

CERAMICS GRADUATE EXHIBITION
AT THE NATIONAL DESIGN & CRAFT GALLERY

in flux

13 July – 6 August 2018



Images (l to r): work by graduates Natasha Swan, Keith Clucas and Elaine Garvey

GRADUATES' BIOGRAPHIES

The 12 graduates of DCCol's Centre of Excellence in Ceramics come from diverse backgrounds in Ireland and internationally and entered the course while at various stages of their careers. Each has worked on developing their preferred style and approach to ceramics, and look to grow their skills after graduation, whether it be with further training or setting up their own business. Brief graduate biographies are stated below. Full biographies and artist statements are at: <http://dccoie.ie/InFlux>

Keith Clucas

Originally from Bray, Co. Wicklow, from an early age Keith was interested in craft and design, mainly woodwork to begin with. He developed an eye for detail while working fitting kitchens, tiling bathrooms or converting attics. His love of woodwork led him to enrol in the design course at Bray Adult Education Centre (BAEC) in 2014. It was during his time there that he discovered ceramics, and clay soon overtook his love for wood. Encouraged by his teachers at BAEC, he applied and successfully got a place on the *Ceramics Skills & Design Course* at DCCol's Centre of Excellence in Ceramics.

Chris Crawford

Chris was introduced to clay at school by a ceramicist who fostered his interest in making pots. He began to volunteer at exhibitions and selling fairs getting to know potters from around the UK and in 2013 moved to Stoke-on-Trent to volunteer at the British Ceramics Biennial. From there he found work with ceramic designer Reiko Kaneko and stayed in Stoke for the next three years. These experiences inspired him to seek further practical training and meet other potters, so he applied to DCCol's Centre of Excellence in Ceramics. Upon graduating, he would like to work for a small pottery or individual potter before eventually setting up his own studio which he hopes would be home to several full-time potters, as well as running classes and events. Instagram: [@cmccrawford_20](https://www.instagram.com/cmccrawford_20)

Elaine Garvey

Born in the west of Ireland, Elaine moved to Galway City in 2011 to study Art and received her Hons Degree in Fine Art from the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology in 2016, specialising in Ceramics. Having developed her hand-building techniques and producing sculptural work during her study, the desire to expand her skills and incorporate ceramic production techniques into her practice encouraged her to attend *DCCol's Ceramics Skills & Design Course* in Thomastown, Kilkenny. Instagram: [@elainegarveyceramics](https://www.instagram.com/elainegarveyceramics)

Francis Lloyd Jones

Francis Lloyd Jones has been surrounded by handmade pots and ceramics all his life. A background in Fine Art and a multidisciplinary practice led to a marrying of both the desire to obtain a craft skill and a persistent interest in functionality. Working for the Craft Potters Association and *Ceramic Review* magazine in the UK provided a prolonged exposure to current British studio ceramics, resulting in a clear idea of what appealed to him. Instagram: [@francislloydjones](https://www.instagram.com/francislloydjones)

Katrin Maier

In rural Germany, where Katrin grew up, she connected with nature. From her mother and grandmother, she learned to use her hands, to grow things, to make and mend. During her years in Berlin she soaked up historical and political knowledge and, while living in London, she learned to appreciate art. Her time in West Africa nurtured an interest in other cultures, in how people live and how they make sense of the world. In ceramics, she has found a material, a way of working and a life philosophy that brings together all these parts that are so important to who she is. Before being accepted on the *DCCol Ceramics Skills & Design Course*, she was largely self-taught, and she retains an intuitive approach to making and aesthetics. Instagram: [@katrin.d.maier](https://www.instagram.com/katrin.d.maier)

David McComiskey

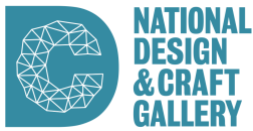
Growing up in Belfast, David knew he wanted to work creatively with his hands from a young age. He has always had an interest in geology, fossils in particular. He first used clay in his school art classes after being encouraged by teachers to try a 3D medium. After school he went to study Contemporary Applied Art at the University of Ulster, Belfast. It was here that he developed an interest in functional pottery while developing his skills in throwing on the potter's wheel. He has recently been accepted on a residency program in Denmark and hopes to set up a studio in Belfast when he finishes his studies. Instagram: [@d_mccomiskey_ceramics](https://www.instagram.com/d_mccomiskey_ceramics)

Hannah McDonnell

Growing up in the north Dublin seaside town of Skerries in the '90s, Hannah fell in love with art and craft from a young age. She studied Art in Secondary School and followed this with a B.A. (Hon) in Ceramics Design from Limerick School of Art and Design. It was in Limerick where she found the potter's wheel and wanted to develop her throwing skills to produce tableware and one-off pieces. After this course, she hopes to work for another potter, to apply for the 'Adopt A Potter' scheme and then set up her own studio. Instagram: [@hannahmcdonnellceramics](https://www.instagram.com/hannahmcdonnellceramics)

Jin O'Sullivan

Korean Jin O'Sullivan used to design exhibitions and interiors before settling in Ireland in 2012. It was in this country that she first met and fell in love with pottery and where she created her first pot. Since then she has travelled back and forth between Ireland and Korea, learning more about the discipline. She believes that Ireland is the place where she will grow up as a potter and build on her story.



Louise Robinson

In September 2016, Louise left Hartlepool, on the coast of North East England, and moved to Ireland to pursue her love of ceramics. She was first introduced to ceramics at school and was immediately hooked. She has always enjoyed drawing and making things and bringing ideas to life in clay felt like a natural progression. Her first experience of ceramic techniques was producing coil- and slab-built pots, and the *DCCol Ceramics Skills & Design Course* has given her the chance to learn to throw. Instagram: [@lourobsonceramics](https://www.instagram.com/lourobsonceramics)

Róisín O'Connor

After graduating from The Courtauld Institute of Art, Róisín worked in gallery education with the William Morris Society and pursued a career as an antiquarian book seller at Henry Sotheran. Her background as an art historian has provided her with a wealth of source material from which to draw inspiration as a craftsperson. She has accepted a place to study for an MA in Ceramics and Glass at the Royal College of Art London upon graduating from *DCCol's Centre of Excellence in Ceramics*. She is also a Team Leader with the Michelangelo Foundation in Venice, and candidate for a *Future Makers* support or award. Instagram: [@rocandclay](https://www.instagram.com/rocandclay)

Etaoin O'Reilly

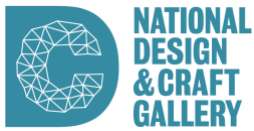
Etaoin is an Irish-born ceramic artist and studied at the National College of Art and Design where she received a degree in Craft Design. In 2014, she won the overall Student Future Makers Award for her degree show work, 'The Buggaplants' which enabled her to travel to London where she interned for Kate Malone. On return from London she moved to the National Sculpture Factory in Cork where she began to work on the new series of Buggaplants called the 'Jorogumo'. In 2016, she returned to the National College of Art and Design where she undertook a one-year residency and after which she held her first solo show in the NCAD Gallery. She is excited to pass on the skills that she has learned on this course to the students of Limerick School of Art and Design where she will begin a residency in October.

Natasha Swan

Born and raised in a rural sea-side town on the East Coast of Northern Ireland, Natasha grew up exploring the outdoors and always had a passion for making. During her Third Level education she experienced clay and the huge possibilities and challenges of this versatile material. She gained a BA in Contemporary Applied Art from Ulster University, Belfast before moving to Thomastown to further her skills in ceramics. She has a particular interest in combining markmaking and simple wheel thrown forms, and inspiration comes from various sources, including graphic artists, painters and other ceramics makers. After graduating, Natasha plans to look for premises to rent in Belfast and would like to work alongside other artists of various making skills to develop and strengthen a local network of craftspeople. Combining a pottery with a small café is something she aspires to do, connecting the community with making and enjoying hand-made tableware. Instagram: [@natashaswanceramics](https://www.instagram.com/natashaswanceramics)

About the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCol) Centre of Excellence in Ceramics

The *DCCol Centre of Excellence in Ceramics* delivers an intensive two-year skills-based programme which is renowned in the industry both nationally and internationally, and is accredited through National University of Ireland, Maynooth. The ceramics course specialises in production skills, clay and glaze technology, kiln theory and operation, surface treatments, drawing and design, the history of ceramics and contemporary practice. Situated in the beautiful Island Mill in Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, the programme provides superb facilities, with electric, gas and wood fired kilns, allowing students to build up an extensive knowledge of techniques, materials and processes. Throughout the two-year programme, visiting tutors with specialist expertise give demonstrations and lectures. DCCol's vision is to work with partner organisations in developing *Centres of Excellence* in other key disciplines to ensure industry needs are met through specialised training and access to facilities. www.ceramiccourse.ie



About the National Design & Craft Gallery

Established by the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland in 2000, the National Design & 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.ndcg.ie

About the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland

The Design & Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCoI) is the national agency for the commercial development of Irish designers and makers, stimulating innovation, championing design thinking and informing Government policy. DCCoI's activities are funded by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation via Enterprise Ireland. DCCoI currently has 64 member organisations and over 2,500 registered clients. www.dccoi.ie