



PRESS RELEASE

28 November 2006

For immediate release

Craft NI's First Christmas Celebration at Cotton Court Open House

One year on from the launch of a regional development agency for craft in November 2005, Craft NI is celebrating its first Christmas. To mark the occasion, all those who have supported the organisation throughout its first year are invited to visit 'Cotton Court Christmas Open House' on Thursday, 30th November from 7-9pm.

The evening will give visitors a chance to view a selection of high-quality craft available to buy across Northern Ireland in the run up to Christmas. Pieces include jewellery, ceramics, textiles, wood and glass from some of Northern Ireland's foremost designer-makers with prices ranging from £50 to £1600. Visitors can also enjoy a seasonal treat thanks to the support of genesis, Northern Ireland's 'crafty' bakery.

Joe Kelly, Director of Craft NI says, "Since our launch last November, we have been working closely with craft networks and our partners in government, education and tourism to develop the contemporary crafts and applied arts sector in Northern Ireland. We are delighted to host a festive event in acknowledgment of the support of a wide range of audiences throughout the year".

Craft NI's event is taking place alongside the Belfast Print Workshop's Annual Christmas Exhibition Show which features a wide variety of original prints from Belfast Print Workshop's membership of over 60 artists. Upstairs at Vision studios, jewellery designers Orla Halvin and Catherine B will open their doors with bag and accessories on display from Jude and textiles from artist Rachel Hutchinson. This wide-ranging display of original art, craft and fashion means there's something to appeal to everyone's creative side and festive spirit.

The evening is also supported by Cotton Court's neighbours 2Taps, who will be providing drinks for visitors to the open house.

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Note:

Image 1: Ann McNulty, Isocheim – Hand thrown 'Raku' pot, on display at Craft NI