
Bray Arts Journal

Issue 5

January 2007

Volume 12



EDITORIAL

INSULTING TOSH

Welcome to 2007. We are halfway through the 2006/2007 season of Bray Arts Evenings and this is the 5th Journal of Volume 12. The first four Arts Evenings from Sept to Dec 2006 have been very successful and the really encouraging aspect of this is the number of new regulars who have discovered the incredible wealth of talent that has made the Bray Arts Evenings a permanent fixture in their diaries. A special thanks must go to Zan O'Loughlin the chairperson of Bray Arts for her enthusiasm and commitment and her equally enthusiastic committee and various others who help on a regular basis.

It is no harm in reminding people that Bray Arts is run on a totally voluntary basis. Each season we run at least ten Arts Evenings and produce ten Bray Arts Journals. We would like to thank Bray Town Council and Wicklow Council who between them fund around 30% of the running costs of Bray Arts. The remainder we raise through our admission fee of 5 Euros (4 concession) for our Arts Evenings.

The reason I stress the voluntary nature of Bray Arts is because during 2006 we heard some senior (very senior) politician/s saying that Irish people are not volunteering as much as they used to and that they are more self absorbed etc etc. What a load of insulting tosh. There is an incredible amount of voluntary activity in all areas of community life in Bray and everywhere else in the country. I don't want to get specifically political about this but it makes me furious to hear extremely well paid politicians spouting off about the deficit in voluntary activity. If volunteers decided to "down tools" as it were then the essential fabric of society that keeps us half-civilised would disintegrate overnight.

People need to be encouraged and supported to engage in voluntary activity in any small way that they can, not insulted by greedy dim-wit politicians or institutionalised bureaucrats of the establishment. Don't get me started!

By the way, we always welcome opinions, letters or essays on anything associated directly or indirectly with the arts.

Front Cover : Africa : Digital Image designed by Tom Conroy

MERMAID

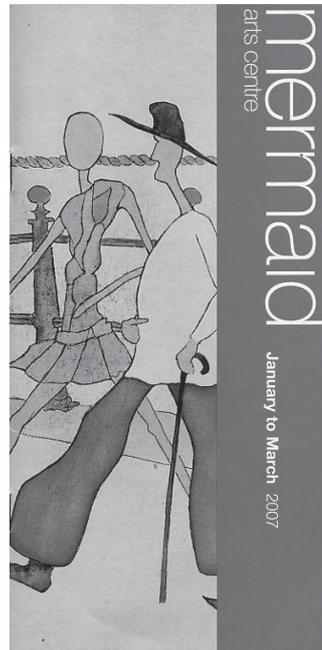
BRILLIANT PROGRAMME FOR 1ST QUARTER

Drop in to Mermaid Theatre and get a copy of their programme for the first quarter of 2007. There really is a wonderful schedule of events in Music, Comedy, Theatre and Film. You cannot be but impressed by the range and calibre of entertainment lined up by Maureen Kennelly and her team.



KILA

In music we have the likes of *Kila* (6th Jan), *Bray Vista* (13th Jan), *The Three Tenors* (3rd Feb) and *Mary Coughlan* (16th Feb) to name but a few. In theatre we have Billy Roche's *Tales From Rainwater Pond* (2nd Feb), Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* (7th to 9th Mar) and the hugely successful *The Tailor and Ansty* (29th to 31st Mar).



In dance we have the Wales National Dance Company in a spectacular show called *Exposure* (9th Feb). CoisCeim Dance Theatre presents us with *Out of Harm's Way* (20th Feb) and Rionach Ni Neill gives us her world premier of *How Did We Get Here* (15th Feb).

Children are well catered for with storytelling, theatre, art workshops, teenage dance workshop and a new project *Shakespeare in Rehearsal* (12th Mar) aimed at leaving cert. students.

Great to see local arts so well represented. There is of course the hugely popular

Bray One Act Festival (23rd to 27th Jan), Sheevaun Musical Group Theatre's *OZ!* (22nd to 24th Feb). BIFE present the *Three*



Penny Opera (27th to 2nd Mar), Colaiste Craobh Abhann present *Joseph* (14th to 16th Mar) and St. Brendan's and St. Laurence's School give us their version of *Fiddler on the Roof* (20th to 23rd Mar).

While you wait for a show to begin, or after a pleasant meal or coffee in the **Betelnut** (yes it is open as usual, despite the temporary barriers) you can always visit the gallery. Gavin Hogg's exhibition *The City and the Shadow Light* will continue up to the 20th Jan, followed by Dominic Turner's photographic work (8th Feb -10th Mar). Kate Walsh and Jennifer Cunningham will present their individual visions of childhood in a joint show (16th Mar -14th April)

Signal Arts

Meeting Europe

Wed 3rd Jan to Sun 14th Jan.

Wednesday 3rd January to Sunday 14th January 2007.

This is a very eclectic exhibition by five talented Italian artists from Bologna. **Roberto Lacnentra** has been involved in many solo and collective exhibitions in Bologna and Milan. **Anno Henke** has been in several exhibitions in Italy and Germany. **Stefano Tamurrini** participated in collective and summer events in Bologna City Council. **Stefania D'fgnazio** received an award in graphic art anct-paiRtmg from The Ballyfermot College of Further Education -Dublin. **Patrizio Donati** has a Degree in Photography and has been involved in many solo and collective exhibitions in



Naples, Rome and Bologna.

Opening Reception: Thursday 4th January 2007.

Horizons

Barry Foley and Emma Sweeney

Tue 30th Jan to Sun 11th Feb 2007

Barry Foley, a landscape photographer, is a native of Tipperary Town. Barry completed a Degree in Fine Art at the Crawford College of Art and Design, Cork, and is currently attending an M.A. in Virtual Realities at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin.



Emma Sweeney, an abstract landscape painter, is a native of County Wicklow. Emma also completed a Degree and Post Graduate in Fine Art at the Crawford College of Art and Design, Cork. Emma says "Cloud movement, shapes of light, the whirling wind and breaking waves of the Irishj west coast. Senses



overpowered. my work tries to convey a brief moment of this ever-changing and often unpredictable landscape. Barry is inspired by the awe-inspiring epic scenes that our landscape produces.

HORIZON is a unique body of work that portrays the landscape in two different mediums yet captures its beauty from the epic to the subtle.

Opening Reception: Friday 2nd February 2007

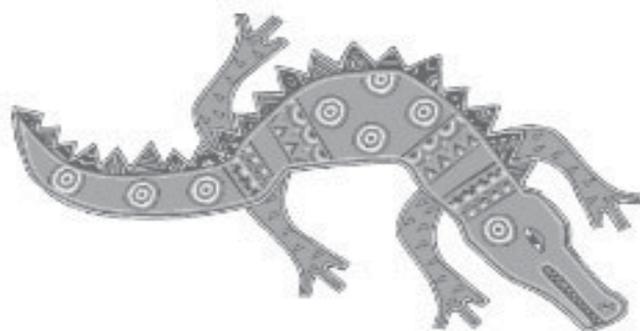
PREVIEW OF ARTS EVENING ON JAN 8TH

Heather House, Strand Road (opposite bandstand)

Doors Open 8:00pm - Performances 8:30

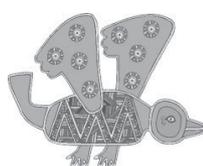
Admission 5 Euro / 4 Euro concession

Everyone is welcome



This first Arts Evening of 2007 is a very special one. The theme is **Africa**. The line-up for the evening is :-

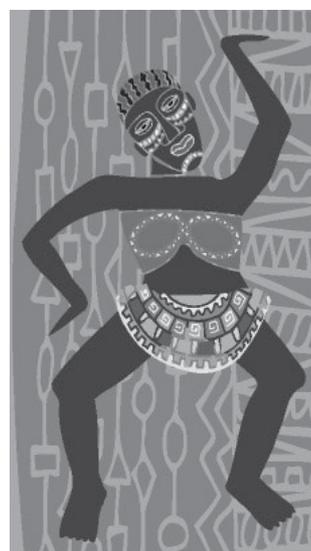
Eithne Griffin artist and designer who will present a series of photographs from her twelve years travel in South Africa. Her photographs are of Naledi village near Fritberg on the northern border of Losotho which now has a new school that was built in 1999 with the help of funds raised by the Bray School Project and the people of Bray. Eithne will also show scenes of the local Sangomas who live in cave homes in the mountains. She will decorate the function room with hangings of African print designs.



Faith Wilson an Ecologist will present a wide variety of wonderful images from her visit to South Africa showing some of the wild birds and mammals that she encountered whilst on her travels.

Gabriel Akujobi a singer and actor with some friends will perform a one-act drama called **HOME**. It will include African music and song.

Guest artists from Bray and Africa.



Brother

by Gavin McCabe

We sat in the stuffed chairs,
Sitting room full of piss and primrose.
The Sacred Heart there, above the telly
Gloating down on the two of us
Almost babes, we

Sipping and slurping
Plotting how best to plant bread crusts
In old, woolen hood of Kathleen.
The giggling we did
And him now with Brooklyn and Art
Twenty years on.

Leviticus Field

by Maurice Keady

Seyton do not look at me
with such sparkling eyes of love
and trashing tail of praise.
I am not your God
nor of myself.
This moon is casting shadows,
in our darkened room.
The sycamore has shed its leaves
and naked with awkward branches
is weaving dusk in silhouette.
It is almost night again.
Seyton how you wonder at the fire
that flickers in my ruby glass
I will always love the dark
It floods around me
wrapping my face in stillness
smoothing over my tired head
willing me again to rest
calming the passions of the day
with cleansing dark clouds of night
to make conclusion.
I am tired of gothic things
Seyton, how did it come to this?
Was it not the golden book
that with ancient tracts of high command
in coloured words bound tight the mind -
shut down the nature road,
who twisted childhood
as sure as if a hand
was forced across my mouth.
That in such deliberate tone had said

'thou shalt not love !'
Someone is talking in the street.
Seyton stop this barking!
Do not give to strangers passion.
Passion.. .at night I dream of him:
The tattooed man is laughing
and asking me to dance.
But I have chosen gin.
I could not be the white crow
Go outside the world.
open some sealed place
to be forever cursed
It was not time
Seyton why do I speak to you ?
You are almost fast asleep

with diplomatic ear aloft
Why do I rage at seas
that each day run in on all resistance ?
I have reached beyond the telling point.
Fifty-eight, a respectable age.
One could finish here and not astonish.
Most complete if not accomplished
The wine is gone, lets go to sleep,
and begin again tomorrow.

Escape

by AODH

White sheets and pillow cases
dry sweetly in the breeze
washerwomen, washing done
sit back and take their ease
soapsuds foam the rocks
slow swirling out to faster water
where a girl is chasing socks
slip splashing through their laughter
on a day when Summer sunshine streams
warm light into their lives
as they sit and laugh and sing the dreams
of unloved matchmade wives
and for this time they find themselves
fanciful and free
young women feeling young again
happy just to be.

Homobot: A View of the Human Race

by Deirdre Kelleghan
 President
 Irish Astronomical Society

I often think that human beings do not belong on this planet. Earth is 70% water and of the 30% we have left to live on, only a fraction of that is inhabited by people. Animals, including other mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and



insects do not need us. This planet probably does not need us.

Homo sapiens, heaps concrete, tar, roads, buildings, dams, cars, planes, cables, toxins, an endless list of things all over the planet. Everything we make is from material found in this planet, but everything we make is not necessarily good for it, just presumably good for people.

Global catastrophic events like tsunamis and major earthquakes suddenly wake people up to the fact that we live on a groaning, living, evolving, unstable sphere.

In our solar system there are only two planets that have the potential to support human life, Mars and Earth. The other planets are too far from the sun and therefore too cold, or too near to the sun and therefore too hot. Why are we here? Perhaps because we have in the past exhausted Mars, or some other home. Destroyed its atmosphere and left while we still could, to arrive on this pale blue dot, and begin again.

If we came from further out in the Universe the original landers would have no first hand knowledge of their home planet as they would be perhaps third or fourth generation space travellers, born on the journey. A vague myth might have survived after they successfully adapted to earth, about powerful beings from the heavens. Myths like the Garden of Eden or the cross cultural myths which are still today portrayed on the faces of tribal people in South America. Star formations clearly displayed on their body paint, patterns handed down for centuries.

The Loughcrew Cairns in Co Meath have celestial stone carvings pre dating the Egyptian pyramids and pre dating the written word, echo's of a past long gone but primal and not forgotten.

The development of the human race is onward and innovative, and is getting faster and technology is now

being introduced into our bodies. Artificial hips, knees and limbs are commonplace. Organ transplants and implants are almost routine. High tech bio implants like those that control Parkinson's disease by electro stimulation of the brain are wonderful advances, optical advances and other sensory devices are undergoing an incredible revolution.

I was always struck by the similarity of light spectra and DNA profiles, the individual lines of light spectra indicating the elements that are within, coded signatures of what an object is. Human genetic DNA is also a coded identity signature of who we are. Everything exists because of light; visible and invisible light there is something very deep about light, mass, speed and patterns that is fundamental to understanding the human race and the universe.

Similarities in nature, like leaves having veins with sap, humans having veins with blood, both living entities, both so different. I wonder if we are programmed never to understand ourselves completely no matter how hard we try. Humans are always moving on, never still, seeking understanding of everything and control of every system in nature.

Today the development of Robots has reached a new echelon according to New Scientist Artificial Intelligence; Darwin X is the most sophisticated robot to date. Each of four of these robots learned to recognise the same object using different sets of neurons to do so. "In this respect the robots mind is a faithful approximation to a living brain." So are we the ultimate robot building our replacement, replicating ourselves in a hermaphrodite way. For what purpose do we want to create ourselves perfect? something that God was supposed to have done. Are we becoming the creator? Was there ever a God?

Are we evolving the next homobot, to leave this Blue Dot and move out of this system for another Eden?

Mars by the way has a rotation of twenty four hours and forty minutes. Mars has four seasons and a similarly tilted axis. People in general like that extra forty minutes in bed in the morning if they can get it. Perhaps an active indication of a Martian body clock, from our long but perhaps not forgotten past.

ONE OF THE CAIRN STONES AT LOGH CREW



REVIEW OF DECEMBER ARTS EVENING

THE DANCE OF LIFE

Raindrops pattering on the glass roof,

Candlelight flickering,

Shadows gyrating on the wall.

Christmas lights swaying with unpredictable rhythm in the wind.

Tinkle of glass, hum of conversation,

Guitar notes ricocheting off the walls, now fast, now slow,

Music from the saxophone sashaying seductively round the room.

Bodies swaying,

Feet tapping,

All blending together in one great kaleidoscope of movement,

Simultaneously and variously

Dancing the dance of life.

N.D. Griffith

Thanks to N. D. Griffith for the above poem which captures beautifully the atmosphere of the December Arts Evening. It is a complement to everyone involved in the evening that it inspired such a response.

The evening started off with a group of talented young entertainers from the Gladys Sheehan school of Drama and



Gladys Sheehan's School of Drama and Music

Music. There was none of the brash, pop-style singing from

these youngsters; they delivered their Christmas songs in a simple and sweet fashion that invoked perfectly the real meaning of Christmas. They were a credit to themselves and to Gladys Sheehan. They captivated the audience and set the tone for the wonderful evening that was to follow.

Carmen Cullen read one of her short stories called *'In the Eye of the Beholder'*



Carmen Cullen

It was a simple story about a woman, false teeth and a man. Though it sounds rather slight and ordinary, like all great stories, it had a very profound message, and that message was about true beauty. Carmen seemed to capture something of the essential spirit of Christmas, judging by the very attentive and appreciative audience..

Despite the protests of the MC Mary Forde the Old Codgers Ned and Patsy settled themselves in for a bit of a chat and a few small ones. The topics ranged from niagra tablets to hammeroids, dried eggs and orgasmic vegetables. The Old Codgers are Frank O'Keefe and Justin Aylmer who perform and write the hilarious script and as I said the last time they appeared in Bray Arts, they'll be back.



The Old Codgers
Frank O'Keefe and Justin Aylmer

After a short break the music started. This was a very special



night for Bray Arts with two very talented local musicians who are making an impact on the national and international music scene. First on was Redmond O'Toole. Redmond has always been generous with his time and talent and has played many times for Bray Arts. There was some magic in the air on this particular night; his playing was superb and everyone there could sense they were listening to something

really special. To finish off his set Redmond invited Alex Mathias to play a duet with him. One might think that an acoustic guitar and a saxophone might not work but in fact it sounded marvelous and it was a pleasure to hear these two exceptional talents play together. We have said it many times

NITELIFE

By Willie Mooney



Alex Mathias and Redmond O'Toole

before and we repeat it now; the depth of talent in Bray and surrounding areas is extraordinary.

After finishing his set Redmond left the stage to Alex Mathias who was then joined by Johnny Dillon. Johnny was playing



Alex and Johnny Dillon

an electric guitar with a bewildering number of foot operated percussion and special effects modules. Alex and Johnny played us out with some high energy music and compositions



by Johnny ending a fantastic night of entertainment. A special thanks to Signal Arts and Pat Burns for decorating the room and creating a beautiful Christmas atmosphere. Mary Forde was the MC for the evening and needless to say she carried it off with her usual charm and efficiency.

The Punters queued at the entrance to 'Shakers' Nightclub, inside George was doing a final check before the doors opened. George had a glamorous job as far as the public were concerned, but all that glittered was far from gold. The title Nightclub Manager, was just a glorified name for a bat at night whilst his partner tossed and turned in an empty bed, dying of loneliness.

George checked the stocks on the three themed bars all designed to extract tons of euros from the half pissed punters. Finally, he checked the exterior security camera, guys on the pull shifted nervously, the girls half froze to death in their micro-minis, all in the name of fashion.

Jonjo was a big burly brute of a bouncer with a well lived in face. He smiled inanely when he was referred to as an attitude adjuster.

The doors opened and the punters piled in, George took the admission tickets and got an eyeful of the talent, a cute, scantily clad blonde, caught his eye. He could not resist the urge to look as she disappeared inside the disco door. Jonjo laughed aloud, "Put your eyes back into your head,



what good will looking do? You don't go into the whorehouse to play the piano!" Laughter filled the foyer.

Later on in the night George stood at the top of the stairs and surveyed the dance floor, he chuckled to himself, men and women constantly wanting to be entertained but where would you ever see a cow standing on its hind legs entertaining a group of other cows! 'Anthems of Ibiza' blasted over the P.A. system, the smell of cheap perfume and sweat wafted through the air.

George kept his gaze on the dance floor, this was a flash point where all hell could break loose but the cute looking blonde in the micro-mini caught his attention once again, he smiled. These woman gave sex in the hope of love and the men gave sex in the name of love! This was entertainment, pulsating music, flashing neon lights, loose morals and fast-clicking tax free cash registers for the faceless money-grabbing properties!



On Dec 3rd **Will Slattery** and **Colum Jordan** performed in Whelans Of Wexford St. supporting **Fionn Regan**. Will (vocals and guitar) and Colum (double bass and backing vocals) got together in the

Summer of 2006, have been steadily gigging since and expect to launch a CD very shortly. Maybe we can entice them to play for Bray Arts? They are on www.myspace.com for those of you who surf the net. They are original and sound great.

Submission Guidelines

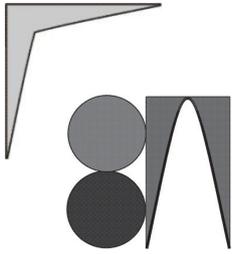
Editor : Dermot McCabe : bacj@eircom.net
Creative Writing Prose/Fiction Editor : Anne Fitzgerald : afitzgerald3@ireland.com
Poetry Editor : Eugene Hearne : poetrybray@yahoo.ie

Email submissions to any of the above or post typed submissions to

The Editor BAJ 'Casino',
Killarney Rd. Bray,
Co. Wicklow

Visual material: Photographs by Post. Digital Images by Email or CD in JPEG format.

Deadline 15th of each month.



Bray Arts evening Mon 8th Jan 2007 Heather House Hotel Seafront : Doors open 8:00pm
Everyone welcome Adm : 5 Euro / 4 Euro Concession

The theme is **Africa** with

Eithne Griffin - Artist and Designer showing her photographs from her 12 years travels in South Africa.

Faith Wilson - Ecologist presenting images of wild birds and animals from her travels in Africa.

Gabriel Akujobi - singer and actor performing a one-act drama called **Home** and

Guest Artists from Bray and Africa

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