



Craft NI

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Local Craftspeople Make Their Mark

A new exhibition of craft works by local makers at Enniskillen Castle this August

Date: Friday, 31 July 2009

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[STORY BEGINS] VISITORS to Enniskillen Castle Museum are in for a rare treat as a very special exhibition of local craft will be on display there throughout August.

The exhibition which features work by some of Fermanagh's most talented craftspeople is the first of its kind to take place at the Museum and features stunning new craft works including textiles, jewellery and ceramics.

As Sarah McHugh, curator of the exhibition explains,
"We're delighted that this exhibition displays work marks the first display of work that brings local craftspeople and the museum's historic collection together."

To create the display we've asked each maker to pick a specific object from the Museum's collection to act as inspiration.

Using their creative and technical skills, each maker has then transformed the historic objects through their own very modern and contemporary interpretations" says Sarah.

"The stunning works that have been produced shows just how successful the project has been."

The exhibition helps to showcase our craft tradition and heritage, but it also gives us a chance to celebrate the work of the new craft talent that's based here in the County".

"The exhibition is an exciting opportunity for visitors to Enniskillen to experience the richness and diversity of Fermanagh crafts both past and present",

One of the makers whose work will be on display is Enniskillen-based potter Ann McNulty. Ann's ceramic workshop is based in the Buttermarket Craft Village in Enniskillen.

Her work ranges from small tableware pieces to large square pots measuring over one metre in height that are created using a specialised technique called Raku firing.

“Raku is a difficult technique to master and involves lots of experimenting to get it right but the beautiful colours and patterns that can be produced on the clay using Raku makes it is well worth the effort”, explains Ann.

Ann will be demonstrating her techniques at a special day planned at the Castle for the 29 of August when visitors will have a unique opportunity discover more about the craft skills and techniques of local makers.

Through special craft demonstrations, visitors can also experience first-hand these techniques of pottery firing, jewellery making and weaving.

The exhibition is a part of the August Craft Month 09, a programme of over 40 craft events and activities that celebrates craft in Northern Ireland and invites people to get involved in the heritage, tradition and innovation that craft in Northern Ireland has to offer.

For more information on the Celebrating Contemporary Craft in Fermanagh exhibition and how you can get involved in the craft demonstrations, contact the Museum directly on 028 66 325000, by email castle@fermanagh.gov.uk or visit www.enniskillencastle.co.uk

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Images [see attached]

Editor's notes:

- Celebrating Contemporary Craft in Fermanagh features participating craftspeople: ceramicist Ann McNulty, jeweller Angela Kelly, textile artists Alison Britton and Louise Hardman, Dara Hand and Amanda May, as well as up and coming new ceramic and textile graduates.
- A 'meet the maker' day will take place from 2.30 - 4.30pm, Saturday 29 August 09.
- The curator and participating craftspeople are available for interview. To arrange an interview with Sarah McHugh, Ann McNulty or other craftspeople please contact Emma Duggan t: +44 (0) 28 9032 3059, m: +44 (0)7708 178667, emma@craftni.org
- August Craft Month 09 is Northern Ireland's annual celebration of craft. A copy of the listings guide to August Craft Month 09 is available to download here or by visiting Craft NI's website, www.craftnidirectory.org.
- This year, the 3rd year of August Craft Month, the focus is on ceramics and there are 5 major ceramics exhibitions and a full programme of over 40 events across Northern Ireland.