

BRAY

ART

SHOW



Martello  
Hotel

Mon April 4th  
2016  
8pm



Brigid O'Brien  
Artist



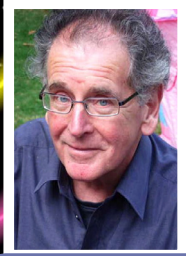
James Devlin  
Writer, Film Maker, Visual  
Artist



Michael Gordon  
Writer, Singer, Song  
Writer



El Grey - Ethro style  
Musician, Singer



Racker Donnally  
Irish Folk Poet, Writer

Layout by John McCann, c/o Signal Arts Centre

**D**oire Press have been making quite a splash on the Irish literary scene in recent years, and two of the most recent additions to their poets' list, Breda Wall Ryan and Kate Dempsey, kicked off the evening. I'd heard both of them read individually as featured poets earlier this year at Dublin's Staccato sessions, but it was a revelation to hear them now in dialogue as it were, reading alternating poems loosely linked thematically.

It is at once apparent that both poets are concerned with the position of women in society, and the silences and absences that often surround them. Kate began with *While it Lasted*, a nightmare parable in which her mother loses her hands, the most disturbing aspect being her apologetic acceptance of the condition. Breda responded with a poem entitled *Missing*, a doleful catalogue of the ghostly persistence of those who have disappeared in 'weathered posters; in a snapshot from a photo booth, in the night train's whistle; Strong stuff!

Lightening the mood somewhat, each of the ladies now gave us a holiday poem of sorts. Whereas, in what reads like a riposte to Yeats' *Lake Isle of Inisfree*, Kate 'would bake bread in a wood-fired oven, grow onions and raspberries, keep bees...', Breda recalls Elizabeth Bishop in a marvellously acoustic piece in which 'fish scales and diesel shimmer on the pier. tied up with Polyprop, a clinker-built wreck sinks into the slob under a bladder-wrack astra-khan.' There was a delightful lightness in Kate's fantasy of cows dancing from a field to 'conga up the lane and soft-shoe-shuffle into the yard.' a contrasting desolation in Breda's account of a break-up after which 'Everywhere reeks of monochrome, geranium ghosts, the silenced piano.'

To round off the exchange, each poet chose the poem from which the collection's title, *The Space Between and In a Hare's Eye*, is taken. Kate is so beguiled by a speaker's beauty that she is 'hearing / the way you taste the space between your words, phrasing so there's something more than silence' until she is moved to 'an undeniable, joyous 'Yes,' to whatever it was you said.' Breda imagines a 'Self-Portrait in the Convex Bulge of a Hare's Eye', a marvellously imaginative series of leporine encounters which 'left me straddling a barbed wire fence with two handfuls of belly-skin and a jagged gash in my thigh.' These are two poets to savour! By David Butler

Next up was photographer Daragh Muldowny with a presentation of a set of photos from his trip to Greenland. While showing his spectacular pictures of nature, the glaciers, and some natural ice sculptures, Daragh recounted the story of his trip from Achill Island to Greenland with the sailboat *Killary Flyer*. His book "Out of Thin Air", which features a selection of the photographs he presented in the Bray Art Show, won the European Photobook-of-the-Year-Award in 2015.

The final feature of the Bray Art Show was a performance of the short comedy "Albert" by the Bray Arts drama group. The plot features a Finish, a Sicilian-Italian, and English character who, lacking a common language, get lost in translation as they try to communicate with each other. Misunderstandings that occur due to different, culturally dependent, interpretations of gestures and mispronounced words cause a number of hilarious light-bulb moments. The engaging performance of the Bray Arts drama group, who had won the best comedy award with "Albert" at the Bray One-act Drama Festival, provided a perfect close for this wonderful Bray Arts Show.

Ralf

# SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE EXHIBITION



## 'MEMOIRS OF A WASTELAND BALLADEER'

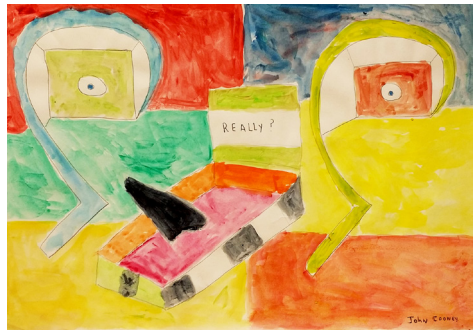
EXHIBITIONS OF WORK  
BY  
JOHN COONEY

MONDAY APRIL 4TH  
SUNDAY APRIL 10TH

OPENING NIGHT  
FRIDAY APRIL 8TH  
7PM - 9PM

SIGNAL ARTS CENTRE  
1 ALBERT AVENUE  
BRAY  
CO. WICKLOW

TEL: 01-2762039



Brigid O'Brien  
Artist

Wicklow Wolfe  
Local Micro Brewery

At the height of the recent boom & bust recession when shops closed two at a time, when Bray Main Street was gap toothed with darkened premises, two locals started a Micro-Brewery right in the middle of the town. I was dead curious & asked to have a look at how it's done. Beyond the door of the brewery large steel vats bubbled with magic potions.



Men in navy overalls checked dials. They performed tasks which were unfamiliar to me. 'It's getting there' they repeated one to the other with serious expressions. I could go on but to cut a long story short I became their Artist in Residence. I loved drawing the workers in the brewery & hearing how they ended up in Bray. I loved the fact that we were in the middle of town not a green field site on the N11. I loved the fact that organic hops from Roundwood were contributing to the flavour.



Best of all was recording the hop picking done by a diverse group of people in warm October sun. And so an exhibition of my drawings will be held as part of the Bray Jazz Festival.

Duffs Pub is the venue. Members of the great local band 'Retro Fix' will supply the Jazz.

Please come along & supply the audience. Wicklow Wolfe will supply the beer.

7.00.-9.00. Thursday April 28th. Duff's Pub, Main St. Bray.



# JAMES DEVLIN

WRITER, FILM MAKER, VISUAL ARTIST

James (Irish, 1989- ) is a writer, filmmaker, and visual artist who grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow.

It was there that he studied Film and Television Production. Upon succeeding a stint in Swansea, Wales from 2010-2011, Devlin received his Honours Degree in Video.

After some years working on Television productions for the U.K. Ireland and United States of America, Devlin pursued painting and illustration, showcasing his first pieces at his home town in 2013. In the short period of time Devlin has been painting, he has exhibited his work in Rush, Dublin City, Offaly, and Wicklow for two years running, as well as having his first solo exhibition in November of 2015. Devlin's style is self-taught primitivism and abstract art, using a minimalist colour palette, basing the majority of his pieces from his experiences in New York." -Biography James recently featured his work in the Bray Arts Journal on the cover featuring a piece titled "Hoboken "



Michael Gordon is from Bray. He is a singer/song writer and has been a member of Bray Singers Circle and Song Central, Dublin since their inception. He is also a founder member of Club Chantal.

He performs at various venues around the country and occasionally in London; mainly comic songs and parodies. "Michael is an hilariously funny singer/songwriter. His deadpan delivery of classic parodies is legendary among the singers circle fraternity."

el grey



**B**orn in Poland and settled in Bray, El Grey is an act like no other. EFL Teacher and mum of 2 by day and singer, songwriter & guitarist by night

she can't stop hearing melodies in her head. Busy life just doesn't seem to be stopping her from composing & dreaming. Interestingly, El Grey has been going from strength to strength in the last few years - winning an EP recorded with United Records and mastered in the world-famous Abbey Road Studios in London in 2013;

she's been also given airplay on a number of radio shows in Ireland and beyond, including Dan Hearty's The Alternative (2FM), or Near FM Sessions (Near FM). Recently, El Grey's become the Finalist of the 2FM/Oxfam Play the Electric Picnic Competition, securing her slot at the Festival.

She writes in English and these days also in Polish. But in fact, the language she speaks best is... music. "I speak music", she smiles. "Sometimes I don't even need words. Sometimes words just can't describe what music can. To me, singing feels like flying... Music is my meditation, my personal cosmos. "



El Grey's vocal is powerful, expressive, delicate, haunting, and strong - all at the same time. The vocal improvisations, soaring notes, beautiful on-sets, and releases create a very dreamy sound world you will never forget once you've heard

it. Accompanied by Chris Topher on percussion and live electronic MIDI sequencing, her music takes on another dimension. A very unusual, ethereal sound.

# RACKER DONNELLY

IRISH FOLK POET  
&  
WRITER



**T**he Racker Donnelly Slam Champion Poet, Irish Times Speaker of the Year Grand Marshall of the Dublin Riviera, Racker Donnelly has performed for many music, comedy, arts, folk & story clubs & festivals, with the Chieftains in Bray & with Dara O Brian at Bloomsbury Theatre.

He has featured three times for Liverpool Irish Festival, four for Whitby Folk Week, twice for Sidmouth Folk Week & for the Frank Harte festival in Dublin & has

done many Blooms days & Burns Nights. Racker has performed his one-man show in Ireland, Melbourne, Sheffield, and London, New York & for the Edinburgh Festival & sometimes performs with Scots fiddler Carol Anderson in CRACKLE.

Racker Donnelly has MCd & performed in concerts for Bray Arts, London's City Hall & London's Musical Traditions Club (where he's a resident performer), the Royal Festival Hall & the Purcell Room, London Arts & Community Festivals & Irish Centres & the Irish Embassy, in Trafalgar Square & the Bray Mermaid, & has been the featured poet on BBC Radio 4's SATURDAY LIVE & on lots of Irish radio shows. Many of his poems were commissioned for Irish National Radio & replayed on pick-of-the-week Playback.

Having posted well over a thousand of his Rackerhymes on Facebook, Racker also sings & babbles in Scottish/Irish/Music-Hall Nights & Story/Poetry/Comedy events, usually in English.



Brigid O'Brien -Artist

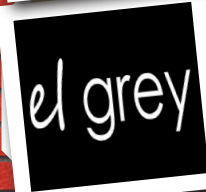
Will introduce her recent designs for Wicklow Wolf craft beer where drawings are her specialty expressing a unique quirky view of life which she portrays in her work.



James Devlin - writer, film-maker and visual artist  
Will present paintings and illustrations in a self-taught primitivism and abstract art style using a minimalist colour palette, drawing on years working in Television production.



Michael Gordon writer, singer, song writer  
Will entertain with a selection of classic comic songs and parodies delivered in the legendary, hilariously funny, deadpan delivery that he has made popular among the singers circle fraternity.



El grey - Ethro style musician singer  
In powerful, expressive, delicate, haunting, strong, vocal improvisations with soaring notes, beautiful on-sets and releases creating a dreamy sound world never to be forgotten.



Racker Donnelly - Irish Folkpoet & Entertainer  
Will leave the audience crying with laughter at His comic racks and songs about Sheep, Smoking, Oysters, Joyce, and anything else in Ireland, Britain, America & Australia.



Doors open 8:00 pm

everyone is welcome

Admission: €5 & €4 conc.

Information: Julie-Rose McCormick,  
087 248 6751



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