

Celebrating Contemporary Glass

On the Edge opens at the National Craft Gallery

An exhibition of contemporary glass from Ireland and South-West England opens on 16th January 2010 at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny.

On the Edge features a stunning collection of work which beautifully demonstrates the complexities and flexibilities of glass. Colin Reid assembles and reinterprets everyday objects to create new sculptural forms such as his piece “Cello” while Will Shakespeare’s painterly “Low Tide Quins” is hot cast, sandblasted and etched to capture a striking visual wall piece in bold colours.

The exhibition also includes the delicate, ephemeral “Catch a breath” by Róisín de Buitléar, which she describes as capturing the movement of molten glass in its solid form. De Buitléar recently received the Crafts Council of Ireland’s Irish Craft Bursary of €15,000 to initiate a unique research study on the heritage of glassmaking in Ireland which will become the subject of a major exhibition in 2011.

The National Craft Gallery has organised a series of events around the exhibition which are all open to the public. A glass blowing demonstration will take place at Jerpoint Glass in Thomastown, Kilkenny on Saturday 16th January, 11-3pm. *On the Edge* will be opened at the National Craft Gallery in Castle Yard at 3.30pm by art historian, collector and journalist, Lucy Abel Smith and this will be followed by a curators talk about the exhibition at 5.00pm. An exhibition seminar with the artists will take place at Butler House, Kilkenny on Sunday 17th January from 11.00 to 1.00 and 2.30 to 4.30pm.

A new initiative from the National Craft Gallery for 2010 is a series of informal evening events which are free and open to the public. Taking place from 6.30 – 8.30pm, *On the Edge* events will be led by artist and lecturer Caroline Madden from the Glass Society of Ireland on Friday 29th January and by artist and curator Mary Mackey on Friday 26th February.

Commenting on the exhibition, Úna Parsons, CEO, Crafts Council of Ireland said, “Ireland has a great heritage of glassmaking and this exhibition is a wonderful opportunity to see the contemporary work of glass artists living here in Ireland alongside that of their international peers.”

On the Edge is a touring exhibition organised by Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, Mary Mackey and Chinks Grylls, in partnership with the Crafts Council of Ireland. The exhibition runs from 16th January to 20th March 2010 at the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny. Admission is free. For further information visit www.nationalcraftgallery.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.