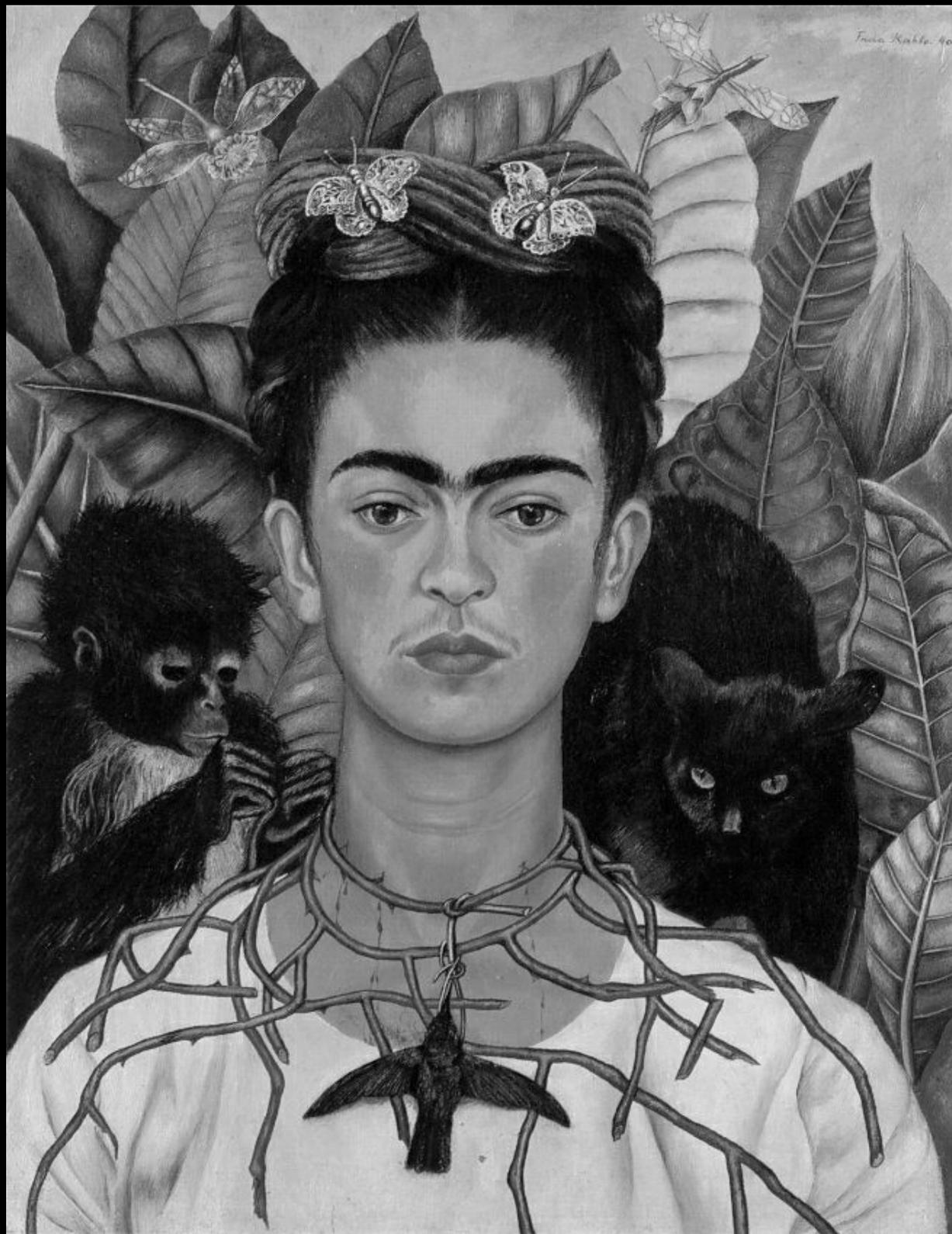

Bray Arts Journal

Issue 9

May 2011

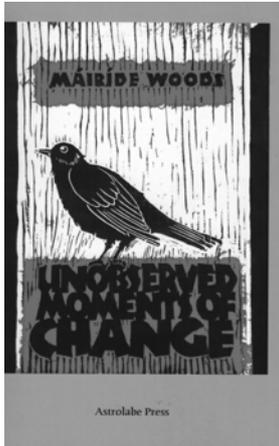
Volume 16



Preview of Bray Arts Evening
8:00 pm Monday May 9th 2011
Upstairs at The Martello, Seafront, Bray
Everyone is welcome Adm. €5 / €4 conc

Poetry

Mairide Woods was born in Dublin and grew up in Cushendall, Co. Antrim. She will read from her latest collection, 'Unobserved Moments of Time'



In one poem 'Long and Lost', the lines

*Your ghost stares at me, disremembering
the full moon of our lives; how is it possible
to forget so much?*

expresses exquisitely that deep, almost intangible, sense of loss and passing that flows like a hidden river inside us. You can read some of Mairide's beautiful poetry from her latest collection on page 4 of this journal.

Dance

The students of the **Barbara Donnelly School of Dance** will be presenting '**Dance Magic**' in Mermaid Theatre on 19th and 20th of May. Pupils ranging from tiny tots to adults are sure to dazzle with their dance and performance skills. Displaying a range of Classical Ballet, Jazz and Modern dances featuring music from classical scores to Broadway hits, it's guaranteed that there's something for everyone! Before that, however, Bray Arts will have the privilege of a preview of one of dances from the show, plus something special from Barbara's always hugely popular repertoire of dance. Bring it on.



Music

Darragh O'Neill is one of the leading Irish guitarists of his generation. His international career as a solo concert guitarist/composer has taken him to many of the great concert venues around the world. Highlights include Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London, Oude Kerk in Amsterdam, The Manggha Theatre in Krakow, and numerous sell out performances

back home in his native Dublin's National Concert Hall. His highly acclaimed performances are always noted for their stylistic



awareness, with equal measures of delicacy and virtuosity, firing the imagination and touching the heart.

"Darragh O'Neill is a guitarist with a wonderful sensibility and artistry..."

Carlos Bonell.

Front Cover : Self Portrait by Frida Kahlo - see more on Kahlo and Rivera Exhibition in IMMA pg 6

Review of Bray Arts Evening Monday April 4,

The April event was decorated by Zan reminiscent of Easter. The second fund-raising raffle took place during the break with prizes generously donated by members and a number of businesses in Bray . Sound operation was managed as usual by Michael Monaghan generously taking time out from his studies to ensure the best audio production for the occasion.

The first performer was **Clara Byrne**, a newcomer to the club in the young musician slot, singer, song-writer and guitarist. She began with "A Good Time" featuring the rich bass sounds of her unusual steel-string guitar. Clara has a magnificent voice which she used to good effect giving a strong and vibrant strength to her words. Her guitar slap-strumming technique suited her choice of song very well. Clara sang five songs in all including a very dramatic rendering of the story of a young mother with 2 children in Birkenau unknowingly sending them to the gas chamber. Clara illustrated the poignancy of the event by marking out a slow, single note thumb strokes on the bass string. Closing, Clara received loud applause and we look forward to hearing her again.



Clara Byrne

Peter Growney, painter and photographer, presented a stunning display of paintings in a wide array of media saying that he believe in “doing a variety of styles as the spice of life”! Peter came to



Peter Growney

work in Bray in 1968 and his collection reveals a fascinating insight into the people, buildings, countryside and all creatures large and small that attracted his attention since then. A large part of his work relates to the church of which he had a number of items including a striking example of a set of churches in Watercolor which was reproduced as a limited edition print. A keen family man, Peter never lets a holiday get in the way of a good painting as he showed a wonderful view of Niagara

Falls from the Canadian side. A pastel featured in last month’s Bray arts Journal was painted in London and an Austrian scene from his daughter’s wedding.

Some of the commissioned work carried out by Peter include Glin Castle owned by the Knight of Glin, Oldcastle from Lough Crew for an American client, a paintings for O’Kelly Jewelers transferred to crystal as a presentations for Bray Town council and a painting of the Bray Ferris Wheel for presentation to President McAleese.

Peter finds inspiration when he goes out on his bicycle and he showed scenes from Arklow to Sandymount Green to illustrate his point. These works were executed variously with pallet knife, oils, pencil and watercolour or pen and ink. The one thing they have in common is a personal association or event which Peter can capture in his rendering.

Peter’s work is a remarkable record of life in the Bray – Greystones area over the past forty years and can be seen on his web site for posterity. A long-standing member of the Bray arts committee, Peter is an inspiration to us all!

Lorraine O’Brien, writer and actor, followed with a reading of some of her works. Starting on a light note, she regaled her



Lorraine O’Brien

audience with a humorous tale of women and the crisis of unwanted hair. She declared that “All hairy women should be banished to hell or to Connacht”. Turning to the theme of relieving stress, Lorraine read a short piece which she wrote a couple of years ago for Toast Masters in Bray with the title of “The Heretics Guide to Inner Peace”. Lorraine’s irrepressible humour surfaced as she brought out various alternative methods of combating stress. Her recommendations included: “To avoid road rage, close your eyes!” Or: “Visualise your feelings as fruits or vegetables then

crush and chop them as appropriate!” With this and other quips she covered anger management and social values.

She told the amusing tale of “The spiritual tail of St. Francis’ sow” and his fascination with such a small tail on so large an animal.

Lorraine completed her presentation with a humorous rendition of the desire of a seven-year old girl whose ambition was to become a martyr and a “a shocking holy saint!”. Singing in a parody of a little girl’s voice, Lorraine Invited the audience to share in the refrain bringing her performance to a close amidst laughter and applause.

The noted jazz saxophonist, **Alex Matthias**, took the stage accompanied by **Julian Colorossi** on guitar and **Ray O’Donoghue** on bass and brought the house down with a magnificent run of solos and funky improvisations. Inspired by the



Julian Colorossi, Alex Matthias, Ray O’Donoghue

playing of John Coltrane, Alex opened the session with his own composition: “Funk Bop” and treated his audience to a feast of melody, rhythm and mood music. Julian emerged as an inspired guitarist who lost himself in his playing whether accompanying the other two or taking a solo. His intricate picking style, fluent chording and use of apoyando and tremolo techniques drew intense fascination from all present. Ray provided a mean bass that kept the music going and he, too, shone when it came to his turn to play a solo stretch. All three showed an empathy that resonated throughout reflecting the theme set by their leader Alex and crossing over with intricate harmonies and tonal effects shifting easily from diminished to major chords.

Alex paid tribute to the Newpark School of Music where Julian and Ray are currently studying jazz and make tremendous ambassadors for the centre. Eventually the evening had to finish and Alex, Julian and Ray closed with a flourish to great applause and calls for an encore.

Cearbhall E. O’Meadhra

Fishing for Hope

by Máiride Woods

I throw my line out into an empty ocean.
not dressed for fishing, knowing nothing
about waders, oilskins or moving shoals...
What might I have caught
had the ocean not been barren
of lovers, questions or other live bait. I sit
by the arch of the bridge watching
the vacant strand, stripped of its sandcastles,
the squiggly waves innocent of any sails.
No starfish point to answers as I wait
for that ghost moon
to glimmer on the waters,
- wait for the souls of vanished selkies.

Long and Lost

by Máiride Woods

In these burrow-days after Christmas
my mind stalls on long-lost,
on things buried outside churchyards
in brocade curtains, on black and white films
where men walk into long horizons.

There is snow in your hair
and crackers in the thorn-bushes,
Santa Claus has driven your old mini
all the way from Castle-keep
and tells me to hold on to belief...

You leave your second-hand Crombie coat
in the hall; wash the oil and grease
from your hands; the car has broken down
again and you have things to tell me
in the significance of a crackling fire.

Shadows line up by the fender and children
with outsize toys pull my hand, asking me
to blow up, to fix, to wipe, to place
the last piece, serve
the final spoonful.

I look around the quiet room
thinking of the blue-stocking I feared
becoming; my worries are ashes in the grate
alongside your fears and I am powerless
against a twelve step future

Your ghost stares at me, disremembering
the full moon of our lives; how is it possible
to forget so much? I strike useless matches
to remind you of orange and yellow, long and lost
fallen from these clumsy hands.

Unobserved Moments of Change

by Máiride Woods

Suddenly
- overnight it seems -
the berries are out on the rowan trees
in clusters of orange
telling me
that summer is half over
and all those flighty hopes of spring
have vanished like ghost riders
who switch overnight
from future to past.

And I wonder
if I had sat up all those July dawns
watching the rowan branches,
could I have witnessed
the turning moment
when the callow blossoms
fell apart and the berries
poked their flaming pixie heads
through the cross-patterned leaves?

I'm a late-bird, fated to miss
my liminal moment,
distracted by the quotidian
as winter becomes spring,
swanliness seizes the cygnet,
tiny wrinkles creep along the neck,
the tide pulls back to the shore.

It was a passing sparrow distracted me
the day I found Eurydice
crumpling into dead leaves.

Máiride Woods was born in Dublin and grew up in Cushendall, Co. Antrim. She writes poetry, short stories and radio dramas and much of her work has been broadcast on RTE and BBC.

She has won two Hennessy Awards, the Francis Mcmanus Short Story competition and P.J. O'Connor Award for Radio Drama. She has lectured and done research in NUI Maynooth and UCD and is at present an Advocacy Executive in CIB.



A Tangerine Morning

by Maire Morrissey-Cummins

Frost carpets the fields
sloping to a crinkled sea.
The air,
cotton crisp
as spring leaps in.

Satin crows
descend from a silver sky.
Squabbling, they graze
on chilled dewdrops.

The sunrise,
a red ribbon glow
warms tall tree trunks
basking in gliding sunlight.

A flame horizon
burns a candy stripe sky
on a tangerine morning.



Photographer : Maire Morrissey - Cummins

Buttercup Fields

by Maire Morrissey-Cummins

A dry stone wall
of moss-grown granite
staggers,
lush undulating plains
swaggers,
fields ablaze with wildflowers
bows
at a curvaceous hollow
where a copper stream gurgles below.

Sheep fluff velvet meadows
mirroring cotton clouds above.
Stooped,
they graze on buttercup fields.
Blotched blurs,

clamber
to higher ground.

Lilting melodies
lace the trees,
sweeping the air
with white apple blossom
on a dove day afternoon.



Photographer : Maire Morrissey - Cummins

Greystones Beach in November

by Maire Morrissey-Cummins

After the rain,
the speckled glint of shimmering sand
is now muddy brown.
Like a blind, closed tight on the warmth of
summer,
the winter beach has shrunken in,
changing the colours of my day into
a darker palette, shades of grey.
The sun shrivelled
pale faced and worn
as the cold season begins.

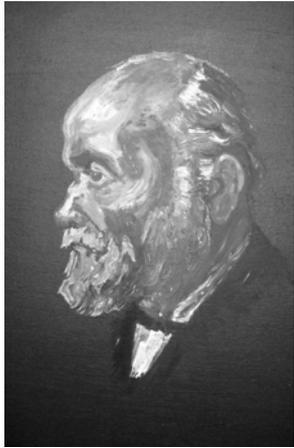
Seagulls a beacon
against a slate November sky,
their sound, comfort to a lonely beach.
The steps down to the water, pea green
slimy weed on stone
bright, against an ink-rippled tide.

Seaweed colours bleed into my mind while
textures playfully mingle.
Salt air stings my nostrils
caresses my lungs with wellness.
Sea sounds carry from the shores of Wales
as I crunch the length of the milk tide.

I look to the horizon and imagine another me
walking a beach somewhere there,
listening to my thoughts
as they channel the sea.
Grateful for the gift of the nature,
I look over my shoulder
my footprints remain
solid, as in a freshly cemented path
their sound, echoes in the shells.

Signal Arts Exhibitions

Pushing Out The Boat



Patrick Duffy

RADE, a drug recovery project launch their 2011 art exhibition
From Tuesday 10th May to Sunday 22nd May 2011

RADE is an exciting and innovative drug recovery programme based in Dublin's inner city. In the past the work of our artists has been exhibited in the National College of Art and Design Gallery in Thomas St Dublin, the Dublin Civic Centre, the Project Art Centre, and has toured Dublin Public Libraries. The exhibition in the Signal Gallery is our first exhibition outside the Dublin city area and allows us to broaden the potential

audience of our work.

The work is a further dimension to the original theatre, film productions and creative writing that RADE has produced since its inception in 2004. The work is testament to the capacity of people affected by drug dependence to contribute to society and firmly dispels the negative labels and stereo-type notions associated with this group.

The exhibition will be opened on Friday 13th May at 7.00pm in the Signal Gallery, Albert Avenue, Bray Co. Wicklow.

If you are interested in attending the opening of the exhibition please call 01 4548733 or email info@rade.ie.

Opening Reception: Friday 13th May 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Join the Dots

Drawings by Rachael Agnew

From Tuesday 24th May to Sunday 5th June 2011

Rachael Agnew graduated from Crawford College of Art and Design, Cork with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art in 2008. Her art is based in the medium of drawing, whether with paint, pen, collage, nature or technology. She has exhibited in both solo and group shows throughout Ireland and in Cape Cod, United States of America.

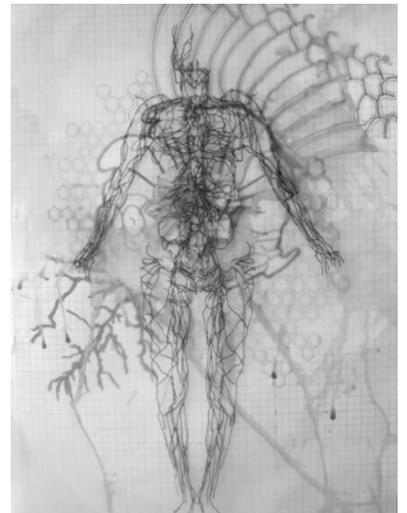
All of her works are based on the line and the information it portrays. It is a visual response into the understanding of life and the patterns she sees within it. It conceptually plays within the broad and contrasting areas of order and chaos, nature and science and more biographically within creativity and society. Each individual piece of work is a direct response at different scales to

life and its growth, including social and natural patterns and connections.

Her recent work has been influenced by a trend she has observed in contemporary society where people, including her, are questioning their existence and its connection to the rest of the world. Her pieces, like patterns, serve as guides for something to be made and are therefore not finished pieces but abstract ideas.

“The very questioning of life is centuries old and one of the most puzzling and intriguing debates. As an artist she feels a need to visually represent the world around her and yet she has the curiosity of a scientist who craves a better understanding of it. So as the scientist tries to understand life by deconstructing life and creating patterns, the artist decodes these patterns and attempts to reconstruct new ones”.

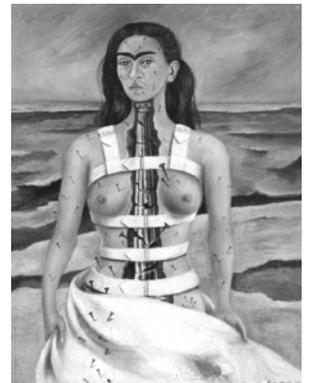
Opening Reception: Friday 27th May 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.



The Human Stain

Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: Masterpieces from the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection IMMA from 6 April - 26 June 2011

This marvellous collection presents the iconic paintings of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, the two central figures of Mexican Modernism. Few artists have captured the public's imagination with the force of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo (1907 – 1954) and her husband, the Mexican painter and muralist Diego Rivera (1886 – 1957). The myths that surrounded them in their lifetime arose not only from their significant body of work, but also from their active participation in the life of their time, their friendships (and conflicts) with leading figures, their imposing physical appearance and spirited natures. This exhibition is well worth a visit.



Self Portrait by Frida Kahlo



Natasha Gelman by Diego Rivera

Message Board

From **Fergal Flannagan**:-

Studio share available in Glendarragh Studios, Newtownmountkennedy. The space is approx. 230 sq ft, good light and in a quiet rural setting.



Glendarragh Studios

Rent is €160 per month, including heating and lighting. Printing facilities available and shared kitchen, free car parking. Contact Glendarragh Studios on 01 2819282 / 0877589575 or email glendarraghstudio@eircom.net.

From **Martin Davidson**, Chairperson of **Bray Choral Society**:-

Bray Choral Society is holding its next concert on Saturday 28th May 2011 in Christ Church, Bray.

The programme comprises John Rutter's "Mass of the Children", motets by Stanford, Bruckner and Rheinberger and on a lighter note, two spirituals arranged by Bob Chilcott "Ev'ry Time I feel



Bray Choral Society in National Concert Hall 2010 on 25th Anniversary

the Spirit" and "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen".

For this performance we are delighted to welcome the choir from St Cronan's National School, Bray who will be joining us in the performance of the "Mass of the Children".

The Bray Choral Society was formed twenty five years ago with the intention of performing major choral works. We have appeared at the National Concert Hall on several occasions and have toured to Germany, Austria and Wales.

The choir rehearse every Tuesday at 7:45 pm in St Kilian's School, Bray during school terms. If you have an interest in singing major choral works, please contact our Music Director, Frank Kelly at St Kilian's Community School, tel 01-2828126"

Painting in Oils



*Mrs. Elenor Urquhart 1795
by Henry Raeburn*

Expert step by step instructions .from
Conall McCabe HND, BA, MFA
(New York Academy of Art)
Courses commences May 9th to June 27th 2011
7:00pm to 9:00pm every Monday
At
Signal Arts Centre
1 Albert Ave., Bray, Co. Wicklow

€150 (8 sessions)
Places limited to 8
Contact : Conall McCabe 087 9702173

Masterpieces from the Collection

National Gallery of Ireland

It is such a great pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to view an original Velazquez, Carravagio, Breugel, Vemeer and many more masterpieces up close. And, it's thanks to the National Gallery with their current exhibition of Masterpieces from the National Collection that this is made possible. What's more, it's free.

Visitors to the Gallery will be able to enjoy a stunning selection of paintings from the European collection, from the Renaissance through to the mid-twentieth century. Each work has been selected by Gallery curators for its significance in the history of art. The paintings and sculpture on display are broadly grouped by country of origin, with Italian, French, Spanish, Dutch and British schools all represented.



*Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus
by Diego Velazquez*

PS

The students of the
Barbara Donnelly School of Dance,
present

Dance Magic

At Mermaid Theatre
Thursday 19th and
Friday 20th May 2011



Submission Guidelines

Editor : Dermot McCabe : editor@brayarts.net
Creative Writing Editor : Anne Fitzgerald :
annefitz3@gmail.com

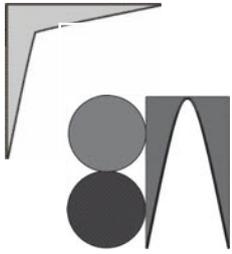
Email submissions to the above or post typed
submissions to :

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Bray
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Tel: 2762883/ 086 826 0511



Bray Arts Evening Mon 9th May 2011

Upstairs at The Martello on the Seafront
€5/€4 conc. Absolutely everyone is welcome.
Doors open 8:00pm

Poetry : Máiríde Woods reading her own poetry.

Dance : The Barbara Donnelly School of Dancing

Music : Master Guitarist Darragh O'Neill

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