

Dear Members

Your council hopes that many of you have enjoyed our outings so far this year and we have some treats in store for you later in the year also.

In the meantime we hope to see you at the Model Niland Gallery in Sligo on 7th May. I urge to book as soon as possible for what should be an unmissable occasion. Since sending out the original notice I have discovered that at 1pm on the 7th there will be a discussion about the Yeats paintings between the renowned artist Sean McSweeney and Sligo based writer and poet Dermot Healy and there is great demand for tickets so don't leave it too late.

Unfortunately, as you know, the Christmas outing was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. We hope therefore that many of you will make an effort to attend this year's A.G.M. on 31st May. Not only will you be updated on recent work of the CIAS but you will also be privileged to attend a lecture on "Perception" by Dr. Brenda Moore McCann. To finish off the evening we hope that you will all remain to get to know and socialise with your fellow members. In view of the current economic circumstances we have tried to keep costs down and we look forward to meeting you all at an occasion that we hope will be both pleasurable and affordable.

Mary Tuohy.

CIAS tour to Waterford City



Mary Tuohy presents the Graphic Studio's 'Sponsors Portfolio 2010' to Mr. Gordon Watson, Chairperson of the Waterford Healing Arts Trust.

CIAS members travelled South to Waterford last Summer. First stop was SOMA Contemporary Artbox for 'Everyone is an audience', a multi-media exhibition at this newly opened artist run venue. The exhibition curator facilitated a guided tour with many members becoming involved with the interactive elements of the show.

We then travelled to Waterford Regional Hospital, where we met with Mary Grehan, Arts Director of Waterford Healing Arts Trust (WHAT). The members first visited Hide and Seek 11, an exhibition of artworks by Margaret O'Brien Moran, responding to her experience of migraine. We also had a tour of the Hospital artwork collection.

Mary Tuohy, chairwoman of the CIAS presented the Graphic Studio's 'Sponsors Portfolio 2010' to the Waterford Healing Arts Trust. Mary said that the Society were delighted to present the works to an organisation that has recognised the importance of art in our lives and especially in the lives of those affected by illness. WHAT are a leading organisation in the development of art practice and health.

Next stop was the WHAT building and we were treated to a tour of the facility, including workshops, studios and gallery space. The CIAS trip to Waterford was all in all a fascinating and informative outing.

Tony Strickland

A note on some CIAS Events

KILKENNY ARTS FESTIVAL TRIP

In August, to coincide with the Kilkenny Arts Festival, over 20 society members headed down to the Marble City. The main event was a private visit to the studio of Francis Tansey, near Bennetsbridge, for what proved to be a memorable occasion. Firstly, the hospitality extended by Francis and his family was truly exceptional. Secondly the range of artworks on display in the studio had been 'curated' by Francis to show the progression of his aesthetic and compositions over the past three decades. Thirdly the event provided the society with the opportunity to purchase a significant work by Francis which is intended to be lent to D.I.T.

Above all, we were honoured to receive an



Desmond Finnegan and Dermott Barrett at Eamon Colman's Studio, Kilkenny.

illuminating talk by Francis which demonstrated his deeply considered approach to technique, materials, art history and the scientific fields of colour and cognition. This even included a practical demonstration of his method to manufacture his own paint (for increased intensity and durability) and his process to apply that to achieve the signature gradation of colour evidenced in much of his work.

Afterwards, the convoy travelled up hill and down dale to see the work of Eamon Coleman in his spectacular studio setting where the hospitality and art was most enjoyable and then travelled on to Kilkenny city to view the mixed-exhibition in the Blackbird Gallery. All in all, a **PURR**fect day in the land of The Cats!



Canice Hogan and artist Kathleen Delaney at the opening of 'Soul Shrouds' at the Berkeley Gallery, Kilkenny.

BRIAN O'DOHERTY/ PATRICK IRELAND AT IMMA

In November society members were treated to a personal tour of "Post-War American Art: The Novak / O'Doherty Collection" at IMMA. What made this a special treat was the fact that our 'tour guide' for the afternoon was our esteemed CIAS colleague and recent Council Member Brenda Moore McCann. Brenda is a renowned expert on the subject and her recent publication "Brian O'Doherty/Patrick Ireland: Between Categories" is available from Amazon and all good bookshops!!

The IMMA exhibition is a very personal one in that the artworks are the private collection of Brian O'Doherty and his wife, the art historian Barbara Novak. They gathered the works through contacts and friendships which they formed across the American art community from the 1960's onwards. As Brenda had worked closely with the couple in preparing her book, she was uniquely placed to describe this personal context and to add further enlightening nuggets about their relationships with particular artists and art movements.

IMMA was very fortunate to have received such a generous donation from Brian O'Doherty and Barbara Novak (how else would an Irish public gallery have been able to acquire such a wide range of quality works by Duchamp, Hopper, Rauschenberg, Christo, Lewitt etc.) and the CIAS members were very fortunate to have been guided around this exhibition with such expert insight.

Council member, Michael McMorrough



Francis Tansey demonstrating his art process for the CIAS members tour of his studio in Kilkenny.

On a sunny Sunday 27th March Des Finnegan, and Mary Tuohy of the CIAS council set forth to Roscrea College with the artist Marie-Louise Martin and her husband Marcus Casey.

The purpose of the visit was to present "Memento" an etching by Marie-Louise to the college.

We were received very graciously by the Abbot Dom Richard and the college president Marcelline Cody who were

PRESENTATION OF 'MEMENTO' TO ROSCREA COLLEGE

thrilled to be chosen as recipients of the work. We were given a tour of the college followed by lunch. It was heartening to see that the college already has the nucleus of an art collection which was displayed in the public places so that both staff and pupils were able to appreciate them.



Marcelline Cody, Mary Tuohy, Marcus Casey, Marie Louise Martin and the Abbot at Roscrea College

Visiting the residents and seeing how much the long term loan means gives a great sense of satisfaction about the work of the CIAS.

The council of the CIAS would like to invite any of our members to pass on any suggestions about possible institutions for loan donations of the society's artworks. We would be delighted to hear from you.



Mary Tuohy at 'the wheel' at the recent CIAS tour of Marie Louise Martin's studio.



Campbell Bruce and Jackie Stanley enjoy the studio tour.

Edward Murphy (Librarian) and Donna Romano (Administrator) of NIVAL (The National Irish Visual Arts Library) gave the society a very interesting lecture on the Library in the autumn of 2010.

NIVAL is situated in the National College of Art and Design. Its purpose is to document all aspects of 20th and 21st century Irish art and design and to make this available as a research facility for art and design practitioners, authors of books, scholars, lecturers and the general public.

The library consists of a huge wealth of material such as exhibition invitations and catalogues, newspaper cuttings and reviews of exhibitions, price lists, press releases and monographs among other

NIVAL LECTURE

things. Much of this information has been collected over the last thirty years and the library is still collecting information about current art activities.

There is a huge database on Irish galleries, museums, art centres and artists with over 3,500 artists born or based in Ireland in the database.

Perhaps the largest special collection in NIVAL is the entire archives of Early & Company (1864-1975), who produced sculpture, stained glass, metalwork and painted decoration, which were donated by the Early family.

NIVAL is a partnership initiative between the

National College of Art and Design and the Arts Council. It has also received funding from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Heritage Council.

This organisation should be of great interest to many of our members involved in the arts as collectors, artists, gallery owners, researchers or those with a general interest in the arts.

Edward Murphy and Donna Romano would welcome any ephemeral connected with the arts, which people may wish to dispose of or, indeed, they can make copies of items if people wish to retain the originals.

Adrienne Symes, Hon. Treasurer



Society members enjoying the sun at the Kilkenny Arts Festival



The "Three Catherines" at Eamon Colman's studio.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 7th May at 1 pm. Model Niland Gallery, Sligo.

Tour of the exhibition "Jack B. Yeats: The Outsider"?

Ruby Blue Talks: Jack B. Yeats at the Model Niland Gallery:

A conversation between friends on Jack B. Yeats's work; what sparks the 'creative process' and more – with writer, Dermot Healy and artist, Seán McSweeney.

Tuesday 31st May 2011 at 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting

At the United Arts Club, 3, Upr. Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2.

Followed by Robert F. Mooney Annual Memorial Lecture – Dr. Brenda Moore McCann will present lecture entitled, 'Perception'. A Buffet Supper will follow the Lecture.

Please book these events as soon as possible with Mary Tuohy, Tel. 086 8153031 or at marytuohy50@gmail.com.

CIAS Council 2010 - 2011

Mary Tuohy, Chairwoman

Desmond Finnegan, Vice Chairman

Adrienne Symes, Hon. Treasurer

Catherine Boland, Hon. Secretary

Olivier Cornet, Rossa Hurley, Michael McMorrough and Marcella Senior.

CIAS on Facebook!

Currently 1,523 people "Like" the Contemporary Irish Art Society "Fan Page". To join the CIAS ever-expanding fanbase on facebook, follow the link below or search for the Contemporary Irish Art Society in Facebook Pages and click "Like". Facebook followers can get involved by posting on the wall, commenting on other posts or going to the "Discussions" section and giving their input or starting a new topic. Current topics being discussed on the page include "How did you first hear about the Contemporary Irish Art Society?" and "Ideas & Suggestions". The FanPage Wall can be used by CIAS members and non-members to interact with each other, the CIAS and other arts organisations by replying to comments, posts and photographs. Members who have taken photographs at outings are encouraged to share them and their experiences.

Olivier Cornet, Council Member