

## **Trend-setting Future Makers to exhibit at the CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery, Cork**

Work by the recipients of the Crafts Council of Ireland's Future Makers 2011 Awards and Grants will be showcased at an exhibition which opens on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October** at the CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery in Cork. The exhibition runs until **4<sup>th</sup> November** and is being hosted in partnership with CIT Crawford College of Art and Design as part of Year of Craft 2011 activities.

The Future Makers exhibition will showcase work by over twenty of Ireland's up and coming craftspeople who are already forging careers with their cool and trend-setting craft products. The cutting edge designs featured in the exhibition include everything from furniture and tableware to fashion and jewellery and many have been exhibited at Top Drawer and New Designers in London, following the announcement of the Future Makers Awards and Grants in April this year.

**Claire-Anne O'Brien**, a recent graduate of the Royal College of Art, London College scooped the overall award worth €5,000 which recognises and rewards excellence in emerging practitioners and promotes their work at a critical stage in their career. Claire-Anne received the award for her knotted upholstered stools that use traditional knitting techniques with contemporary design in a way that should be celebrated and encouraged. The award has enabled her to purchase an industrial knitting machine, without which it would be almost impossible to reproduce and develop her new collection of stools into poufs, cushions and chairs, a number of which will be on show at the exhibition in CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery.

Other Future Makers exhibiting include **Muireann Walshe** who received the overall Student Award of €2,500 for her unique interpretation of The Tara Brooch, which she hopes will lead to the reproduction of this iconic Irish symbol and reinvigorate the public's passion for Irish craft and heritage. And **Theresa Burger**, who received a special award of €1,300 by impressing the judges with her design skills and her desire to challenge and expand her work through the exploration of new technologies to develop a range of contemporary jewellery.

Commenting on the upcoming Future Makers Exhibition Louise Allen Education and Innovation Manager with the Crafts Council of Ireland said, "We are delighted to be working closely with the Crawford College of Art and Design at CIT who are hosting the exhibition at the Wandersford Quay Gallery. It is so important to highlight the level of innovation and incredible quality of craft being produced by students and recent graduates in Ireland today. It is vital that upcoming students get the opportunity to discuss and see the work of their peers in a professional context as it provides insight and inspiration for future generation of Irish Craftspeople."

Orla Flynn Head of Art and Design at the College noted "there have been a number of events held at the venue during 2011 to mark Ireland's Year of Craft. 2011 also saw the launch of the College's new Level 8 BA in Applied Art (Ceramics), which had its first intake in September. We see an excellent future for graduates of this programme, given the wide international recognition now being won by Ireland's makers across a range of disciplines."

The Future Makers Exhibition opens at 6pm on 14<sup>th</sup> October and runs to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November. As part of the exhibition the Crafts Council of Ireland and Crawford College of Art and Design will host a **'Life in the Craft Lane' Seminar on Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November**

which will highlight the career paths of past and current recipients of Future Makers Awards and Grants.

**-ENDS-**

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**About Future Makers**

Future Makers was launched by the Crafts Council of Ireland in 2009 to support the development of the next generation of craft students and recent graduates. The awards and grants, which have a value of over €30,000 will support those currently studying or practicing craft and represent the Crafts Council of Ireland's commitment to supporting those who wish to pursue craft as a career. Through this series of awards and grants, the Crafts Council of Ireland recognises innovation and craftsmanship amongst talented young Irish makers and aims to promote working in craft as an exciting, sustainable and lucrative career choice.

In January 2010 a dedicated website [www.futuremakers.ie](http://www.futuremakers.ie) was launched to promote and provide easy access to information about the grants and awards as well as ongoing information about upcoming opportunities such as seminars, conferences, master-classes, residencies, other funding opportunities and exhibitions. The site is linked to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and blip.tv, providing multiple platforms for the Crafts Council of Ireland to communicate with craftspeople nationally and internationally.

Further details available from:

[www.futuremakers.ie](http://www.futuremakers.ie)

[www.craftinireland.com](http://www.craftinireland.com)

<http://ccad-research.org/gallery/>

