

**Press Release: Tuesday May 25, 2010**

**Microcosmos: by Frances Lambe, 28 May – 18 July, 2010**

A solo exhibition of new work by Frances Lambe, a Dundalk based ceramicist at the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny.

*"If objects, and particularly handmade objects, have not received the attention that they deserve, it is not because they have become irrelevant and meaningless in the world in which we live. It is because, of all cultural phenomena, they imply a complexity that exists beyond language and beyond theory, thus beyond the reach of those who are confined by language and theory."* – **Eleanor Flegg.**

**Exhibition Details:**

**Opening:** Friday 28th May at 6.30pm. Exhibition to be opened by Dr. Audrey Whitty, Curator of Ceramics, Glass & Asian Collections, National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks.

**Image Gallery:** <http://gallery.me.com/ccoi#101657>.

The Crafts Council of Ireland is pleased to present a body of stunning work by Dundalk based ceramicist Frances Lambe. The exhibition has been co-commissioned by Millennium Court Arts Centre and the Basement Gallery in Dundalk.

**Frances Lambe:**

Lambe is an award-winning artist whose exhibition as part of the Crafts Council of Ireland's National Craft Gallery stand at COLLECT at London's Saatchi Gallery this month, was a sell out success. She also exhibited at SOFA in Chicago in 2009 and is one of the makers chosen for the 2010 Irish Craft Portfolio. She was selected to exhibit at Image of Longing at the National Craft Gallery in 2008 and was a guest artist at the Ceramics Ireland International Festival in Kilkenny. Her work is in public and private collections including the National Museum of Ireland and the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Belfast and Tokyo.

The work of Frances Lambe:

This new body of work springs from visual research into geography, biology, botany and astronomy, highlighting Lambe's fascination with the visual 'inter-relatedness' of microscopic life.

Eleanor Flegg writes in the exhibition catalogue, “Lambe’s ceramic forms describe an underwater world. Their purity of form recalls stones that have been polished by the movement of water and sand. They describe relationships between land and sea: drumlins sculpted by the retreating ice, the sweep of eroded rock. The work has a depth and integrity that goes beyond its biomorphic grace: these are meeting points, recollections between air, sea and land. They describe the way that we navigate the worlds below and above the surface of the water.”

The intensively beautiful pieces that are created by Lambe have an organic quality – seeming to have evolved rather than have been made. Lambe describes her own process as, ‘turning mud into stone’.

### **Exhibition Related Events:**

Saturday 29th May: 11am – Guided tour of the exhibition with artist Frances Lambe  
Thursday 17th June: 2.00 – 3.30pm – Process & Practicalities – a sketchbook talk on her studio practice with Frances Lambe  
Friday 25th June: 6.30 – 8.30pm – Informal tour of exhibition

Further Media Information on Microcosmos, the Frances Lambe Exhibition:

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### **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

#### **1. Partnership**

This exhibition is a touring exhibition in partnership with the Millennium Court Arts Centre and the Basement Gallery

#### **2. The National Craft Gallery**

The Crafts Council of Ireland’s flagship exhibition space which is housed in the beautifully restored 18th Century stables of Kilkenny Castle. It exhibits a programme of

groundbreaking national and international contemporary craft and develops exhibitions that tour museums and galleries worldwide.

### **3. Irish Craft Portfolio**

This publication represents contemporary craftwork created by Irish makers that combines the highest quality craftsmanship with a consideration of material and technique that sits comfortably on an international stage. The craftwork featured in the publication was chosen by an international selection panel. The work illustrated as part of the Irish Craft Portfolio publication and exhibited throughout 2010 will serve to further enhance Ireland's reputation as a world-class source of contemporary fine craft.