

## Currachs chart a course for Electric Picnic

It is probably the first time that currachs have been launched in the Midlands and the Electric Picnic is the most fitting place for their maiden voyage. Prepare to be amazed and astounded by *Cruth Curach*, a crafted architectural feat that has to be seen to be believed.

These are no ordinary currachs; they have been designed and specially hand crafted by architects Bucholz Mc Evoy and Jim Horgan of the Galway School of Boat Building. The five land locked currachs come together to form an intriguing temporary pavilion at Electric Picnic 2011.

It was all hands on deck today as engineers, architects and boat builders arrived in Stradbally to erect the pavilion in the Global Green. *Cruth Curach* is not only unique because it is constructed using currachs, it also rotates, pivots and moves on horizontal and vertical axes. By day it will be a stunning venue and by night a closed sculptural form which will glow in the dark to help you to navigate your way through the festival site.

Over the weekend, Electric Picnic goers can visit to be wowed by the space or attend the many events scheduled. The exciting line-up includes something for everyone:

**Are you fashion festival fit?** Then the event with Irish fashion designers Joanne Hynes and Úna Burke in conversation with stylist and *Off the Rails* presenter Sonya Lennon is for you. Joanne Hynes collections at London Fashion Week are worn by Nicola Roberts, PJ Harvey, Claire Maguire, Daphne Guinness and have been photographed by Mario Testino for *Vogue* and Nick Knight, while Úna Burke's unique leather artifacts are highly sought after by international style icons Lady Gaga, Christina Aguilera and Rihanna.

**Interested in guerilla tactics?** Get involved in the yarn bombing extravaganza. Deirdre Harte will fix you up with giant knitting needles so you can become part of the team to wage woolly warfare throughout the festival.

**Are you into wellie stomping action?** Mick Minogue's live DJ set with monsters and mayhem will get you going or Pipe Up for a Sunday morning wake up call with Na Píobiarí Uilleann.

These are only some of the delights to be experienced. Surprise guests and last minute additions to the schedule are expected over the weekend. For the very latest event details visit: [www.electricpicnic.ie/craftitecture12](http://www.electricpicnic.ie/craftitecture12)

Louise Allen, Education and Innovation Manager with the Crafts Council of Ireland, said today “We are very excited about the pavilion which is a radically different departure representing a fusion of architecture and craft. After months of planning and a lot of hard work, it is great to see the pavilion erected here today. Cruth Curach will provide a unique and engaging space at Electric Picnic and will contribute to the overall energy of this year’s festival.”

Irish Architecture Foundation director, Nathalie Weadick, said “The pavilion illustrates the very essence of craftitecture; to experiment with materials and ideas, to fuse architecture and craft, and to create an innovative and inspiring space that reflects the best of both worlds.”

*Cruth Curach* was the winning design in the “Craftitecture” competition organised by the Crafts Council of Ireland and the Irish Architecture Foundation, in association with the Electric Picnic, Greencrafts and Cultivate. It was specially commissioned to celebrate and highlight the Year of Craft 2011.

Those not lucky enough to be attending Electric Picnic will have an opportunity to experience *Cruth Curach* when it is installed in Merrion Square, Dublin as part of Open House, 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

For full details on the programme of events at the Craftitecture pavilion go to:

<http://electricpicnic.ie/craftitecture12>

<http://www.craftinireland.com/>

<http://www.architecturefoundation.ie/openhouse/>

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About Year of Craft 2011:

This year the Crafts Council of Ireland and Craft Northern Ireland have designated 2011 as the Year of Craft. The year marks the 40th anniversary of the Crafts Council of Ireland and is being celebrated through a diverse range of dynamic events and programmes to showcase the very best of craft made on the island of Ireland. For further details, visit [www.craftinireland.com](http://www.craftinireland.com).

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