio with Carole Cullen

by Margaret Walsh



The morning of the 25th September was a very special day for us here in Signal Arts Centre as we were welcomed into the home of Dublin based artist Carole Cullen and her writer husband Leo when she kindly agreed to be interviewed for our YouTube channel.

Upon entering the house, it was immediately clear that this was the home of a creative individual with a great appreciation of all things objet d'art.

After a tour of her magnificent home Carole led us to the terrace of her studio where we began our interview. It was at this point that she regaled us with stories of her time in London

working in Harpers and Queen.

As our conversation evolved Carole touched on numerous points including her early childhood in Cornwall, her love affair with Ireland and her interest in photography.

It was a truly fascinating conversation and I would encourage all readers to view the interview on our YouTube channel which can be located by following this following link ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsVq1ab1MHU>



Signal Arts Centre's 30th Anniversary Gala

by Conor Rafferty

2020 saw the Signal Arts Centre reach a significant landmark as we entered our 30th year. Numerous activities were scheduled to celebrate reaching this milestone, however these celebrations had to be curtailed due to the various lockdowns brought in to curb the spread of the Coronavirus (Covid 19).

We are therefore delighted to be able to announce that we will finally get to mark this significant occasion later this year with the Signal Arts Centre's 30th Anniversary Gala, which will be staged in the Parkview Hotel, Newtownmountkenedy on Saturday, April 9th 2022. Guests will be greeted to prosecco on arrival, followed by a four-course meal, with the band 4till6 taking to the stage later in the evening before DJ Ger Fitz brings the event to a close.

We would be absolutely delighted to have all our Newsletter readers join us on what promises to be a very special occasion to share your stories and memories and help us to celebrate our anniversary in style.

Should you wish to attend, tickets are priced at €50pp and can be purchased in the Centre, by phone on 01-2762039 or online at www.signalartscentre.ie

We very much hope to see you all there.





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

EXHIBITION PROGRAMME January - March 2022

For more information go to www.signalartcentre.ie

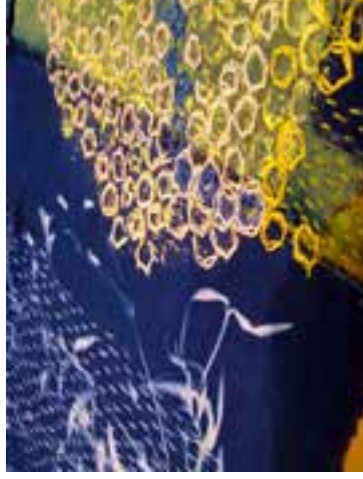


ReVerve

'Rhythms'

Tuesday, January 4th
Sunday, January 16th

Opening Reception
Sunday, 9th January 3pm – 5pm



Shane Harrison

'On the Road'

Monday, January 17th
Sunday, January 30th

Opening Reception
Sunday, 23rd January 3pm - 5pm



Bray Camera Club

'Celebrating 50 Years'

Monday, January 31st
Sunday, February 13th

Opening Reception
Friday, 4th February 7pm - 9pm



Karen Hickey

'Wall Flowers'

Monday, February 14th
Sunday, February 27th

Opening Reception
Thursday, 17th February 7pm - 9pm



Lenore Collins

'Transition'

Monday, February 28th
Sunday, March 13th

Opening Reception
Thursday, 3rd March 7pm – 9pm



Luisne Art Group

'Luisne Art Group Exhibition 2022'

Monday, March 14th
Sunday, March 27th

Opening Reception
Sunday, 20th March 3pm – 5pm



Foraging can be defined as the search for food that grows in the wild. Inhabitants of Ireland have been foraging for these edible plants for hundreds of years, however, much of the traditional knowledge has been lost over time. Fortunately, with the renewed focus on sustainable living, foraging is becoming popular once again.

Wild plants are now a part of many food festivals and cookery classes while foraging courses are continuing to increase in popularity. Foraging connects us with nature, the outdoors and with our ancient past. Ireland, although small, provides great possibilities for foragers, whether it be as a new hobby or a lifelong passion. It is home to an abundance of wonderful edible plants, weeds, lots of wild mushrooms and has a rich variety of seaweed.

Although winter is not the best time for foraging, Ireland is blessed with winters warm enough to retain lots of interesting wild food to forage on before spring emerges bringing with it a new world of green wonder once again.

There is always something to nibble on or to add to a salad; for example, Alexanders, also known as horse parsley makes a fantastic substitute for parsley. You might be able to find some hazelnuts to nibble on, if the squirrels haven't got there first. Rosehips are good in wines, jellies and jams and are full of vitamin C. Raw acorns contain tannins which can be toxic to humans

and cause an unpleasant bitter taste, but by leaching they can be made safe for human consumption and used roasted as acorn coffee or as a flour. Young stinging nettles are already springing up. Use them in pesto, salads and soups or add the leaves to colcannon.

Be careful when collecting – wear gloves to protect yourself from being stung. Nettles contain iron, formic acid, histamine, ammonia, silica acid and potassium. These minerals are known to help rheumatism, sciatica and other pains, they lower blood pressure and blood sugar levels, improve circulation and purify the system.



We have to forage consciously and respectfully as to not deplete areas of their natural resources. Minimise damage, take no more than you plan to consume. Seek permission, there are sites that are important for conservation, habitats for rare or vulnerable species and there are problems with over-picking. Know what you're picking. Never consume a wild plant or fungus unless you are absolutely certain that you know what it is. It could be rare and protected, inedible or even poisonous. Use reference books or apps on your phone to identify them. And remember leave plenty behind, wild food is vital for the survival of the wildlife.

IRISH NETTLE SOUP

45g butter
110g onions, chopped
150g potatoes, peeled and chopped
salt and freshly ground pepper
1 litre chicken or veg stock
150g young nettles leaves, washed and chopped

Method

In a heavy-bottomed large pot, melt the butter and cook the onion with the potato slowly for about 10 minutes. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Add in the nettles and give them a good stir to wilt, pour on the stock. Bring everything to a bubble, turn down the heat and allow to cook for 15 minutes, grind in a blender. Season to taste and add a little grated nutmeg.

Serve the soup hot



Views and Reviews

Art and Sketching Trail

by Conor Rafferty

As many readers will no doubt recall, one aspect of Culture Night at the Signal Arts Centre in 2021 was the staging of the first Art and Sketching Trail. Those in attendance were treated to a guided tour of areas of artistic interest throughout Bray. Attendees listened as the historical significance of these areas were explained while time was also devoted to sketching the art and architecture visited.



Due to the success of this event, another Art and Sketching trail will be staged on Sunday, February 6th 2022. This will differ slightly from the previous Trail as different sites will be visited but the relaxed, social element of the Trail will definitely remain.

To book your place on the Trail simply email society@signalartscentre.ie or phone 01-2762039 to confirm your attendance. It promises to be a fantastic event and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us.



For the part-time philosopher and the accidental epistemologist there is perhaps no comparable environment to that of an art gallery. It is akin to an ocean floor for a marine biologist or a clear day for an astronomer. Sitting at the front desk of the gallery you can take in the art around you, topped off with the stillness and the slowness of times movement

While hidden there, in plain sight, I have been busy in a deliberate but inconspicuous way, a reconnaissance mission, in truth I'm listening to the percolating speculation that bubbles up in front of a given piece of art, then brewing it together with what has become a potent distillation of overheard opinions but now with the emerging thought and goal of trying to produce from it what might be called "a working definition". Such a spectrum of individuals who pass over the threshold of the gallery that a prepared listener can't help but cultivate a sense for what might be considered universally true or uniquely peculiar, thanks to the views expressed by the visitors.

While reflecting on this a strange opportunity I am aware that, regardless of our interests, background, expectations or understanding we are all here for and because of the art. This being so it would stand to reason then that we know what the practice of art and its objects are actually about and consequently how easily it can be defined, yet with a closer look, this appears not to be as straightforward a



Fred Eversley, "Lens", at the M.F.A.H.



The Museum of Fine Arts Houston

process as one might think, still, could it be possible that something we can hold within our eye or our hands cannot be held by words, when an ethereal feeling like love does not have this privilege?

At this point a wise person might leave the room but being only a part time philosopher, I feel my toe is unaware of the danger and helpless to stop inching forward... One thing that seems to reoccur in conversations with colleagues and visitors alike is the importance of expression in a definition of art, when I hear this I can't help but feel a little unsatisfied, for the sole reason that everything from howler monkeys, birds of paradise or even an infant for that matter are all capable of expression, yet we could not say that they do this thing we call "art".

If we all are capable of expression (humans and animals alike) then to single it out as a special ingredient strikes me as like exclaiming that; "the sun shines", in essence expression is a given thing, ubiquitous and available to us all, if we dare, in this context it's perhaps not adequate on its own for the task of upholding such an elusive definition, there must be something more to it... If you were to find yourself in a quarrel with a scientifically minded de-constructionist, (god forbid...) they might say that however we choose to engage with art, in essence there are just three primary constituents, the first being the subject matter, second the composition and finally the way it is

rendered, furthermore they might then say that when these individual elements receive an equal level of attention the there is a fair chance we have created a piece of art.

This reading has within it the implication that creating a piece of art is the by-product of solving a problem, the first problem of why do a thing? (subject) then what to do? (composition) and finally how-to do it in an impactful way (render). With a drop of persistence, the process of reduction can be brought further still toward to a point of conclusion, at the limit what is true for visual art becomes true for all arts, it does seem to me that there are just two ingredients in art at the end of the day and they are rhythm and tone, dance, poetry, sculpture, music are all expressions within a relationship between rhythm and tone.



James Turrell 'Light & Space Movement'

Becoming aware of this has led to an interesting thought and that is the idea that perhaps all of the arts might be better perceived as inter-related dialects of some universal parent language of rhythm and tone. Fortunately (for the editor and the reader...) the end of the page looms and I must sign off, but before I do I would ask the connoisseur and casual observer alike to unburden themselves from the weight of knowing, cast a fresh net and consider again, what a particular painting might be about but more importantly... why do we do it and what is art anyway?

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

ReVerve

'Rhythms'

Tuesday, January 4th
Sunday, January 16th

Rhythms is a response to an idea by a group of nine visual artists based in Meath and the surrounding area. This body of work by ReVerve was made through a mutual and energising process of investigation, exploration, constructive discussion and a sharing of processes and ideas over the last 2 years.

Works reflect each artist's own practice in interpretations and narrative, while at the same time there is a collaborative thread running through the show.

Techniques and materials displayed show a diversity reflecting the membership of ReVerve. Rhythmic stitching, photography, painting, printing, charcoal, soft and hard sculptures and installation works are present in thoughtful and investigative ways.



Shane Harrison

'On the Road'

Monday, January 17th
Sunday, January 30th

These sixteen paintings focus on the many roads the artist has travelled. There are all sorts of journeys involved: foreign holidays, city breaks, the journey to work, or play, and the journey home.

Travel might only take me a few steps from home but the landscape, though familiar, is never the same. What I like to capture is the magic of light whether in daytime or at night.

Streetlamps shimmering in the rain at the end of a long walk home, the seductive lights of a beating city, or the sun emerging from rainclouds giving a sudden hint of magic on an everyday scene.

Each painting is a narrative in itself and each is linked to the broader narrative of the exhibition. On the Road is a partial pictorial diary that is being added to all the time.

As a writer, my travels and experiences have always contributed to my prose, whether in the fiction of my short stories and novels, or in the accounts I have written of the places, local and foreign that I have visited.

These paintings are another way of describing things. Free of words but rich in detail, I hope the viewer will feel part of the scenes I have created here.



Bray Camera Club

'Celebrating 50 Years'

Monday, January 31st
Sunday, February 13th



BRAY CAMERA CLUB celebrated our 50th anniversary in 2021. We are delighted to announce an exhibition of our members' photographs in the Signal Arts Centre, January 31st, 2022.

Since our humble beginning on the steps of "An Lár" on the Lower Dargle Road, BCC has provided the local community with a welcoming forum for photographers of every ability and throughout the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we have remained stalwart in our drive to celebrate and share our passion for photography with a busy schedule of online activities and social interaction.

Our members comprise an eclectic mix of amateurs, competition winners and professionals and it is our mission to

learn from and support one another in improving our photographic creativity and skills in the use of all sorts of cameras.

Our work features all mainstream photographic genres including landscape, wildlife, abstract, street, macro and studio photography. Thus, when the Club presents its work to the public, a wide variety of photographic styles is guaranteed.

This exhibition will be sure to appeal to anyone with a curious eye, an interest in photography or who may have a view to joining the club for the simple pleasure of taking and sharing photographs.

Contact: info@braycameraclub.ie

Exhibiting Artists about their Work

Karen Hickey

'Wall Flowers'

Monday, February 14th
Sunday, February 27th



Karen Hickey is based in Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Throughout the last 16 years she has attended many workshops and courses mostly in portraiture, attending at NCAD studying Life Drawing and Painting in 2016/17. She has been working professionally since 2016.

work from her home studio where she produced many portrait commissions and also experimented with still life works. The artist's new exhibition entitled "Wall Flowers" will run at the Signal Arts Centre from 14th February for two weeks.

Wallflowers are the unnoticed personalities lingering on the fringes of gatherings. They often have a lot to contribute but for many reasons don't. These mysterious characters often have more to say in the way that they don't speak. It could be through their facial expressions or clothing but they notice everything in the room. What are they hiding and can we get to know who they really are.

Karen also communicates with clients regarding commissions and sales online via her website and email.

artistkarenhickey.com – artistkarenhickey@gmail.com



Interested in people, their histories and back-stories, she endeavours to capture the essence of her subjects through the bold use of colour, shapes and lines.

Her visual style is expressive and instinctive. Karen's work featured at the Electric Picnic Festival in 2017 and at the Waterford Walls Festival in 2018 she also hosted a solo exhibition at the Signal Arts Centre in 2018. She has displayed work at Art Source in the RDS in 2018, 2019 and 2021. During the Covid pandemic Karen continued to

Lenore Collins

'Transition'

Monday, February 28th
Sunday, March 13th



Lenore Collins is an artist and graphic designer. She was born in Massachusetts, US and educated at the Rhode Island School of Design with a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design. She has lived in Ireland since 1998 in Dun Laoghaire.

of her realistic work she felt restless. After a collaboration project with an abstract artist where she had to think out of her comfort zone, she found an excitement and a new sense of purpose in the new work.

As she went forward down this path of developing abstract pieces she realised that she felt more centred. This reason was that she had melded her graphic design sensibilities and her fine art sensibilities into one. This show is the result of this process.

The name of the show is called Transition and relates to her process of moving from a realist painter to an abstract one. This show represents the first several years of this process. When she wasn't getting the same fulfillment out



Luisne Art Group

'Luisne Art Group
Exhibition 2022'

Monday, March 14th
Sunday, March 27th

The Luisne Art Group is a unique style of class that began 9 years ago in the Luisne centre in Kilcoole (meaning first blush of light before dawn). All those participating are encouraged in their freedom to engage with a variety of sources of inspiration and mixed media. The style of teaching is more of facilitation and calling forth – as opposed to demonstrating methods. In this way each individual has the opportunity to explore and discover what fits their own niche of self-expression. This original approach allows for people being at different levels of fluency with forms. In this way participants also serve to support the unfolding creativity of others in



the group. Visits to different art galleries and exhibitions, both locally and in Dublin, bring a social aspect to the group. The impact of including those events not only supports learning and development, it also gives an added bonus of building a sense of community among the group with humour, light-heartedness and inclusivity. Since 2017 the class has submitted artwork for the "Incognito" Jack & Jill Foundation fundraiser each year. In the last two years the Greystones Library has held an exhibition of work created by the group.





Signal Book Club 2022

First Tuesday of every month
at 5 pm in the gallery

Tuesday 11th January 2022

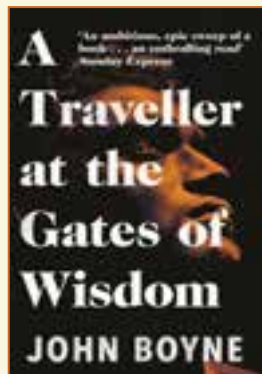
A Traveller at the Gates of Wisdom by John Boyne

Some stories are universal. Some are unique. They play out across human history, and time is the river that flows through them. This story starts with a family. For now, it is a father and a mother with two sons. One with his father's violence in his blood.

One with his mother's artistry. One leaves. One stays. They will be joined by others whose deeds will determine their fate. It is a beginning.

Their stories will intertwine and evolve over the course of two thousand years. They will meet again and again at different times and in different places. From Palestine at the dawn of the first millennium and journeying across fifty countries to a life amongst the stars in the third, the world will change around them, but their destinies remain the same. It must play out as foretold.

From the award-winning author of The Heart's Invisible Furies comes A Traveller at the Gates of Wisdom, an epic tale of humanity. The story of all of us, stretching across two millennia. Imaginative, unique, heart-breaking, this is John Boyne at his most creative and compelling



Tuesday 1st February 2022

Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan

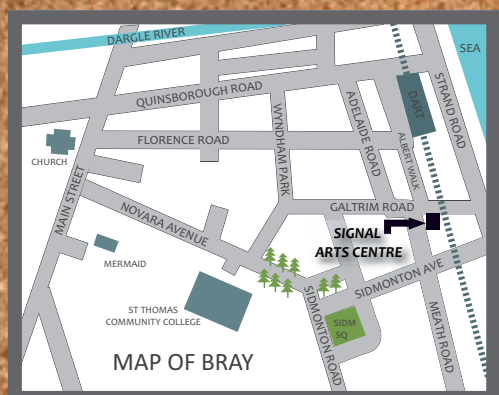
Set in a small Irish town and following a coal and timber merchant confronted by the past, this magnetic tale of determination and quiet heroism from the author of Foster is as hopeful as it is haunting.



Tuesday 1st March 2022

The Promise by Damon Galgut

The Promise charts the crash and burn of a white South African family, living on a farm outside Pretoria. The Swarts are gathering for Ma's funeral. The younger generation, Anton and Amor, detest everything the family stand for - not least the failed promise to the Black woman who has worked for them her whole life.



CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

24 TH FEBRUARY 2022

Signal Arts Centre

1a Albert Avenue,
Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Tel: 01 2762039

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