

Unique International Exhibition to open on Valentine's Day
***Remember-Ring* at the National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny**

13th February 2009

Few objects are charged with as much symbolism as a ring. Wars were waged for and love was sealed with various forms of the eternal circle which carries so much meaning throughout the world. This Valentine's day (14th February), 90 special rings will be the subject of a unique international exhibition which opens at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny entitled *Herinner-ring/Remember-ring*.

Herinner-ring /Remember-Ring is a collaboration of 90 jewellery designers from around the world who have each made a hand-crafted ring based on the theme of 'remembering'. Each ring depicts a personal memory for the individual artist whose recollection is given shape within the limited dimensions of a ring. *Herinner-ring /Remember-Ring* is on loan from Galerie Beeld and Aambeeld in Holland and the National Craft Gallery is the first location to receive the exhibition outside the Netherlands before it tours internationally.

The 90 participating artists in *Herinner-ring /Remember-Ring* include Irish jewellery designers Melissa Curry, Angela O'Kelly, Sonja Landweer, Rachel McKnight and Céline Traynor. Céline Traynor has designed an omni-directional ring, based on the sound waves associates with an omni-directional microphone – a reminder of her time working in a Dublin recording studio. Angela O'Kelly's piece is inspired by the shape and materials of air filters that her father used in his work. Northern Ireland designer Rachel McKnight's offering commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Omagh bombing with 29 trailing strings on her ring representing the same number of people who were killed in the atrocity.

Other items in the exhibition include 'Brainwave' by Dutch artist Michiel Teunen, whose ring is shaped like a brainwave – an obvious link to memory. Tore Svensson's

piece represents the cottage where he was raised in Sweden. The red/brown tones in Jeanet Metselaar's ring is a reminder of a memorable trip to the earthy landscape of

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Monument Valley while Italian designer Doris Maninger's piece contains clock parts representing past memories.

Karel Betman and Martha Haveman, curators of the exhibition and directors of Galerie Beeeld & Aambeeld in Holland, will be present at the opening of *Herriner-ring/Remember-ring* in the National Gallery on Saturday 14th February. Commenting on the exhibition, Vincent O'Shea, Exhibitions Programme Manager for the National Craft Gallery said, "Remember-ring features remarkable artists who have all made the most wonderfully creative contributions to the exhibition as a whole. It is a great pleasure for the National Craft Gallery to be the first gallery outside Holland to show this unique exhibition and to open it to the public on Valentine's Day".

Herriner-ring/Remember-ring runs from 14th February to 30th April in the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny. Opening times are Mon-Sat from 10am to 6pm. Admission is free. For further information visit www.ccoi.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.