

Laois schools throughout the year. From printmaking to willow weaving, Mountmellick embroidery to felt making the Laois craft makers of the future will not fail to impress with the wonderful wares that they have created.



Textile artist Maeve Coulter will undertake a series of felt making workshops with the fifth and sixth class students of Maryborough N.S. These workshops have been funded by the Community and Enterprise department of Laois County Council. Also Vera McEvoy, from her base in Arthouse in Stradbally will give a number of textile based workshops with local schools.

Participating Schools include Castlecluffe NS, Mountmellick Community School, Scoil Chríost Rí, Portlaoise, Emo NS, Maryborough NS, Portlaoise.

POP UP COLLECTION
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
December 9-January 14 2012

The Dunamaisé Arts Centre will host a craft exhibition featuring local and national makers. Selected artists/makers will exhibit work made as part of their creative process as well as commercial work which will then be for sale in a pop up shop in the gallery.

To accompany the exhibition **In Praise of Hands**, a documentary which pays tribute to craft makers worldwide will be screened during the exhibition. Filmed in the Canadian Arctic, Finland, India, Nigeria, Japan, Mexico and Poland in 1974, this short film, without narration, shows the special skills of artisans working with stone, pottery, ceramics, weaving, dyeing, puppet making and embroidery where each indigenous skill is a reflection of the culture of the country.

HANDS DOCUMENTARY, EPISODE 4
FEATURING MOUNTMELICK
EMBROIDERY

Accompanied by a demonstration of
Mountmellick embroidery and a talk by
David Shaw Smith
Dunamaisé Arts Centre
December 8, 11am



HANDS is a unique, multi-award winning series of thirty-seven documentaries focussing on Irish crafts and capturing the final years of traditional rural and urban life in Ireland, during the 1970s and 1980s. In association with the Dunamaisé Arts Centre's Elevenses club, Laois Year of Craft is delighted to show episode four of the series which features Mountmellick embroidery.

We are also greatly honoured by the presence of renowned film maker, and Aosdána member **David Shaw Smith** who will give a talk about the Hands series that he lovingly created over 30 years ago.

To accompany the screening and talk Dolores Dempsey, teacher of Mountmellick embroidery for the last 15 years, will give a demonstration of the craft.

LAOIS PARTNERSHIP TRAINING COURSE - CREATING A CRAFT BUSINESS

Business development course for start-up craft businesses in the Laois area.

This training will provide individuals with the knowledge and expertise to create profitable & sustainable self-employment in the craft sector.

Programme outline:

- Agency Supports available to the Craft Sector
- Design, Production and Development of your Product
- Finance, Costing, Pricing
- Sales, Marketing, Branding
- Sales Techniques
- Creating your Business Plan



This evening training will commence at 7pm on Tuesday, 4th October and will run for six weeks.

Email orlaomeara@laoispartnership.ie for further details.

LAOIS EXHIBITORS AT THE NATIONAL CRAFT AND DESIGN FAIR AT THE RDS

The following Laois craft makers with the kind support of Laois Partnership will exhibit at this year's National Craft and Design Fair. Doreen Burke, Michael Delaney, Catriona Dunne, Peg Hackett, Aoife Kirwan, Helena Malone, Natasha Nosenko, Clare Slevin, Mary Stack, Mary Whelan, Edyta Szymanska.

Free tickets to the RDS to the first 50 email requests to info@laoiscrafts.com

LAOIS COUNTY ENTERPRISE BOARD TRAINING COURSES

As part of Laois Year of Craft Laois County Enterprise Board will be offering the following courses for businesses in the Craft Sector:

- Getting the most from your website
- Social Media Networking
- How to set up a blog for your business
- How to get customers and keep them
- Marketing Tips for the small business

Dates: To be arranged
 For registration form/further details please email evelyn@laoisenterprise.com



Abbeyleix Further Education Centre
BERNIE LEAHY: GUEST LECTURE
October 2011

Abbeyleix Further Education Centre is delighted to host a guest lecture by renowned textile artist Bernie Leahy. Working from her studio in north Co. Dublin, Bernie creates large stitched drawings using a combination of hand and machine stitching, applied directly to the unmarked canvas.

She will work on a day long design and drawing workshop with the art and design students of Abbeyleix FEC.

THANKS

A big Thanks to:

Aideen Lynch and all the staff at Craft Council of Ireland, Niamh White and the staff at Dunamaisé Arts Centre, Dolores Dempsey and Kathleen Comerford at the Mountmellick Museum, Ann Dack, Enda McEvoy and all the staff at Abbeyleix library, all the staff at Stradbally library, Community and Enterprise Laois County Council, Gerry Maher, Bernie Foran and Laois Library service, management and members of Laois County Council and all the participating craft makers.

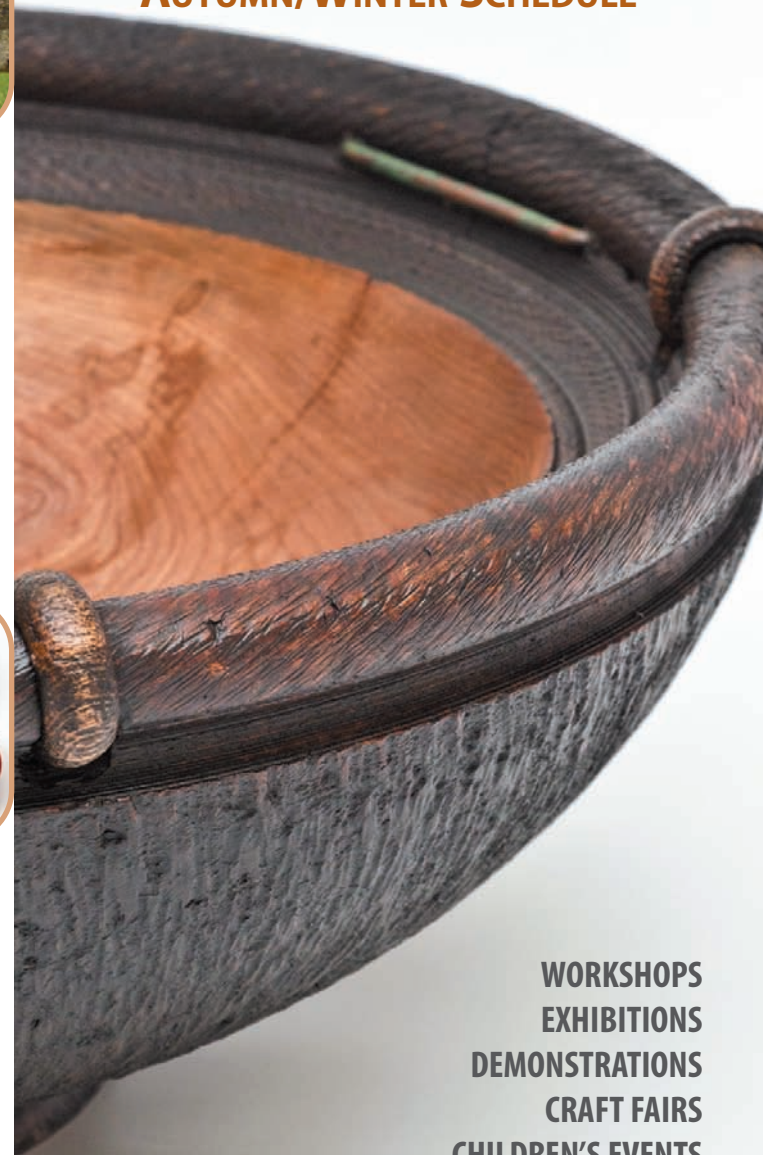
Laois Year of Craft Committee

Co-ordinator: Marina Rafter

Committee: Louise Donlon, Bridie Keenan, Muireann Ni Chonaill, Orla O'Meara, Evelyn Reddin.

LAOIS YEAR OF CRAFT 2011

AUTUMN/WINTER SCHEDULE



WORKSHOPS
EXHIBITIONS
DEMONSTRATIONS
CRAFT FAIRS
CHILDREN'S EVENTS
TRAINING



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Laois Year of Craft brochure. This brochure outlines the numerous and diverse range of events that we have lined up over the next few months to celebrate National Year of Craft in Laois. Earlier in the year a steering committee of the Laois Arts Office, Laois Partnership, Laois County Enterprise Board and Dunamais Arts Centre, recognising the importance of year of craft both nationally and locally, came together to ensure a true celebration of this significant year. The programme includes exhibitions of work from some of the finest craft makers in the country, demonstrations from master crafts people, talks, documentary showings, workshops, training and a very special dedicated exhibition of young people's craft work.

We have aimed to show you craft in its many wonderful forms and we hope that you will be enthralled by the sheer excellence and quality of all the craft makers involved in this exciting and invigorating programme.

JOE HOGAN EXHIBITION

**Dunamais Arts Centre
September 9th - October 1st**

One of Ireland's foremost craft makers, award winning basket maker Joe Hogan will bring his celebrated traditional and contemporary baskets to a month long exhibition in the Dunamais Arts Centre.

Driven and inspired by a desire to develop a deeper connection to the natural world Joe has been crafting baskets for over 30 years. He has developed a reputation over the last 10

years for his focus on more contemporary, non functional baskets working with additional materials such as wood or twigs bearing cones and catkins.



WORKSHOP: MARTIN SINNOTT

**Dunamais Arts Centre
Saturday, October 1st**

Time: 10am – 4pm

Booking 057 8663355.

€60 including all materials.

Local basket maker Martin Sinnott will lead a workshop introducing participants to the age old tradition of weaving willow. This 5 hour workshop includes all materials and tools.

DEDICATION - CRAFT EXHIBITION

**Abbeyleix Library
October 25th-November 26th**

Abbeyleix library will play host to Dedication, an exhibition of four of Ireland's finest craft makers, wood turner David Comerford, textile artist Maeve Coulter, jeweller Helena Malone and ceramicist Edyta Szymanska. Hailing from Laois and neighbouring county Kilkenny each maker will exhibit a body of work that truly reflects the diversity and quality of craft work being produced by craft makers in our immediate environs.

DAVID COMERFORD

From Kilkenny and working since 1987 David is a self-taught wood artist, who works mainly with native and naturalised Irish timbers. His work comprises of both functional ware such as salad bowls and



platters and one-off gallery pieces.

David's gallery pieces have a great sense of antiquity and ceremony. He decorates each piece with his own unique texturing which he has developed over the years to help him achieve the desired effect and atmosphere. He has re-occurring themes in his work but no two pieces are ever the same; each is unique in its individual texturing and treatment.

www.davidcomerford.net

MAEVE COULTER

Maeve Coulter trained as a printmaker and textile artist in the Limerick School of Art and Design. She works in both disciplines often combining print with fabric and stitching.

Her recent work references the tradition of quilt making; of re-using fabrics from our everyday lives to create something new. She explores the notion of domesticity and home-making, our sense of identity and belonging. She creates etchings, collagraphs and silkscreen prints on fabrics that played a part in her life, from childhood to more recent times. Stitching is used to embellish and create highly textured and tactile surfaces.

She is a member of MADE in Kilkenny, a collective of 29 professional Kilkenny based craftspeople. She is a founding member of Blackstack Studio, an artist led studio in Kilkenny City that facilitates Fine Art Printmaking

www.maevecoulter.com



HELENA MALONE

Laois native Helena is an innovative designer and maker of precious jewellery. Helena changed career from a finance and literature background in 2003 and trained in traditional Jewellery skills in

Kilkenny. Helena creates and displays collections from her public studio in the centre of Portlaoise. As a goldsmith she works in all precious metals, unusual stones and pearls and promotes the recycling and re-using of a clients existing jewellery. Her designs are influenced by balance and strong curves, nature and life itself. Her skill and passion for craftsmanship and design has been recognised through national awards, and through invited inclusion in collaborative exhibitions and artistic groupworks. Dedicated to creating exceptional designs to be treasured forever – Helena insists that jewellery should never be left in a box.

www.helenamalone.ie 00353(87)6987988



EDYTA SZYMANSKA

Working mainly with clay, sculptress Edyta Szymanska creates both small figurative pieces and large scale art.

Her work is concerned with the human figure, interpreted through colour, texture and form, using the figure as the vehicle through which to express beauty, line and grace. Her medium is principally clay and, more recently, steel.

Born in Poland but living in Laois, Edyta started working in ceramics in 2002, when she opened a studio on completion of her studies in physiotherapy.

Edyta has a residency in the Malthouse in Stradbally, where she is combining ceramic and steel to create works which reflect her inner

world.

www.artsculpture.eu

MEET THE CRAFT MAKERS

**Abbeyleix Library
Friday, November 11, 11.30am**

Meet the Craft Makers is a unique opportunity to hear each of the four craft makers talk about their career, work, process and aesthetic. It allows you the public to engage on a personal level with the exhibitors and their work.

Facilitated by freelance arts and crafts consultant **Cornelia McCarthy**, Meet the Makers promises to be an insightful, engaging and educational morning.



ROGER BENNETT: WOOD TURNER

**Demonstration
Stradbally Library**

Saturday October 15, 12 noon

Admission Free but booking essential as places limited.

Booking on 05786 41673 (after 2pm)

Laois Year of Craft is delighted to invite the celebrated and renowned wood turner Roger Bennett back to his native

Laois to give a demonstration. Master

craftsman Roger is well-known in the Irish crafts world for his very distinctive coloured bowls and vessels. These are surprisingly thin, gracefully shaped, and dramatically inlaid with hundreds of silver dots arranged in constellation-like clusters or formal geometric patterns. He has also developed a complementary jewellery range – pendants, brooches, earrings, cufflinks. These are in the same idiom as his bowls, coloured wood inlaid with silver: they are wonderfully easy to wear, light and silkily sensuous.

Roger's work has featured in numerous exhibitions in Ireland, Britain, France and the USA.

www.rogerbennettwoodturner.com

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

**Laois County Council Offices
December 2-20th, 9am-5pm**

The Arts Office, Laois County Council will host an exhibition of art and craft work from artists and crafts people of Laois County Council to include current and retired staff and County Councillors. The exhibition will be officially launched by the Cathaoirleach of Laois County Council, Mr John Bonham MCC on Thursday 1st December at 4pm in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise.

YOUNG PERSON'S EXHIBITION

The Drawing Room, Dunamais Arts Centre

December 9-January 14 2012

In a special exhibition to mark National Year of Craft the young people of Laois have been industriously creating a colourful and varied body of craft works that will be on display in The Drawing Room, the new dedicated children's gallery in Dunamais Arts Centre. This exhibition includes a number of craft pieces selected from craft workshops undertaken in various

