“Deirdre McLoughlin is one of the most outstanding sculptors to emerge from Ireland in the 20th century.”
DR. PATRICK J. MURPHY

“Everything I know is in my work.
I don’t always understand what I know.”
DEIRDRE MCLOUGHLIN

Exhibition Dates: Friday 20th January – Wednesday 21st March, 2012
Shaping The Void - An exhibition at the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny
www.nationalcraftgallery.ie
www.deirdremcloughlin.com

Exhibition Opening: Friday 20th January 2012 at 6 pm
Preceded by an artist’s talk at 5 pm

Irish Sculptor Deirdre McLoughlin is to have her first major solo exhibition in Ireland, opening this month at the National Craft Gallery in Kilkenny. Shaping The Void is the outcome of 3 years work for this Dublin-born artist whose unique world-class ceramic sculptures have gained her international renown.

“I remember my first encounter with a piece of work by Deirdre McLoughlin, being struck by its charged intensity,” said Ann Mulrooney of the National Craft Gallery. “My response hasn’t changed in the years since - her work continues to have a physical presence that is disproportionately greater than its scale. She spends time with each element of the work – as much as is necessary - and the end result is work of extraordinary power and purity. It is a great pleasure to be able to bring this work to Ireland.”

Background
After graduating from Trinity College Dublin, McLoughlin studied in Amsterdam before moving to Japan to work amongst the influential avant-garde Sodeisha artist
Based in Amsterdam since 1988, she works in a solitary city-centre studio, producing outstanding work which has gained a world-wide reputation. Last year a piece by McLoughlin was selected to appear on one of An Post’s issue of a special series of five stamps celebrating contemporary craft to mark Year of Craft 2011.

Images
Image gallery of Deirdre McLoughlin’s work with jpegs to view and download http://gallery.me.com/ccoi#106106

Exhibition Events:
**Late Date - Friday 27th January at 6.30 pm**
Informal tour with Tina Byrne, Lecturer and Editor of Ceramics Ireland

**Late Date - Friday 24th February at 6.30 pm**
Informal tour with Heart Specialist and gentleman historian, Michael Conway

**Gallery Tours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am (booking required).

Further Media Information:
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NOTES FOR EDITORS:
1. **The National Craft Gallery**
The Crafts Council of Ireland’s flagship exhibition space is housed in the beautifully restored 18th Century stables of Kilkenny Castle. Manager and Curator Ann Mulrooney oversees a programme of groundbreaking national and international contemporary craft and develops exhibitions that tour museums and galleries worldwide.

www.nationalcraftgallery.ie