

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND

WOMEN IN DESIGN

Conference
24th & 25th May 2019

#WomenInDesignNMI2019

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

Booking required at:
<http://bit.ly/WomenInDesign-NMI>

€15 / €10 concession

FRIDAY 24th MAY

9.30 – 10AM COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

10AM WELCOME

With Lynn Scarff, Director, National Museum of Ireland

10.10AM KEYNOTE LECTURE: 'FREESPACE'

Shelley McNamara, co-founder of Grafton Architects

Followed by Q&A Discussion

11AM COFFEE BREAK

11.30AM NEW PAPERS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Chair: Frances McDonald, Independent consultant & writer: design & contemporary craft

The Diversity of Women's Engagement with Modern Design

Kathleen James-Chakraborty, Professor of Art History, University College Dublin

Women Designers Shaping the Visual Identity of Contemporary Dublin

Renata Pekowska, Artist & Researcher

Soft Touch – Light Touch

Dr Helen McAllister, Head of Applied Materials, School of Fine Art, National College of Art & Design

Re-Designing Dreams: Home Dressmaking and the Pursuit of Affordable Fashion Design in Mid-Century Ulster c. 1930-1960

Rachel Sayers, Independent Curator & Researcher

12.30PM Q&A DISCUSSION

12.45PM LUNCH

There will be an opportunity for visiting exhibitions and an option to take gallery tours with National Museum of Ireland curators. Places on tours will be allocated on a first-come basis on arrival at Registration. Tours include:

Women in the Museum's collection of Contemporary Applied Arts with Dr Audrey Whitty, Head of Collections & Learning

Visit to the *What's in Store* Gallery focusing on recent acquisitions of metalwork made by women with Dr Edith Andrees, Curator of Metalwork, Numismatics and Scientific Instruments

2.20PM KEYNOTE LECTURE: "IN, OUT, SHAKE IT ALL ABOUT": WOMEN, MOMA AND THE DESIGN CANON

Dr Juliet Kinchin, Curator of Modern Design, Department of Architecture and Design, the Museum of Modern Art, New York

Followed by Q&A Discussion

3.10PM PANEL DISCUSSION: DESIGNERS IN PRACTICE

Chair: Dr Sorcha O'Brien, Senior Lecturer in Design History & Theory, Kingston University, London

Alison Lowry, Artist

Sasha Sykes, Functional Artist

Susan Zelouf, Design Partner and Co-founder of Zelouf and Bell

Tara Kennedy, Architect and Designer

4.20PM CLOSE

5PM WINE RECEPTION

SATURDAY 25th MAY

9.30 – 10AM COFFEE AND REGISTRATION

10AM WELCOME

Helen Beaumont, Education & Outreach Officer, National Museum of Ireland

10.10AM KEYNOTE LECTURE: NOT BLACK OR WHITE, JUST GRAY

Dr Jennifer Goff, Curator of the Eileen Gray Collection & Furniture National Museum of Ireland
Followed by Q&A Discussion

11AM COFFEE BREAK

11.30AM PANEL DISCUSSION: DESIGNING EXHIBITIONS

Chair: Dr Audrey Whitty, Head of Collections & Learning, National Museum of Ireland

Wendy Williams, Graphic Designer, Educator and Design Historian

Ann Scroope, Heritage re-interpretation consultant and founder of Scroope Design

12.15PM TALK: AT THE VANGUARD – THE WOMEN WHO LED IRISH FASHION IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY

Alex Ward, Curator of Clothes, Textiles & Jewellery, National Museum of Ireland
Followed by Q&A Discussion

12.45PM LUNCH

There will be an opportunity for visiting exhibitions and an option to take gallery tours with National Museum of Ireland guides. Places on tours will be allocated on a first-come basis on arrival at Registration.

2.15PM NEW PAPERS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

Chair: Muireann Charleton, Lecturer, Design, Enterprise & Development, Limerick School of Art & Design

'Women in Design' - A Supporting Role?'

Elaine McDevitt, Design Researcher

'Marion Mahony Griffin: Re-covering the Irishness within a trans-national identity'

Dr Sarah Sheridan and Dr Brian Ward, Irish Architecture Foundation, Dublin School of Architecture, TU Dublin

'You're The Best Girl-Designer in the Class': some thoughts on women designers within the historiography of Irish graphic design

Dr Linda King, Design Historian and Co-Programme Chair, BA (Hons) Visual Communication Design, Institute of Art, Design Technology, Dublin

3PM Q&A DISCUSSION

3.15PM PANEL DISCUSSION AND CLOSING WORDS

Kim Mackenzie-Doyle, Head of Marketing & Product, Voxgig and Founder of Why Design

Angela O'Kelly, Head of Design for Body and Environment, National College of Art & Design

Lynn Scarff, Director, National Museum of Ireland

4PM CLOSE

Please note programme may be subject to change.



One of a strip of tweed labels for the hand loomed Donegal Tweed woven by McNutt's for the Aer Lingus air hostess uniform designed by Neillih Mulcahy in 1962. Neillih Mulcahy Collection, DT:2007-58

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

MUIREANN CHARLETON studied design history at the National College of Art & Design completing an MA in Material Culture and was the Education & Innovation Manager for the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland. Muireann most recently produced *Unwrap*, a fashion festival for the Limerick School of Art & Design, which involved the production of a new fashion film, a partnership with EVA International and a Business Fashion Forum in Limerick city. She currently lectures in enterprise development and design history with the Limerick Institute of Technology. Muireann has previously published research on goldsmith Erwin Springbrunn (1939-2015) in *Iterations*.

DR JENNIFER GOFF is Curator of the Eileen Gray collection, furniture, and musical instruments collections with the National Museum of Ireland. She is a Fulbright Scholar 2016-17 where she completed a dual affiliation as a research scholar with Columbia University, New York and as the first Irish Fulbright scholar lecturing with the New York School of Interior Design. She has written and lectured extensively, both nationally and internationally on Eileen Gray, Irish design and architecture, and published *Eileen Gray her work and her world*. (Irish Academic Press, Dublin, 2015).

KATHLEEN JAMES-CHAKRABORTY is Professor of Art History at University College Dublin. She was previously a professor in the architecture department at the University of California, Berkeley and the Vincent Scully Visiting Professor of Architectural History at the Yale School of Architecture. Her publications include *German Architecture for a Mass Audience* (Routledge, 2000), *Architecture since 1400* (Minnesota, 2014), and *Modernism as Memory: Building Identity in the Federal Republic of Germany* (Minnesota, 2018) as well as the edited collections *Bauhaus Culture from Weimar to the Cold War* (Minnesota, 2006) and *India in Art in Ireland* (Routledge, 2016).

TARA KENNEDY graduated with a first class joint honours degree in Fine Art (Sculpture) and History of Irish Art and Design from the National College of Art and Design in 2005. In 2007 she was one of ten artists paired with an architectural practice in Northern Ireland to work collaboratively over a six-month period on the award-winning RSUA Two Minds project. She was awarded an honours BSc (Architecture 2010) and a Masters in Architecture (2013). At UCD she was awarded prizes for research, architectural technology, drawing and history of architecture. She is an architect with John McLaughlin Architects, awarded Best Emerging Practice in the RIAI Awards 2015.

DR JULIET KINCHIN joined the Museum of Modern Art, New York in 2008 where her exhibitions have included *How Should We Live? Propositions for the Modern Interior* (2016); *Designing Modern Women 1900-2000* (2013); *Century of the Child: Growing by Design 1900-2000* (2012); and *Counter Space: Design and the Modern Kitchen* (2010). Previously she worked in Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries, and London's Victoria & Albert Museum and has held faculty positions at the Glasgow School of Art, the Bard Graduate Center, New York, and the University of Glasgow, where she was the Founding Director of the postgraduate programme in Design History.

DR LINDA KING is a design historian, educator and consultant (and former graphic designer). Her research interests centre on Irish design with a particular focus on Irish graphic design - and she has published widely on these subjects. She is co-editor of *Ireland, Design and Visual Culture: Negotiating Modernity, 1922-92* (2011) and *Transdisciplinary Practice: Images, objects and discourse across creative contexts* (2017). She is co-programme chair of the BA (Hons.) Visual Communication Design at IADT, Dublin, sits on the Board of the National Museum of Ireland and also on the Editorial Board of the Canadian Journal of Irish Studies.

ALISON LOWRY is a glass artist working from her studio, Schoolhouse Glass in Northern Ireland. In 2009 she graduated from the University of Ulster with a degree in Art and Design. Since then she has won numerous awards, most recently the Bronze award at *Emerge*, an international glass prize for emerging artists. Her work is held in many public and private collections including the National

Museum of Ireland and her current solo show (*A dressing our Hidden Truths*) is on display at the National Museum in Collins Barracks in Dublin until May 2020

KIM MACKENZIE-DOYLE is an internationally recognised product designer, winning multiple worldwide design awards. She was the first female designer hired in Ireland's leading product design consultancy Design Partners. A former President and Director of the Institute of Designers Ireland, she also currently sits on the National Design Forum, a government-led initiative to drive Ireland's capability and reputation as a source of Design innovation. Currently, she is Head of Marketing & Product in the newly formed tech start-up Voxgig, building a community events platform. Kim has recently been awarded the Creative Industries Leader of the year award at the inaugural Irish Women's Awards 2019 for her work on two not-for-profit initiatives garnering international acclaim www.whydesign.ie & www.idimindovermatter.ie.

DR HELEN MCALLISTER is a practitioner who creates embroidered shoe-derived forms. Born in Northern Ireland; moved to Dublin for study and teaching at the National College of Art & Design. Her career has focused on lecturing in Education, Textiles Design and presently with Applied Materials. McAllister's work has featured in national and international exhibitions, and diverse contexts such as on an official An Post stamp as part of a series celebrating the Year of Craft and as part of *Art & Style* in Brown Thomas' windows. McAllister was the first winner of the prestigious Golden Fleece Award, one of the most important awards for Art and Applied Materials in Ireland.

FRANCES MCDONALD provides consultancy and support services for clients primarily within the contemporary craft and design sectors. Working with state agencies and academic institutions, galleries, design studios and practitioners, she has worked on numerous international exhibitions, conferences and events. In addition, she is part of the team of the Geneva based gallery, Taste Contemporary and has also written on contemporary craft for a number of publications. Frances has a Degree in Design Communications from Limerick School of Art & Design and an MA in Design History & Material Culture from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.

ELAINE MCDEVITT is currently researcher of Mapping Irish Design, a Creative Ireland funded project led by the 100 Archive. With extensive Design Industry knowledge, she was previously Managing Director of The Institute of Creative Advertising & Design (ICAD) and completed an MA in Design History and Material Culture in the National College of Art and Design in 2016. In 2016, she also co-edited issue 12 of the *Irish Institute of Creative Advertising & Design's* journal, *Campaign*, with Design Historian Mary-Ann Bolger which had last been published in 1963. In 2018, she was also published internationally in *Breastfeeding and Culture: Discourses and Representations*, Demeter Press.

SHELLEY MCNAMARA is a founding director of Grafton Architects, and has completed a number of complex award winning educational and cultural buildings around the Globe. These including the Università Luigi Bocconi, Milan, Italy, the Performing Arts Centre, Navan, Ireland and New University Campus UTEC, Lima, Peru. Along with Co-Founder Yvonne Farrell, Shelley is a fellow of the RIAI (Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland), RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), and the recipient of many significant national and international awards for architecture.

DR SORCHA O'BRIEN is Senior Lecturer in Design History & Theory in Kingston University London, where she has taught students of interior, furniture and product design, and art and design history. She is the author of *Powering the Nation: Images of the Shannon Scheme and Electricity in Ireland* (2017). She is funded by the Arts and Humanities Research



Necklace and bracelet of paper and silver by Angela O'Kelly DT:2006.32.1

Council for a multi-year Leadership Fellowship on the role played by domestic electrical products in Irish women's lives and homes in the wake of rural electrification, and the *Kitchen Power* exhibition will open in the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life in July 2019.

ANGELA O'KELLY is Head of Design for Body and Environment (Fashion, Textile & Surface Design, Jewellery & Objects) at NCAD. She holds a BA Hons in Design and Applied Art and an MA in Cultural Policy and Arts Management. She has an industry background working as a designer maker, curator and consultant in contemporary craft and design.

RENATA PEKOWSKA is a visual artist and researcher based in Dublin. She holds a degree in Craft Design and a postgraduate degree in Contemporary Art Theory and Critical Writing, both from NCAD Dublin. Her research interests cover a wide range of visual arts related topics, including light art, drawing practices, design history and traditional crafts.

RACHEL SAYERS is an early career dress historian, curator and museum professional currently living in the North of Ireland, after working for The National Trust for Scotland on *Project Reveal* - a Scotland-wide conservation and curatorial project. Rachel's area of research concentrates on the social, domestic and dress history of Ireland between 1900 to 1970 with particular emphasis on the inter-war and Second World War periods.

LYNN SCARFF was appointed as Director of the National Museum of Ireland in May 2018. In 2014, Lynn became Director of the Science Gallery Dublin, leading the organisation through a process of organisational change, strategic planning and development. Lynn is an advocate for the participative museum. Her research work focuses on non-formal learning settings and the opportunities presented by museums and cultural spaces to engage young people, with a particular focus on underrepresented audiences. Lynn serves on expert panels for a number of public engagement trusts and awarding bodies including the Wellcome Trust. She additionally serves on the board of the Rediscovery Centre in Ballymun.



Screen, of acrylic, mosses and lichen by Sasha Sykes
DF:2010.23

ANN SCROOPE offers a wealth of knowledge and experience in heritage interpretation with over 25 years spread across cultural, heritage and corporate tourism developments. She is a highly successful and industry-recognised figure, with a number of significant achievements collaborating on national and local interpretative projects. Her work has won over fifteen national and international awards in recognition for outstanding achievement in interpretation and design innovation from the Gulbenkian Foundation, the Heritage Council of Ireland, Interpret Britain and Ireland Foundation, Guinness, Dublin Corporation, Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the Institute of Designers of Ireland. She has written extensively on interpretative design.

DR SARAH SHERIDAN is a lecturer in the Dublin School of Architecture, TU Dublin. She is currently working on several publications and has contributed to many conferences nationally and internationally. Seeking to offer insights

into ecological concerns, her research explores fundamental themes of human health, well-being and education.

SASHA SYKES (b.1976) is an Irish artist who works with acrylics and resins to explore, manipulate, and challenge the material language of the natural world. Her architectural background infuses her work with a sense of rigour, and informs her strong approach to form and composition. Her pieces explore notions of history, functionality and usefulness in a 21st century context. Sasha works from a studio workshop in Rathmines where all her pieces are handmade. Her work is in numerous private and public collections around the world including the Office of Public Works and the National Museum of Ireland.

ALEX WARD is a curator in the Art and Industrial Division of the NMI and is responsible for a large and diverse collection of historic dress and textiles, which includes Irish laces and embroideries, costume accessories and jewellery. She has curated exhibitions about two key figures in Irish fashion history, Neillí Mulcahy and Ib Jorgensen, as well as an exhibition about the Museum's toy collection.

DR BRIAN WARD is a lecturer in the Dublin School of Architecture, TU Dublin. He has contributed to various publications on modern architecture and town planning in Ireland and is currently co-editing *Out of the Ordinary: Irish Housing Design 1955-1980* (2020). He is the chair of the All-Ireland Architecture Research Group. As part of a residency within the Irish Architecture Foundation Sarah and Brian are currently co-curating a programme of events and exhibitions entitled *Marion Mahony Griffin: Discuss*.

DR AUDREY WHITTY is Head of Collections and Learning, National Museum of Ireland (NMI) and is a member of the senior management team. From 2015-19 Dr Whitty was Keeper of the Art and Industrial Division (Decorative Arts, Design and History), NMI. During 2013 and 2014 she was Curator of European and Asian Glass at The Corning Museum of Glass, New York where she was responsible for an extensive collection in what is widely regarded as the greatest glass museum in the world. From 2001 to 2013, Dr Whitty was Curator of Ceramics, Glass and Asian collections, Art and Industrial Division, NMI.

WENDY WILLIAMS is a graphic designer specializing in the design of communication and interpretative graphics for museums. In that role she has spent many years making a show of everything from Neolithic axe heads to Eileen Gray's E1027 table. Wendy is also a design historian with a particular interest in print history. Recent exhibition research and curatorial projects include *The Maker's Hand: 50 years of the RDS Craft Awards* with Dr Anna Moran, and *Jacob's Biscuit Factory, Dublin: An Assorted History* at Dublin City Library and Archives.

SUSAN ZELOUF and Michael Bell's alliance may seem like a collision of cultures and characters. Instead, a kind of alchemy occurs, engendering extraordinary pieces grounded in practicality, a dialogue between art, history and design, an intensely personal new modernism and a distillation of what delights and moves them, informed by that which came before. Studio furniture makers Zelouf & Bell and their team of master craftsmen have been making museum-quality furniture in their workshop in rural Ireland since 1992. Their award-winning work is in private collections, public offices, embassy residences, churches and museums, at home and abroad.



Drum cabinet, of walnut, maple and silver, by Michael Bell and Susan Zelouf DF:2004.7

This conference is both a celebration and an exploration of Irish women working in Design. The conference aims to explore topics such as women designers in the Museum's collections, the significance of gender in design and whether it is important that designers are recognised and remembered as women.

Some of the themes explored include women designers in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland – the celebrated and well known and the not so well known, and the Irish women designers who may be forgotten, overlooked or overshadowed. Questions the conference aims to address include, would our designed environment be different if there were more women working in design; and how can more women be encouraged to work in Design in Ireland.

Conference organised by:
Education & Outreach Department and Dr Jennifer Goff, Curator of the Eileen Gray collection,
National Museum of Ireland – Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7
www.museum.ie

Design by Yvonne Doherty



Stencilling Letters & Numbers,
EG:2003.536, Eileen Gray Collection II

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