



Emerge & Make

An exhibition of work from the 2015 graduates of
the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's
Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course

National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny

15th July – 1st August 2015

Official Opening: Friday 17th July at 6.30pm

From Wednesday, 15th July 2015 the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny will exhibit work by the 12 talented 2015 graduates of the internationally renowned *Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course* run by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.

Emerge & Make, which is part of the programme of exhibitions this year for Irish Design 2015 (ID2015), will be officially opened on Friday 17th July by Jacinta O'Brien, Managing Editor of Jewel Magazine. Running until Saturday, 1st August, the exhibition showcases the high level of craftsmanship and skills acquired by the graduates over the past two years and features exquisite pieces of jewellery in gold, palladium, silver and precious gemstones. The 12 graduates have honed their expertise and craft with some of Ireland's and Europe's most highly skilled silversmiths and goldsmiths through master classes and work placements. Unique to the Kilkenny programme is the fact that participants work solely in precious metals and have been encouraged to push boundaries in technique and innovative designs.

This intensive skills-based two-year full time programme, which is now accredited through National University of Maynooth, is designed to equip graduates with the practical skills and technical knowledge that are needed to develop careers in the jewellery industry. A number of the 2015 graduates, many of whom have made a significant career changes to become jewellery makers, will proceed to gain employment within the jewellery trade in Ireland, while others intend to set up their

own creative enterprises. The graduates include a former tour guide and participant in RTÉ TV's *Craft Master* programme, a sound engineer trainee, a retail manager, a furniture design graduate and a 2015 Future Makers award and supports winner. Furthermore, three of the graduates have previous post graduate academic qualifications including Masters in International Political Economy, Masters in Journalism and Masters in Language Technology.

Running for two weeks only, the selling exhibition offers visitors to the gallery an opportunity to admire the work of Ireland's emerging jewellery designers. The beautiful creations on display include:

- A beautiful collection of 12 salt and pepper shakers; small scale silversmithing inspired by automobiles, architecture of the 1930s and 1940s, art deco furniture or jewellery, poetry and paintings. Constructed from silver and gold plated silver the designs range from minimalist geometric hollow forms to organic and decorative, with some incorporating wood, showcasing technical ability and individual design aesthetics.
- 12 Single Stone Rings, where the brief was to design and make a ring in 18 carat gold or palladium set using a single gemstone of any shape.

Eimear Conyard and Dieter Rowe-Setz, course managers and tutors, said the training had challenged the graduates but their steadfast commitment, passion and creativity has resulted in an exhibition of exceptional work. *"The intricacy of the objects in the exhibition reflects each individual's ability to continually design and make work that stretches their limits of jewellery design. The final project work in the exhibition reflects each graduate's signature style and their individual technical ability. The skills that they have learned and developed over two years is significant and we wish them the very best for the future in their creative careers."*

Brian McGee, Acting Chief Executive of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland said: *"The Irish have been master gold and silversmiths for millennia with the ancient skills of forming precious metals passed on from generation to generation. These newly minted graduates from the highly regarded DCCoI Kilkenny-based course are superbly equipped to enter the jewellery industry which is at an exciting juncture as more and more discerning clients seek work that has come from the hand of a craftsman with the highest standards of design, quality materials and excellence in making."*

Applications were received from all over Europe for the forthcoming 2015 – 2017 programme of this unique course. The 12 successful applicants have already been offered and confirmed acceptance of their places on the programme, which commences in September. John Tynan, Head of Education, Training and Development at the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland said the course has established an excellent reputation both nationally and internationally. *“This two year course which is accredited by the National University of Ireland Maynooth provides these individuals with a wide-ranging introduction to the commercial world and realities of jewellery design and making. This accomplishment has the potential to be life changing for them as they make their way into sector and we wish each graduate every success in their future career,”* he said.

Emerge & Make, which is part of the programme of exhibitions this year for Irish Design 2015 (ID2015), runs at the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny until Saturday, 1st August 2015. Opening times: Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5.30pm Sunday: 11am – 5.30pm Closed Mondays except Bank Holidays. Admission is free. For further details visit www.nationalcraftgallery.ie

In addition to the jewellery and goldsmithing course, the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland runs a two-year Ceramics Skills & Design Course in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny. Work by the 2014 ceramics graduates is currently being exhibited at John Paul II Library at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and runs until the end of July.

- ENDS -

For further press information please contact: Aoife Smith, Sorcha Furlong or Tara Walsh at Elevate PR on 01-6625652 or aoife@elevate.ie / sorcha@elevate.ie / tara@elevate.ie

Notes to Editor:

The 12 graduates of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland’s *Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course*, as well as progressing from arts schools, also come from varied backgrounds including a former tour guide, a sound engineer trainee and a retail manager. Each took up the course at different stages of their career and have since found their own style within the expressive world of jewellery.

The graduates are:

- Aron Browne
- Joanne Gamble
- Caroline Gray
- Ian O'Brien
- Jacob Golaszewski
- Paul Coyne
- Louise France
- Eleanor Haworth
- Riona Finn
- Paula O'Callaghan (Future Makers Awards & Supports Winner, 2015)
- Sarah Gregory
- Charlie Rattcliff

Emerge & Make continues at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny until Saturday, 1st August 2015.

Emerge & Make Exhibition Events:

CURATOR'S TALK & LAUNCH - Friday 17 July 6.30pm

Curator Dieter Rowe-Setz in conversation with guests, followed by official opening with Jacinta O'Brien, Managing Editor of Jewel Magazine.

LATE DATE: MEET THE MAKERS - Thursday 23 July, 6pm

Meet graduates from the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland's *Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course* discussing their work and enjoy live demonstrations of techniques. Free event, no booking required.

FAMILY DAY: WIZARD WIRE & FAIRY BEADS Thursday 30th July 10.30am & 12noon

Design and make your own unique piece of jewellery with wire and beads at this fun interactive workshop. Suitable for 5+ years.

Booking required telephone 056 7796151 or email events@nationalcraftgallery.ie

About Design & Crafts Council of Ireland:

The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCol) is the main champion of the design and craft industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength,

communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality design, innovation and competitiveness. DCCol's activities are funded by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation via Enterprise Ireland. DCCol currently has over 75 member organisations and over 3,000 registered clients. www.dccoi.ie DCCol's Jewellery and Goldsmithing Skills & Design Course is the only programme in Ireland which specialises in the tradition of working with precious metals and gemstones, equipping graduates with the practical skills needed to develop careers in the jewellery industry in Ireland and internationally. This two year programme located at DCCol's headquarters in Kilkenny City is designed to equip graduates with the practical skills needed to develop careers in the jewellery industry in Ireland and internationally. It specialises in the tradition of precious metals and gemstones, covering design, production techniques and manufacture. www.dccoi.ie www.jewellerycourse.ie

About the National Craft Gallery

Established by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland in 2000, the National Craft Gallery is Ireland's leading centre for contemporary craft and design. It exhibits Irish and international designers, artists and makers who push boundaries in their engagement with the making process. Its mission is to inspire appreciation, creativity and innovation and it plays a critical role in building understanding of craft and material culture in Ireland. www.nationalcraftgallery.ie

About Irish Design 2015

Irish Design 2015 (ID2015) is a year-long initiative backed by the Irish government exploring, promoting and celebrating Irish design throughout Ireland and internationally in order to drive job creation, grow exports and increase competitiveness. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland, is Patron of Irish Design 2015 and the initiative has been included in the Irish Government's Action Plan for Jobs. ID2015 is being convened by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCol), in collaboration with partner organisations, on behalf of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Enterprise Ireland. ID2015 partners include Founding Partners - MCO Projects; Accommodation Partners - The Doyle Collection; Venue Partners - OPW; Exhibition Partners – DAA; Technology Partners – IBM, Construction Partners - SISK and Media Partners – The Irish Times. To learn more, visit www.irishdesign2015.ie