

A Celebration of Excellence from Irish Craft Makers

***Irish Craft Portfolio* opens at the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny**

An exhibition featuring the innovative and unique work of makers selected for the Irish Craft Portfolio publication opens at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny this Friday, 26th March. *Irish Craft Portfolio* presents the work of 38 leading Irish makers chosen by an international selection panel for 2010.

Irish Craft Portfolio was established by the Crafts Council of Ireland in 2005 to provide a platform for promoting the work of some of Ireland's finest craftworkers producing work to an international exhibition standard. The exhibition represents contemporary craftwork that combines the highest quality craftsmanship with a consideration of material and technique that sits comfortably on the international stage.

Some of the highlights from the exhibition include the richly decorated ceramic platters made by Cormac Boydell in West Cork, each edged in shimmering metallic lustres; elegant furniture executed in solid walnut by Carlow based furniture maker Stephen O'Brian; layered calligraphic works by Denis Brown and delicate, nature-inspired porcelain forms by Cork based ceramicist Nuala O'Donovan.

Commenting on the exhibition, Úna Parsons, CEO, Crafts Council of Ireland said, "*Irish Craft Portfolio* celebrates the diversity and rich talent of a select group of Irish makers. The craftwork included in this exhibition and in the Irish Craft Portfolio publication will serve to further enhance Ireland's reputation as a world-class source of contemporary craft. I would encourage anyone with a passion for craft to visit the exhibition and enjoy the work of these exceptionally talented craftspeople."

Curated by Ann Mulrooney, *Irish Craft Portfolio* runs from 26th March to 22nd May at the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny. Admission is free. Selected parts of the

show will travel to the Kenny Gallery in Galway in August and Farmleigh Gallery in Dublin in December.

For further information including gallery opening times visit www.nationalcraftgallery.ie or email ncg@ccoie.ie

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Note to Editors:

The National Craft Gallery is the Crafts Council of Ireland's flagship exhibition space which is housed in Castle Yard, the former stables of Kilkenny Castle.