



Craft NI

PRESS RELEASE

November 2006

Designs on Christmas

If you are looking for something original and unique this Christmas, across Northern Ireland there's an exciting selection of work by designer-makers who are selling their work, exhibiting at galleries, selling at craft fairs and working to commission.

To give the creative shopper a taste of what's in store, Craft NI brings together a selection of craft at Cotton Court in Belfast's Cathedral Quarter. Pieces include jewellery, ceramics, textiles, wood and glass with prices ranging from £50 to £1600.

The selection features some of Northern Ireland's foremost designer-makers who are participating in a host of festive craft activities across Northern Ireland. These kick off next weekend with the first seasonal craft fair at Narrow Water Castle, Warrenpoint.

Jeweller, Garvan Traynor is just one of over forty selected makers who will be exhibiting at Narrow Water Castle Craft Fair, Warrenpoint from 10 to 12 November. Throughout the weekend, this grandiose location, overlooking Carlingford Lough, will be alive to a wealth of creative activities. Craft displays and demonstrations, music and festive foods create the classic seasonal experience.

In Derry, Fiona Kerr will be part of the Guildhall Craft Fair from 17 to 19 November. Now in its twelfth year, the craft fair is a valued part of the Historic Walled City events calendar. With exhibitors from all parts of Ireland, this year's Craft Fair combines a selection of contemporary and traditional craft products.

The following weekend sees *Flair* taking place at the Kings Hall Belfast from 24 to 19 November. Rachel Hutchinson's textiles and Ann McNulty's ceramics will feature at Flair alongside select work of jewellery, ceramics, wood, glass, metalwork, textiles, books and cutting edge design. This is the first time Flair will be hosted at the Kings Hall and it's the perfect boutique fair for shoppers to browse a diverse range of craft products from quality commissions in the Gallery area to emerging designer-makers in New Faces aisle.

The last Fair to pencil into your diary takes place the first weekend in December. The Belfast Christmas Fair at the Ulster Hall is a new show and venue for craft and the Hall will be filled with a variety of interesting products.

Craft fairs are not the only chance to see quality work, SpaceCRAFT, a new retail outlet that is dedicated to craft, opens each week from Thursday to Saturday until Christmas, showing Craft Collections at the Fountain Centre in Belfast. Stephen Mackey's distinctive bog-oak pieces and Beverly Walker's ceramics feature in the collections. Located in Belfast's city centre, SpaceCRAFT has a range of craft ideas with a gallery space of commissioned work for the discernible shopper and seasoned collector.

And if you want something exclusive, designer-makers like Cara Murphy and Karl Harron, who are currently displaying at Craft NI, work to private commission designing original one-off piece of craft from their studios.

With so much craft activity this Christmas, its worth taking a note of these dates for your diary:

- Narrow Water Castle Craft Fair, Warrenpoint, 10-12 November
- Guildhall Craft Fair, Derry, 17-19 November
- *Flair*, Kings Hall, Belfast, 24-26 November
- Craft Fair at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, 1-3 December
- Collections at Space Craft, Thurs-Sat, 13 November-23 December

Craft NI's showcase entitled 'Best to Buy' is at Cotton Court until 17th December 2006.

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For Press Enquiries please Emma on 028 90323059 | emma@craftni.org

Images

[02 Karl Harron with Glass Artefact piece, exhibiting at SpaceCRAFT](#)

[03 Fiona Kerr Jewellery, exhibiting at SpaceCRAFT, Narrow Water Castle Craft Fair and Crafts in the City Craft Fair, Guild Hall, Derry](#)

[04 Garvan Traynor, Multiple Series Brooches, exhibiting at SpaceCraft and Narrow Water Castle Craft Fair](#)

Notes to Editor

- Craft Northern Ireland is an independent, not-for-profit, company which has been set up to support and promote the crafts sector in Northern Ireland. It runs a number of support programmes for craft businesses including **Making It** and **Business Academy**. Craft Northern Ireland also disseminates news and opportunities, information on craft producers and signposts a range of training and business development schemes to the crafts sector. For more information on Craft Northern Ireland strategies and programmes, please visit www.craftni.org.
- Craft Northern Ireland is based at Cotton Court, Waring Street, Belfast.
- Craft Northern Ireland is an initiative of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure in collaboration with regional craft networks and other organisations including the University of Ulster (School of Art & Design), MAGNI (Museums and Art Galleries of Northern Ireland) and the Association of Northern Ireland Colleges.
- The crafts sector is a valuable part of Creative Industries in Northern Ireland. Creative and cultural activity is central to a knowledge-based economy that draws on indigenous talent and is characterised by rapid growth, and promote positive social inclusion.