

Iconic US jeweller Bruce Metcalf will have his first solo exhibition in Ireland at the National Craft Gallery this month.



“Think of my work as the mutant love child of Fabergé's jewels, Hans Bellmer's doll, and Tex Avery's cartoons. Which is not to say that I'm completely irreverent.”
- Bruce Metcalf.

National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny

May 20 – July 6, 2011

Opening Event: Friday May 20 at 6pm

Online Image Gallery: <http://gallery.me.com/ccoi#103884>

Born in 1949, Bruce Metcalf is a leading art jeweller, curator, essayist and critic of contemporary craft. In 2010 Metcalf co-authored the definitive 'Makers – A History of American Studio Craft' with Janet Koplos. “The National Craft Gallery are delighted to present this rare opportunity to see Bruce Metcalf's work in Ireland for the first time”, said Ann Mulrooney, Exhibitions Manager & Curator of the National Craft Gallery. “It's an exciting prospect to engage with the work of this leading master craftsman; particularly the performance aspect which will see him drawing on the gallery walls whilst installing the show”.

Metcalf on Jewellery and Sex

In an essay for the exhibition catalogue, Metcalf states, “Even today, jewellery is caught up in sex. Both men and women wear jewellery to announce social status (and thus sexual desirability), to signal whether they are single or married (and thus sexual availability), or just to make themselves more attractive..... jewellery is sex that has been sublimated, cleaned up and made presentable.”

Metcalf in Ireland - Drawing on the Walls of the Gallery

Bruce Metcalf will be in Ireland from Monday May 16 – Saturday May 21. He will be in Kilkenny to install the exhibition, and will also create wall reliefs as part of the show, by drawing on the walls of the National Craft Gallery. This process will be filmed and played in the Gallery for the duration of the exhibition.

Biography

Bruce Metcalf's work has been featured in major exhibitions including the American Craft Museum, New York; Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C and the Galeria Universitaria Artistas, Mexico City. He has been a contributing editor of Metalsmith magazine for nearly two decades and teaches at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

National Craft Gallery Artist in Residence – Mick Minogue

Renowned Kilkenny Artist and illustrator Mick Minogue is currently Artist in Residence at the National Craft Gallery. More about Minogue at

mickbuttonminogue.blogspot.com

Minogue will hold a series of workshops and drawing events during the exhibition, see below for details.

Bruce Metcalf Exhibition Events

NCAD, Thomas Street, Dublin:

- **Tuesday 17th May at 11am**
Bruce Metcalf talk at NCAD.
Part of Year of Craft Talks Series, in partnership with NCAD

National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny:

- **Friday 20th May at 5 pm**
Exhibition tour with Bruce Metcalf, prior to the exhibition opening at 6 pm
- **Drawing Workshops: 23 – 27 May,.**
Mick Minogue will hold a series of daily workshops during his residency to explore the work of Bruce Metcalf (*booking required*).
- **Late Date: Friday 27th May at 6.00pm**
Informal tour of the exhibition with Mick Minogue
- **National Drawing Day: Saturday 28th May from 2-4.00pm**
Create your own large-scale site-specific wall drawings in the style of Bruce Metcalf and enjoy a host of family-based drawing activities.
- **Exhibition Tours:**
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am (*booking required*).

Further Media Information:

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:**1. The National Craft Gallery**

The Crafts Council of Ireland's flagship exhibition space is housed in the beautifully restored 18th Century stables of Kilkenny Castle. Exhibitions Manager and Curator Ann Mulrooney oversees a programme of groundbreaking national and international contemporary craft and develops exhibitions that tour museums and galleries worldwide.

www.nationalcraftgallery.ie

2. Year of Craft 2011

The Crafts Council of Ireland and Craft Northern Ireland have designated 2011 as Year of Craft. The year marks the 40th anniversary of the Crafts Council of Ireland. Year of Craft 2011 will be celebrated through a diverse range of dynamic events and programmes to showcase the very best of craft made on the island of Ireland. A highlight of the year will be the hosting of the Annual General Assembly of the World Crafts Council - Europe in June 2011. This 3-day event will attract representatives of national craft bodies from all over Europe adding an international dimension to Year of Craft 2011.

www.craftinireland.com