
Bray Arts Journal

Issue 3

November 2013

Volume 21



FREE

REVIEW

Bray Arts Show

Mon October 7th, 2013

The evening began with a lovely introduction from our Chairperson, Julie-Rose freshly returned from a week-long holiday where she attended the InCanti international puppet festival and participated in a masterclass with polish tutor Tadeusv Wierzbicki Workshop of reflection and shadow theatre.

Grace Downes O'Reilly appeared as our "Young Writer", starting with "Ben" - a poem about her new-born baby. The beginning of the poem set the tone for the remainder of the piece. We immediately see a tiny little creature cocooned in the love of his mother and his family. The mix of adoration, delight and love is well expressed in the lines: "his head as furry as a peach with dainty little hands and dainty little feet" reflecting the innocence of childhood. Grace followed with her own short story entitled: "Private No. Calling". This cleverly crafted piece effectively led the reader/listener into the mistaken conviction that the husband was having an affair. Juxtaposition of suspicious incidents invited sympathy for his distressed wife. The surprising truth, when it was revealed at the end of the story, had the effect of relieving the ugliness of the potential marital breakdown. Grace skilfully generated feelings of concern for the very serious medical trauma that was the real worry on the husband's mind and the switch to relief when the medics reported the "All Clear". We look forward to further writings from grace in the future.



Grace Downes O'Reilly

Christian Van Bussel, potter and wood-turner, presented the art of slip-casting pottery. Originally from Nederland's, she is now living in the countryside, just outside Aughrim, where she keeps herself fit looking after four stubborn donkeys! Christian gave a brilliant demonstration that made the process look simple



Christian Van Bussel

and straight-forward as she explained how she uses plaster of Paris to make a mould for a cup. The Plaster moulds have to be made on a wheel in her workshop so she brought the completed moulds in for the demonstration. It was interesting to hear how water plays an important role in first soaking the clay for pouring into the mould but must then be drawn off in a controlled way so that the clay bakes as hard as stone. This is achieved by lining the mould with layers of soda ash and plastic which also help to make it easier to keep the fired clay separated from the mould. Christian demonstrated how the clay needs to harden in

simple and straight-forward as she explained how she uses plaster of Paris to make a mould for a cup. The Plaster moulds have to be made on a wheel in her workshop so she brought the completed moulds in for the demonstration. It was interesting to hear how



Front Cover
"Kilcoole Railway"
By Aoife Hester
See page 3

the air before firing. The thickness of the vessel wall is controlled by the length of time the clay is allowed to dry out. She then demonstrated how to make the handle in a separate process with its own mould. Paint cannot be used to colour the pottery as it will not survive the great heat of firing so coloured clay is used by mixing in metal oxides to achieve specific tones such as rust for brown and other metals for green, blue and yellow effects. Additional coloured clay decoration is layered or painted inside the mould. This is the artist's opportunity to go wild with the decoration and a variety of textures. The final glaze is made from flint like a layer of glass on top of the pot. From this demonstration, Christian must be a very welcome visitor to the Schools and workshop sessions that she conducts. More information on Christian's wonderful work can be seen on www.turningthistle.com

October Bray Arts Night in the Martello topped the bill with all Girl Greystones trio, "Wyvern Lingo" who had played previously for Bray Arts last year covering songs from Crosby, Still & Nash to Aretha Franklin. They have been together for 5 yrs. and now write & perform their own material. They were absolutely fantastic performing their own style of Folk/R&B, all fine singers Caoimhe Barry was particularly outstanding, beautiful voice and kept a perfect beat on her "box drum" together with the original guitar style and lovely mellow voice from **Saoirse Duane**.



Wyvern Lingo

The perfect keyboard sounds & harmonies from **Karen Cowley** proved they have worked hard and have become one of the very best Girl Bands (if not the only) on the scene at the moment.

They are headed for stardom, catch them playing in Greystones & Dublin, you will really enjoy.

Cearbhall E. O'Meadhra

Antje O' Toole - 'From Far Away' Dance Solo

The dancer waited until the music was right and then she came out from amongst her audience and made her dance diagonally across the performance area. Ante's slight, slim body, stretched and twisted as she held herself on her small

socked feet with concentration and balance. Making her movements across the floor in one unseen continuous line, she reached forward turned lowered down to a squat, then upwards rising and undulating. Her gaze of intense concentration always directed to the far reaches of this unseen imaginary diagonal line. Orchestral music echoed in the air, her arms moving circularly, then reaching up with arms and fingers extended. The folds of her dancer's skirt often catching her knees flicked back to



Antje O' Toole

glimpse strong white legs, cascading like some of nature's landscapes made real in front of our eyes.

In the centre of the floor Antje uncurled her thick woolly shawl from around her neck, perhaps it was a sign of the spring which is to come? She almost stopped dancing and started to play... yes, I remember twirling my own scarf in a whirling corkscrew from top to bottom winding and winding. I could almost see her quivering, then she leapt up with the music which was by now solely piano. Becoming mesmerised Antje lost her shawl, threw her weight from foot to toot then finished right down to the floor.

I could indeed see the unseen, the grassy meadow, the running river, the winds and changes of season. This is why I am regular at Bray Arts, to see fresh individual artists sharing their expressions for just the joy of communication with an interest audience.

By Fiona O' Farrell

PREVIEW

Bray Arts Night

Monday November 4th 2013

Martello Hotel, Bray

Everyone Welcome: Adm. €5 / €4 conc.

Aoife Hester – Graphic Designer/Photographer

Aoife Hester is a Graphic Designer and Photographer based in Bray, Co. Wicklow. She has a particular interest in landscape photography and often shoots scenes in Bray and up around the Wicklow Mountains. As a result of her Graphic Design background, Aoife also loves to create quirky/surreal images – anything that lets her have some fun with Photoshop! Another area that Aoife enjoys working in is time-lapse photography and she has spent a lot of time exploring this technique over the past year. Time-lapse photography is a video technique whereby a series of photos is translated into a video, which appears to be moving much faster than real-time. Aoife has also developed a keen interest in astrophotography and enjoys photographing the night sky and the moon when she can.



Throughout the year, Aoife has shot her first few weddings and plans on doing more in the future. "The past few months have been great for me. In December 2012, I was delighted to have been awarded the 'Irish Times Amateur Photographer of the

Year' in the 'travel category'. The winning photo for this competition, 'Dogs on Rosslare Train' has since been featured on nationalgeographic.com and worldirish.com. I was also delighted to have been shortlisted in 'The Picture Works People's Choice Competition' in August of this year."

Aoife has also had her work in various exhibitions. Recently, from April – June 2013, she had a time-lapse video piece in the Mermaid Arts Centre Open Exhibition in Bray. Aoife also exhibited at the Peoples Photography Exhibition in Stephen's Green in August of this year. Aoife will be selling her work at various local craft fairs coming up to Christmas (follow me on Facebook to keep up to date). Please visit www.aoifehesterphotography.com to view more of her work. You can follow Aoife on Facebook too :www.facebook.com/aoifehesterphotography. If you have any enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact her by emailing aoifehesterphotography@gmail.com.

Helen Harrison - Writer and Poet

Born and raised on the Wirral, seven miles from Liverpool, by Irish parents, I have lived most of my adult life in the Irish countryside. An ability to see the larger picture of life and a gratitude to nature - is the launching place of my poems.



POTATOES

I can smell the sweet potato peel
Upon my skin – and I visualise walking
Amongst the summer rows...

I pick over the box of earthy potatoes
When I pull one that is perfect
I turn it in my hand like a gold nugget...
Buried in my memory - a charm.

I peel back happiness from the soil,
Memories drop into a watery bowl;
The day we planted them – sowing...
Love which had lain on the edges...

Uncertain, I nearly threw love out -
With un-seeded tubers; to decay in hedges.
Instead I wrapped them and stored them -
In a cold shed - for spring planting...

I can already see your face shining pride
At flowering drills; you stand with a wide-stance;
The posture of the accomplished soul - your eyes,
Stare lovingly at each planted offering.

Helen Harrison 2013

Serendipity 'thrill' audiences in Waterford

Last weekend at the Theatre Royal in Waterford, the Irish Association of Barbershop Singers held their 24th Annual Convention. Barbershop choruses and quartets from all over Europe



and USA took part, some of whom are international champions, so the standard was very high.

Representing Bray were Serendipity, a 4-part ladies harmony a'capella chorus that rehearse every Wednesday evening in The Martello

Hotel, under the direction of Pauline Edmondson.

Serendipity were delighted to beat 7 other European choruses to win the Joan Kelly Memorial Entertainment competition on Friday evening, with their version of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'. The 25 ladies, who come from all over the county, dressed as zombies for their performance, and received rapturous applause from the audience.



Serendipity are also lucky to feature a quartet called 4 Piece Suite, who took the bronze medal in the National Female Quartet Competition.

For more information about Serendipity, please visit our website www.serendipityacappella.net or find us on Facebook – Serendipity Chorus Bray

Cafe L'Amore

Cafe L'Amore consists of Geraldine Mangan (Composer Lyricist Entertainer) and Joe Domican Beattie (Entertainer). Their soft vocals blend beautifully as they perform a mixture of Jazz, Bossa Nova, Swing and Pop. Delightful! Geraldine Mangan began her professional career in the music business as a teenager. She has been a finalist in Ireland's National Song Contest, represented Ireland in The Swedish Baltic Festival, Released 2 albums, one original and one covers which were featured as "Album of the Week" on major radio stations in Ireland and the UK. She is signed to Right Recordings record label in London. Her passion has always been song writing and she recently co-wrote with the acclaimed Pamela Phillips Oland.

Domican Joe Beattie started his musical career in 2010 and it is clear that he is a natural born entertainer. His stage presence is engaging and his humour infectious. Geraldine and Joe formed Cafe L'Amore in 2012 and together their soft vocals blend beautifully as they perform some of the world's best loved songs, mixing Jazz, Bossa Nova, Swing and Pop.



Irish Streets Photography Group

The Irish Street Photography Group (I.S.P.G.) was started in June 2013 by Bray Photographer Des Byrne, to date it has 150 Members with the average monthly turnout exceeding 30 Street Photographers of all levels and nationalities, they meet up every



four weeks, Des is known Internationally for his Street Photography Work through sites that he Administers such as <http://www.blackandwhitestreet.com/> New Members to the (I.S.P.G.) are always welcome and for more information please email: desbyrnephotos@yahoo.com

On a local level Des Byrne is best known for his collaboration with Bray Cancer over the last number of years with his iconic Christmas Cards that have sold out every year & will go on sale again in the coming weeks.

Vinyl Only

Bray band **Vinyl Only** are playing on Saturday 9th November in the Harbour Bar Bray.



The band is really looking forward to debuting some brand new original material. Come on down and join us for a great night!

All welcome!

Joe & Helen: God's Gift

She was tall, with blond hair cascading down her back, and legs, legs that went right up to meet where he could only lust after. Her front shock absorbers stuck out under her jumper just begging to be fondled.

And she wanted him, Joe Upwood. "I want you Joe, she said huskily, and whatever Lola wants, Lola gets." Joe felt his toes curl.

Lola started to undress, slowly. Joe watched as she took off her clothes. She suggestively rubbed each piece of clothing over her body before letting it drop to the floor. She had stripped down to her bra and panties. There was a tightening in Joe's throat. He needed a drink, a stiff one. He watched as she reached around her back to undo her bra. There was a buzzing in Joe's ear, at first it seemed far away, but then it got louder and nearer. Joe moaned as he realised it was his alarm clock. Lola disappeared.

Joe rolled over and buried his head under his pillows. "Come back, Lola," he pleaded. He could still hear the buzzing of the alarm. Reaching under his bed, he felt for something heavy to throw at the noise. He didn't want to open his eyes. If he did, Lola would be gone forever. His hand found a shoe which he hurled backwards towards the sound. Something crashed on the floor. Still the noise kept on.

He knew he would have to get out of bed to shut it off. Searching for the floor with his foot, he stepped on an empty beer can. Swearing, he rubbed his foot to ease the pain. He warily put his feet down on the floor and got out of bed. As he manoeuvred himself towards the clock, he could hear the crunching of empty crisp bags. His toes felt the packets as he shuffled along. If he opened his eyes he would be fully awake, and he felt he wasn't ready to face the day. Success at last, the big toe of his left foot found a partially eaten bag.

Picking up the bag, he half opened one eye to check that there were no ants, or other bugs in it. In that quick glance there didn't appear to be any, and Joe was too tired to look any longer. Throwing back his head he let the contents of the bag slide into his mouth. "Damn," he swore. The crisps were soggy. He couldn't tell how long they had been on the floor. Certainly not longer than a couple weeks. He thought about spitting them out, but he wasn't wearing anything with pockets. He swallowed them instead.

"Oh hell, he said to himself, I might as well stay up. If Lola wants me that much she will know where to find me." He opened one eye and looked at the clock. It was one in the afternoon, and it was bright, too bright for his sensitive eyes. He must have had too much to drink last night. The buzzing still went on in his brain, even though the alarm was off.

His right hand found the wall. He moved along to the right with his hand against it until he came to the bath-

room door. Feeling the toilet between his shins, he started his morning ritual.

The warm wetness on his right foot told him that he needed to twist his body a few degrees to his left. The sound of running water on porcelain told him that he had made the correct adjustment. He wiped his wet foot on the other leg of his Ninja Turtle pyjamas and flushed the toilet.

Joe reluctantly opened his eyes. Looking into the mirror he debated with himself about shaving off his two-day-old beard. He really didn't feel like shaving and anyway he thought, the unshaven look is in these days. All the young girls go wild over some of the rock stars who have a few days beard on them. They could just join the queue for him as well.

There was a large tear hole in his vest. He took it off and put it back on again, back to front, noting a red stain now showing. He remembered now, the pizza he had for supper a few days ago.

He rubbed his hand in his armpit and lifted it to his nose. It did have a bit of an odour but he didn't bother to wash. Women loved blue collar working men. He saw a programme about it on television. No one would know that he hadn't worked for two years since taking early retirement.

He went back to the bedroom and sat on the bed trying to determine which pair of pants to wear. The blue pair, he decided. It was about a week since he wore them last. He picked out the pants from the crumpled pile of clothes in the corner. Standing on the cuffs, he pulled at the crotch trying to get rid of the wrinkles. "As good as ironing, when you are in a hurry," he said.

Sitting back down on the bed he put the green sock on the right foot and the thought about it for a minute. Yes that was correct, he remembered that he wore the green on the other foot yesterday. The brown sock went on the other foot. Joe believed in proper sock rotation.

The pizza stain peeked out over Joe's belt. It found a comfortable position over his navel, bouncing happily in unison with his excessive belly as he walked to the kitchen. He tried to stuff it back into his pants. It co-operated for a minute before escaping again.

Turning on the radio, Joe decided on cereal for breakfast. His ears caught an item on the early afternoon how about an individual who had just gone through a sex change operation. "I wasn't living my life as a male lorry driver. I've always felt that I was born in the wrong body."

Joe listened intently. "That is my problem," Joe said out loud as he sucked his stomach in and tried to put it back in his pants. "Some day I'm going to get my own body back."

He opened the fridge for some milk for his cereal. There wasn't any. No tea either, he thought. He looked around the kitchen at the empty beer cans. Picking them up one at a time, he searched for one with something in it. When he finally found one, he poured the contents over the cereal. He wasn't very

happy with the beer, but he couldn't eat dry cereal. At least beer was better than water. Bending over to pick up a fork from the floor, his ear heard the snap, crackle, and pop, from the bowl. He was deeply impressed that his cereal could still talk while drowning in beer. Joe ate his breakfast with a fork, so he got the cereal and not the beer. At least they were wet, and he felt full. He rose from the table, yawned and stretched. "Look out women, God's gift is on his way," he said out loud. He shut the door and walked down the street to the bus stop, scratching his bum to rid himself of an itch.

By Stanley Regal



The Ó Bhéal Festival

Ó Bhéal in association with Sample Studios presents the Ó Bhéal Winter Warmer 2013

We're delighted to announce Ó Bhéal's first Winter Warmer festival weekend. Twenty-one poets will read and perform over two days in the new amphitheatre at Sample Studios, Cork.

Poets confirmed to read include Rachel Warriner, Cathal Holden, Michael Ray, Seamus Barra Ó Súilleabháin, Cal Doyle, Marie Coveney, Lady Grew, Dimitra Xidou, Christy Parker, Sarah Hayden, Alan Titley, Robyn Rowland, Pat Cotter, Jimmy Cummins, Conor McManus, Julie Field, Doireann Ní Ghríofa, Kit Fryatt, Raven, Anamaria Crowe Serrano and Matthew Geden.

Oikos will present a live installation incorporating poetry, influenced by butoh and body-weather practices. There's also a preview screening of Seamus Murphy's excellent new poetry film Snake: Poetry of Afghanistan's Women (the world premiere is not until December), as well as a closed-mic for ten local poets.

Free Admission to all events

CHRIST CHURCH BRAY

Bray Churches together held their annual Open Art Exhibition last month transforming the church into a community get-to-gather and thanksgiving for the Harvest. The cream of Wicklow artists exhibited and sold their paintings which were set up with extra special lighting in a very relaxing atmosphere. This year Bray Churches Together Art exhibition helped celebrate the 150th anniversary of the annual **Harvest Festival** and the church was beautifully decorated with magnificent designer displays of Flowers and every possible fruit and vegetable.



Rev. Baden Stanley

It was opened on 26th September by **Rev. Baden Stanley** and manned daily with members of the Christ Church Committee including Bray Arts **Peter Gowney**. It was a pity the Artists exhibiting were not on hand during the opening hours to speak to the public, more paintings are sold when the artist is there to meet & explain their work. However, sales were a great success, many dignitaries from the town attended including **Lord Meath** from Kiltruddery House, on the Southern Cross Road, Bray.



He was particularly taken with **Ray Cranley's** oil painting of the **Holy Redeemer Church**, in Bray during 1890 with the 'rude' wheelbarrow!!

Sean Gilmartin's pastels of a **Bodhran Player** was fabulous and also his painting of **The Vevay Road Door** mostly hidden with cascading Ivy, but still there opposite Colaiste Ceadeigh Scoil. His use of colour is beautiful. **David Fitzgerald** exhibited 'Christ's Chalice' and 'Stephen's Green' in pen and ink, Maire Kerr Mother of renowned Bray artist **Rachel Kerr** had her 'St. Mark's Basilca' in Gouache which is a very fine painting.

There were 110 Acrylic, Oil, Pastels and watercolours on



display from many really brilliant artists from Bray and Wicklow on exhibition and of course Bray Churches Together Committee deserve praise for the time and energy they give free, to support art in the community, but I do wish some of the Artists could attend during the exhibition and help the hardworking Committee have time off.

SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE

'Scatched, Scraped, Furrowed, Dug out and Gouged'

New Works by Andrea Paul

19th November – 1st December 2013

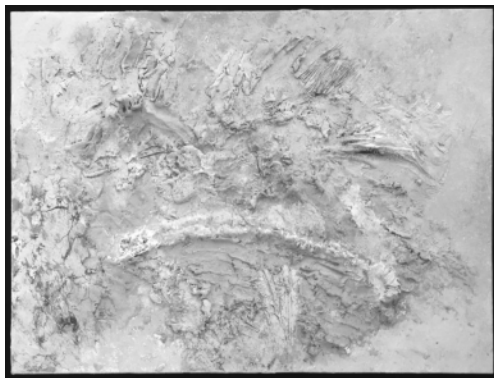
Andrea Paul lives and works in Bray, County Wicklow. She has studied Fine Art at Bray Institute of Further Education, graduating with a Diploma in 2012.

Her practice encompasses a range of media and materials including ceramics, print, photography and paintings. Her work has been included in a number of pop-up galleries and recent group shows, including the Signal Open Exhibition July 2013 and 'Elements', September 2013 at Signal Arts Centre.



'Scatched, Scraped, Furrowed, Dug out and Gouged' is Andrea's first solo exhibition. It comprises of works made between January and October 2013. The work explores themes of material and expressive potential of the media she employs. The works are informed and inspired by journeys to the mountains of Andalucia and the desert of Cabo de Gata in Southern Spain.

The show's title refers to imprints made on the landscape – the wounds and scars created by geological and environmental activity. Andrea says of her work, "The patterns and structures formed by nature are a constant source of wonder to me. Textures and colours fuel my imagination and lead me to create my own images and stories. These works convey my response to landscape, and seek to evoke in the viewer the same sense of the sublime that inspires me when confronted by the awesome power of nature".



Opening Reception: Thursday 21st November, 7-9pm

'When Classes Meet'

A group exhibition of artist's art classes held at St. Fergal's and Little Bray Family Resource Centre

November 5th – 17th 2013

All the classes (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) are taught by Tony Clarke and feature a variety of work and techniques such



as oil and acrylic painting, ceramic sculpture and mixed media.

In total, this exhibition will feature 22 artists at various stages of their careers. Some of the works featured are project based such as 'Van Gogh Card', 'Recipe Card', 'Pick an LP' and 'Finding Your Way with Clay'.

This is the first time all the students will come together. Although some have mutual friends within the classes, this is a time where they share the same platform. The selection process was the responsibility of the individual classes who always have the opportunity to critique each other's work. This will be evident in the works featured at this exhibition.



Opening Reception: Friday 8th November 7-9pm

November Journal is sponsored by **Clodagh McCormick**, retired teacher, puppet and costume researcher, puppet maker, costume maker and puppeteer.



Submission Guidelines

Editor : Karen Quinn - editor@brayarts.net

Creative Writing Editor : Anne Fitzgerald - annefitz3@gmail.com

Email submissions to the above or post to :

Editor Bray Arts Journal, 14 Dwyer Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow
Ireland

Text in Microsoft Word

Pictures/Logos etc Jpeg preferably 300 dpi

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PAINTING & DRAWING FROM NATURE IN WATERCOLOURS WITH YANNY PETERS at the Schoolhouse for Art, Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow

This popular course will be carried on for a further 4 weeks in November. Each session treats a different theme giving participants an opportunity to **explore drawing & painting** covering techniques in texture, shading, perspective, composition and much more!

In each session Yanny presents snippets of history & technical advice as well as demonstrations of each technique undertaken in the class.

Botanical illustration began for the purposes of recording medicinal plants in the Middle Ages and before. Nowadays it is a popular genre gaining recognition in the art world. The course will cover experimentation with a basic range of **watercolour techniques**. You will be given the opportunity to try different methods of **botanical illustration** giving you a taste for a variety of styles and techniques applied in this traditional art.

The purpose of the course is to give you tips and advice in a combination of watercolour techniques so you can **further develop your own work**.

The course is suitable for all levels and participants will be given plenty of individual attention. You will **come away with a selection of experimental works** from which you can develop your technique further.

Yanny has been working in watercolours for at least 25 years & is a member of The Watercolour Society of Ireland and the Irish Society of Botanical Artists.

Paper will be supplied. Participants should bring a selection of watercolour paints & brushes, a pallet, HB and 2B pencils and a selection of water soluble pencils (Derwent inkstone / Faber Castel / Caran D'Ache). For further information on brushes and paints please contact the tutor. Yannypeters@gmail.com

**4 sessions Saturday afternoon
2pm to 5pm
Date: 9, 16, 23, 30 November
Price for 4 week course €140
Payment required in advance**



Contact:
schoolhouseforart@gmail.com
Neil Condon 087 234 2026
www.yannypeters.net
yannypeters@gmail.com
Yanny Peters 087 311 1620

Bray Arts Night Monday 4th November 2013

Martello, Seafront, Bray Doors open 8:00pm Adm: €5/€4 conc. Everyone welcome.

More on Bray Arts on Facebook and www.brayarts.net. For more information call: 01 2864623

Aoife Hester Graphic Designer and Photographer

Aoife will share her latest award-winning quirky images and surreal time-lapse landscape impressions of Bray and the Wicklow Mountains with a touch of astral photography.

Helen Harrison writer and Poet

Helen will read a selection of poetry drawing on her wide view of life and her sense of gratitude to nature from her roots on the Wirral and most of her adult life living in the Irish countryside.

Serendipity - 4-part ladies chorus

The celebrated fun-loving group of ladies will sing a cappella & perform a wide range of songs from upbeat to swing to ballads in the rich harmony of the Barbershop Style.

Cafe El Amore - Jazz and Bossa Nova

Geraldine Mangan with Joe Domican Beattie will blend their soft, smooth vocals as they perform some of the world's best loved songs, mixing Jazz, Bossa Nova, Swing and Pop.