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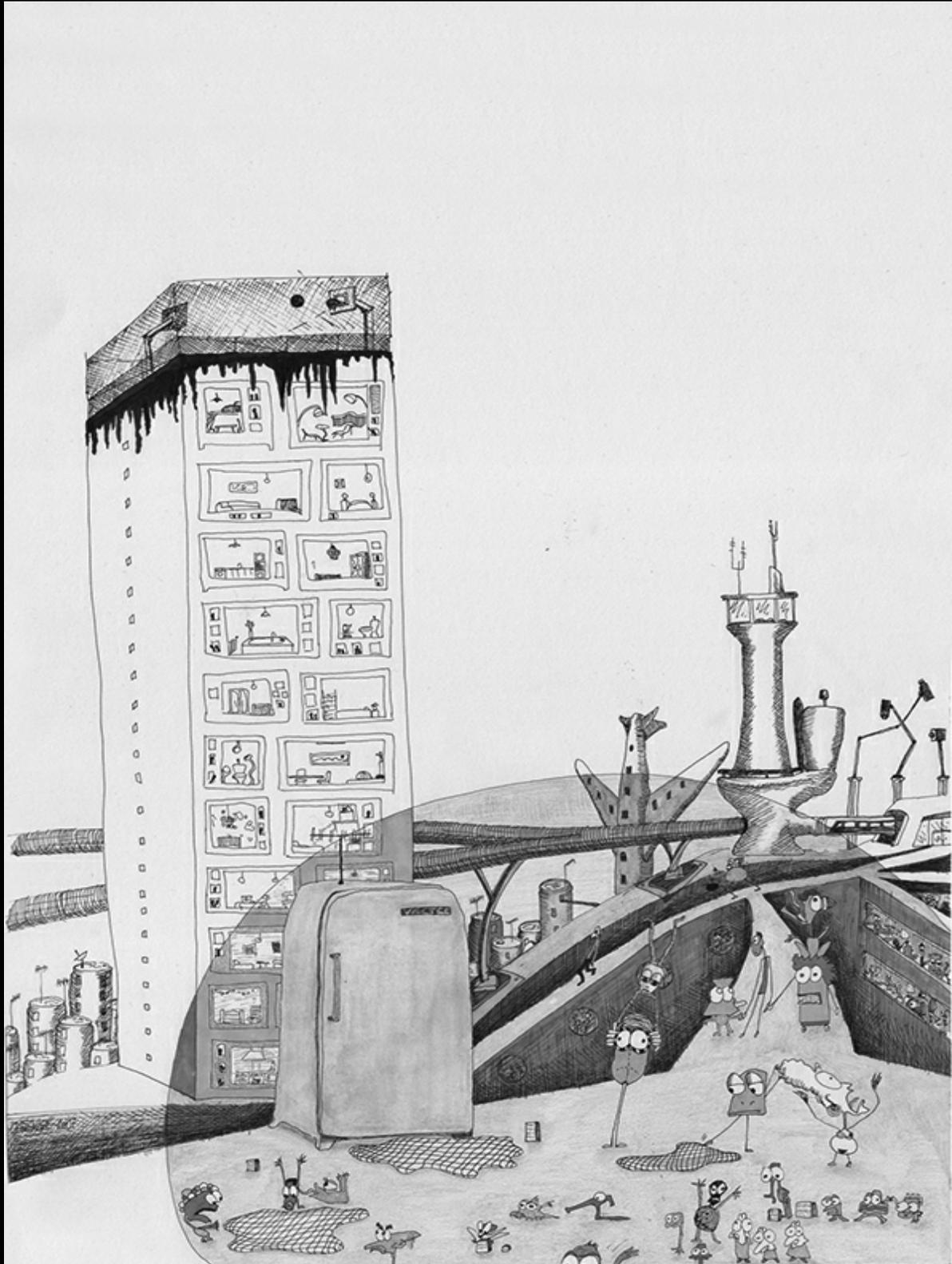
# Bray Arts Journal

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Issue 1

September 2012

Volume 18



## Welcome to New Season

We welcome members back from the summer break to a full programme of artists covering a wide range of interesting presentations including dance, artwork, crafts, film, poetry, drama, music and song. We are delighted to tell you that there is plenty of choice this year. We are constantly on the lookout for new and emerging artists and we give them a window to present themselves each month. Do let the committee know if you have anyone in mind and we will fit them in somewhere!



*Cearbhall O'Meadhra*

The next two months are going to be very interesting – a break from our usual routine, in fact. We start the 10<sup>th</sup> of September with a full programme of four artists as detailed further on in these pages. The following Arts Evening on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> will feature a change from our usual routine. We know you'll enjoy it. NO, you'll have to wait for the October Journal to find out what is planned!

We have a very unusual fund-raising event in the Sailing Club that needs the support of all members and friends. You will need to get in early for this as space is limited and you would not want to miss it. See back page for details.

New calendar cards will be available at the September Arts Evening. Please be sure to take one for yourself and some for all your friends so that they can prepare to attend all the shows. Well, I had better stop here or the editor will have my blood! See you all on September 10<sup>th</sup> in the Martello.

Cearbhall E. O'Meadhra Chairman Bray Arts

### Preview of Arts Evening – 10<sup>th</sup> September Martello, Bray Seafront, 8:00pm Everyone is welcome Adm. €5 / €4 conc.

As always Bray Arts brings variety to its evenings and this first evening of the new 2012/2013 season is no exception.

**Amy Richardson**, harpist, will open the night's entertainment.



**Orla Callaghan**, textile artist, will present and talk about her work.



**Dermot McCabe**, writer, will give a flavour of the Middle Ages from his novel, *The Reluctant King*.

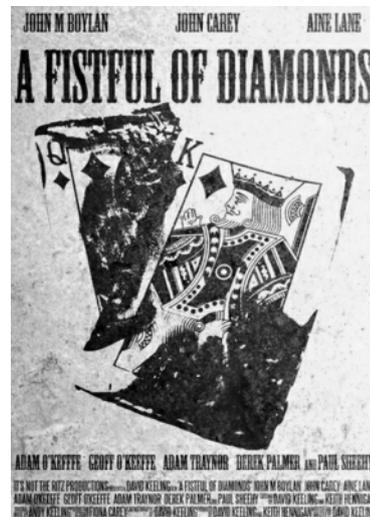


**Gavin Coleman**, singer/songwriter and multi instrumentalist, will provide the closing music and song.



## News

**Dave Keeling's** film *A Fistful of Diamonds* have been selected for the upcoming Underground Cinema Film Festival in Dun Laoghaire. The film will be screening on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at 11.30am in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire. It's not an ideal screening time, but I'm hoping to wrangle up a



good crowd for it. Tickets are available online at: [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/8PUFYK6](http://tinyurl.com/8PUFYK6) for only €5.25 (a bargain!), and places are limited so early booking is advised!

### Book Arts & Bookmaking Course Mondays 17 SEP-22 OCT @ 7-9PM Mermaid Arts Centre Box Office 2724030

Learn how to make at least four different types of handmade books to take home and keep including the Japanese Stab Bound book, the Concertina Book and Pamphlet stitched books.

Facilitator **Andrew Kelly** has an MA in Book Arts with work in the Yale and Tate collections. This course will suit complete beginners and all materials will be supplied including beautiful handmade papers - although you should bring an apron

**Cost of Course €85**



Front Cover : Drawing by  
Marion Chombart de Lauwe.

See Page 7 for details of her current exhibition  
at Signal Arts centre.

## Review of Bray Arts Evening 11<sup>th</sup> June

by Shane Harrison

Arcadia was in full swing and perhaps the glut of events drew something from the attendance at the season finale of Bray Arts, but those who turned up were treated to a fascinating and varied feast of art. Dance, prose and music were the menu for the night and, before I get into trouble, I'm going to drop the food analogy for the first act.

**Zoryanna** are a tribal bellydance troupe, a swirling mix of flamenco, north African and Indian influences. The form originated in the great American melting pot in the 1970s and evolved a difficult balance of traditional folk dance and modern individual flair. The quartet took obvious delight in their dance and a pride in their appearance. Individual costumes clanked and glittered with jewelry while the warmth, good cheer and colour infused the audience from the start.



*Zoryanna*

Four pieces were performed, running through a gamut of styles, some with all four dancing in unison, others with individual cameos. These were riffs on a theme, through Iberia, Arabia and on to the Indian subcontinent. The penultimate number featured the contrast of fearsome scimitars against a moving human sculpture of grace and balance. This was a tale of love and war told in the language of movement. To finish, the ensemble generated a whirling finale, with enough stomping and yeehawing to conjure up a vaguely Irish feel to it. Riverdance without the clogs or the damp, or those damn ringlets. All folklores will essay narratives in the language of music and dance, all are somehow or other interconnected. The sensuous beauty of Zoryanna is hard to beat, and I would say nice enough to eat, but don't want to get into trouble.

**Darren Darker** may have courted trouble in flogging that, yet the Bray Arts crowd are used to such quick adjustments in the kaleidoscope of art. Darren read extracts from his first novel, *Under an Irish Sky*, a detailed narrative set against a backdrop of The Emergency and a modern day Wexford holiday resort. Throw in some hidden wartime treasure, a bunch of neo Nazis and a tough guy loner hero and you have the makings of a thrilling read. Inspiration came from a couple of sources, most



*Darren Darker*

understandably from Darren's admission of being fed up reading the usual tripe, giving rise to the conviction he could do better himself. There's personal experience in the tableau also. As a kid an uncle had brought him on holidays to a Wexford campsite run by an ex-Luftwaffe pilot, a prototype for Old Miller in his book. Also, Darker's own enquiring mind gave him a keen interest in that uniquely Irish phenomenon - The Emergency. Listening to the him speak on this subject, it is clear the world of non-fiction could also benefit from his writing. The vagaries of our POW internment camps were outlined with humour, and Darker also referred to the German war cemetery at Glencree. This strange history is linked on Darker's website, helping give a fuller picture of what he seeks to accomplish in his writing.

The extracts he read from his fiction can only give some shades of the colour to be found within, novels are, after all, obsessed with a slow unfolding. He would appear to have created a beguiling character in quick-fisted and moody loner Morgan. Darker has proven to be something of a determined loner himself in bringing the novel to publication after five hard years. We await with interest the next in the series.

Guitarist, Darragh O'Neill took us to the summit of the evening.

It was a steep climb through technical peaks and impressive vistas but oh, the view from the top! Put simply, this guy can play and is enjoyable to listen to as well - two things that don't necessarily go together. With Darragh the trick is that there is always a high proportion of the human alongside the musical wizard. Drawing on a repertoire that harks back to O Carolan and mines the resources of Flamenco and Classical masters, he also includes a strong element of his own creativity. Self-penned pieces illustrated personal relationships and life's experience, foreign travel and a meditation on cinema, journeying from Krakow to Japan and back to Bray. The human condition meets the musical muse.



*Darragh O'Neill*

His closing number, *The Juggler*, in its title alone, encompasses much of what he is about. The performance projects the sense of stillness and humour, humanity and the impossible whirling of celestial orbs too. He is a good pair of hands for sure, making an art that pervades the senses, and keeping the crowd mesmerised to the last.

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## Changes in Bray Arts Committee

Bray Arts is delighted to welcome two new committee members, Eithne Griffin and Julie Rose McCormick. Neither of these women are strangers and have given much service to Bray Arts over the years. Zan O'Loughlin and Peter Growney after many years great service have retired from the committee, but they will continue to support Bray Arts. Zan, in fact, will host the Sept Bray Arts Evening. A huge thank you goes out to both Zan and Peter for their untiring work over the years.



### **The Cormorants of Sandycove**

by Frank O'Keefe

Silently they stand those immobile sentries  
Wingspread guardians of a seascape frieze  
All seeing beady eyes encompassing whilst  
Seemingly motionless yet on constant guard  
In their frozen observations of sounds and sights.  
Their vigilance never disturbed nor distracted as  
Batveined wings extend and flutter gently in the  
Seaside breeze whilst waves gently kiss their rock  
Firm perch where neither bladderrack nor ribbon  
Weeds disturb their silent vigil as they wait in  
Expectation of we know not what and overhead  
The wheeling gulls cry in discordant unison and  
Dive headfirst into the foaming cream of sea  
Yet the cormorants remain statue still frozen but  
Then the message is received their time has come  
To go waveskimming to the place we know not.

### **Writing a Poem**

by Oliver Marshall

To write,  
For the sheer pleasure of it,  
The sheer joy.  
It is like being a child again,  
Playing with a toy.

Sentence after sentence,  
Following each other  
In the right order,  
Falling into place.

The paragraphs are beautiful  
Rhythm, cadence, rhyme,  
Even plot – get a look-in.  
This secret life of yours.  
This life that no one knows.  
Hot Suns. Cold snows.

And that afternoon by the sea,  
With your father and mother,  
Playing with your bucket and shovel.  
Your feet in the sand,  
Your mind happy and free.



## In the early dark

by Oliver Marshall

My father called me  
In the early dark.  
“Come on. It's on.”  
I pushed back the bedclothes.

School was hours away.  
A bright moon crossed the sky.  
I tip-toed down the stairs.  
He was in the kitchen,

Bending over the radio.  
I lit the paraffin stove,  
Applying the match to the wick.  
A jagged flame appeared,

Dancing in the small window  
Of the stove. The world slept.  
My mother slept. But my father  
And I had got up early

For the fight. We could hear  
The referee. “Ladies and gentlemen,  
In the right-hand corner,  
The challenger: Ingemar Johansson

And in the left -hand corner  
The heavyweight champion of the world:  
Floyd Patterson.” The dial  
Of the radio was a soft red.

In New York, men suffered  
In the ring. It didn't last long.  
Patterson won by a knock-out.  
The table was set for breakfast.

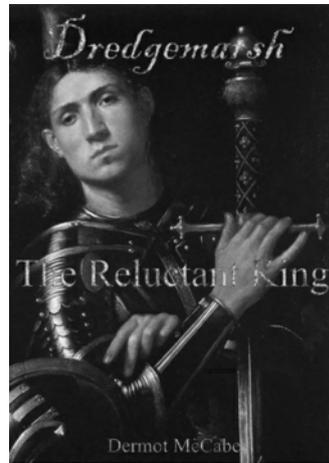
Last night's cocoa was still there.  
My father switched off the radio.  
I turned down the flame on the stove.  
I followed him upstairs,

In his pyjamas. At the landing,  
He went into his room,  
I went into mine,  
In the early dark.

## Book Review

### The Reluctant King

by Dermot McCabe.



*The Reluctant King* is the first installment in the Dredgemarsh Codex, a medieval saga set in a fictional central Europe. This is a land of gothic castles, soaring mountain ranges and impenetrable forests. In the midst of this landscape sits the city state of Dredgemarsh, marked by gloomy decay and steeped in arcane technology, it is a place ripe, or rotten, for devious intrigue.

The reluctant king of the title, Cesare Greyfell, is too full of youthful distraction to give much time to its grimly byzantine affairs of state. The ambitious Chancellor, Demetrius Tancredi, schemes to usurp the executive powers while colluding with the neighbouring foe, the Brooderstalt, an uncouth, militaristic bunch who are plotting to annex Cesare's kingdom. The young king is due a wake up call, all the more when his simmering love for Lucretia Beaufort is about to be snipped before it can even blossom, as Tancredi plans to marry her off to the Brooderstalt leader, Captain Pentrojan.

McCabe is keen to dig deeper into the bowels of his fictional world, rather than just concentrate on the great and the good, and the bad, in the city's ivory towers. Deep down in the sculleries and kitchens serving Dredgemarsh, we find a colourful cast of characters surrounding Cook Meister Lazarus Clutchbolt. Rejoicing in onomatopoeic names, there's the well proportioned Bella Crumble, assistant cook Leopold Ratchet and scullery girl Nellie Lowslegg. This ill assorted bunch is destined to form an unlikely heroic alliance against the forces of evil gathering against the city. Meanwhile, even further down in the depths, candlelighter Verm Bludvile, a Gollum waiting to happen, is inadvertently provoked into action against the king with dire consequences.

Dermot McCabe's debut novel is an assured voyage into an imagined landscape, successfully evoking a fabulous history with its own, convincing vocabulary. There are elements of Gormenghast here, in the gothic gloom of the crumbling city and the often grotesque characters that inhabit it. A more oblique allusion is to the art of Brueghel, in that it is a detailed observation of the crowded comedy of the medieval world. McCabe skillfully balances a raunchy humour against the more sombre elements of political intrigue and betrayal, with plenty of well wrought action sequences to keep the pace from flagging. The love story at its heart alternates between genuine charm and an ominous sense of a star-crossed affair, its own intricacies and deceptions mirroring the changes of the society in which it is set.

Whether the personal is political, or the political personal, can not be ultimately resolved. The important thing with Dredgemarsh is that it recognises the linkage between the two. This is a story of great gusto, a rattling yarn of heightened language and larger than life characters. Fantasy it may be but it is full of the truths of humanity in all its vulgarity and duplicity. McCabe asserts the primacy of honour and the enduring nature of love while retaining

the ability to revel in life's comedy. If you like your medieval fantasy rich in the details of real life, with all the chaos caused by love and war, but unmediated by magic swords, evil witches and gibbering elves, you'll love this.

*Shane Harrison*

Dermot McCabe will be discussing and reading some extracts from *The Reluctant King* at the upcoming Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Arts Evening. Copies will also be available on the night. The book can be purchased on-line at Amazon and the other well known on-line sites like ABE and The Book Depository where it is also available in Print eBook format. It is available in Dubray Bookshop.

## BOOKS, BOOKS BOOKS

There has been quite a bit of activity on the publishing front in North Wicklow this year amongst members and associates of Bray Arts.

*Recently Published:*

Under an Irish Sky (Novel) - Darren Darker

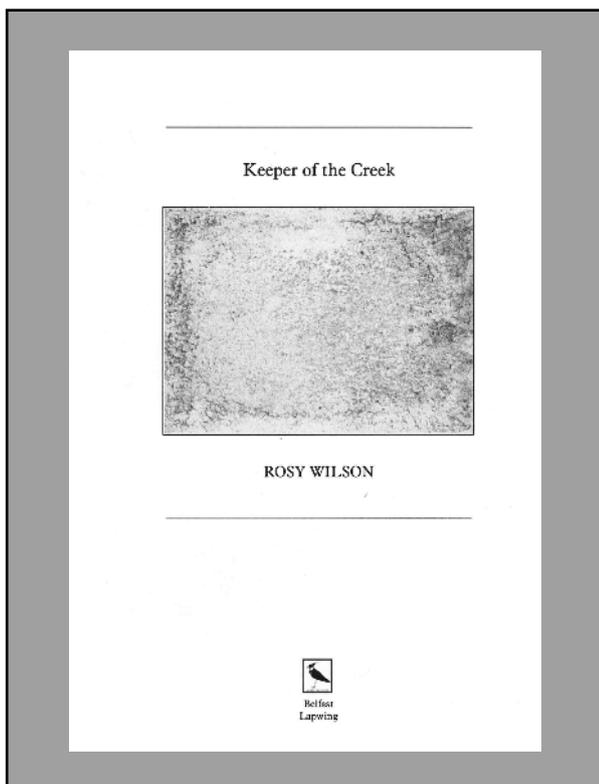
Two Sisters Singing (Novel) - Carmen Cullen

The Overture (Poetry Collection) - Carol Boland

The Reluctant King (Novel) - Dermot McCabe

*Just Published :*

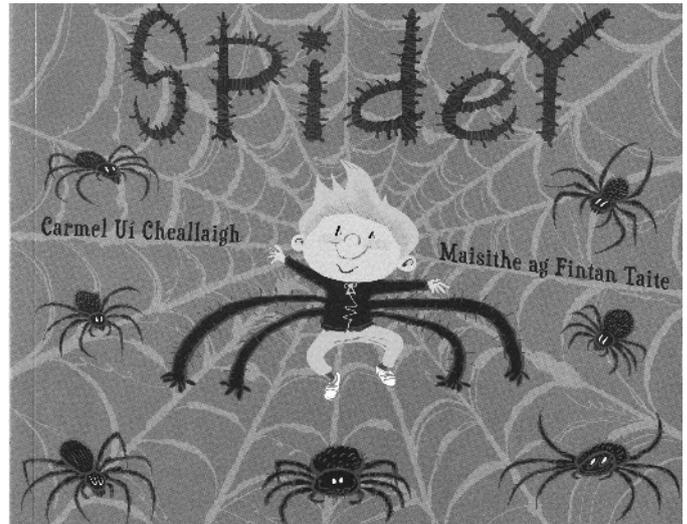
***Keeper of the Creek*** (Poetry Collection) - **Rosy Wilson.**  
 Publisher: Lapwing Publications



Cont →

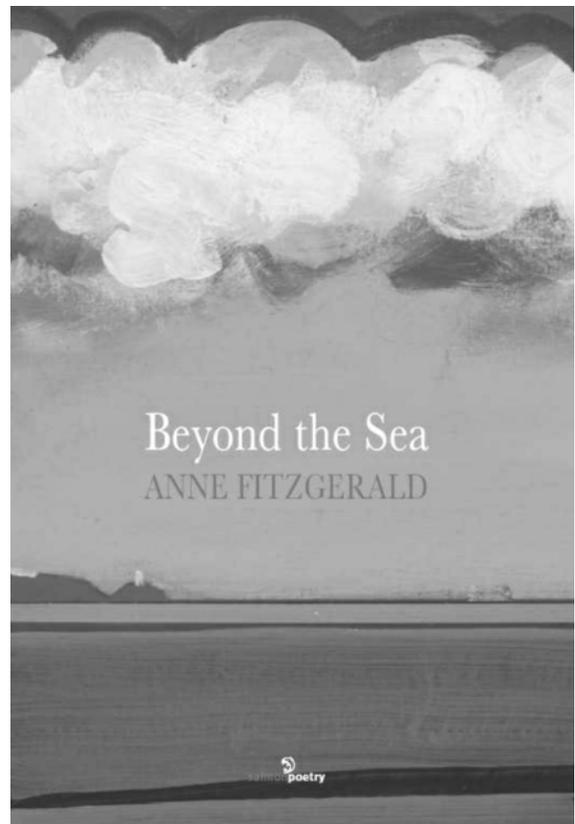
## BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS contd

***Spidey*** (*Leabhar do pháistí*) - **Carmel Uí Cheallaigh**  
 Foilsithe ag Cló Mhaigh Eo



Launch Date: Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 6pm  
 Dun Laoghaire Town Hall

***Beyond the Sea*** (Poetry Collection) - **Anne Fitzgerald**  
 Publisher: Salmon Poetry



The launch of ***Beyond the Sea*** will take place on September 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at the **Irish Writers Centre**

## Signal Arts Centre Exhibitions

### 'Exaggerated Realities'

Exhibition by Marion Chombart de Lauwe

From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012

French artist Marion Chombart de Lauwe is a former anthropology student who later spent months sketching the treasures on display at the Natural History Museum in Toulouse. Chombart de Lauwe now turns this detail and observation into a new series of line



*Le petit chien*

drawings depicting urban landscapes in demolition, recently called "A work of dissection, worthy of entomology plates," by L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui Magazine.

For this exhibition Marion explores a sense of spontaneity in drawing. Her biological depictions of urban landscapes are presented in stark contrast alongside other works that embrace the frivolousness of imagination. These vibrant works retain hints of scientific influence mixed with outsider art, where elements are taken from their original place and put elsewhere, creating a subjective landscape.

The result is Exaggerated Realities, a cabinet of curiosities featuring a number of contemporary drawings and paintings inspired by the real as much as its deformations, where urban landscapes stand alongside giant bees and frescos of strange and bubbling characters.

**Opening Reception: Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August, 7- 9pm**

### 'Emotional Fish'

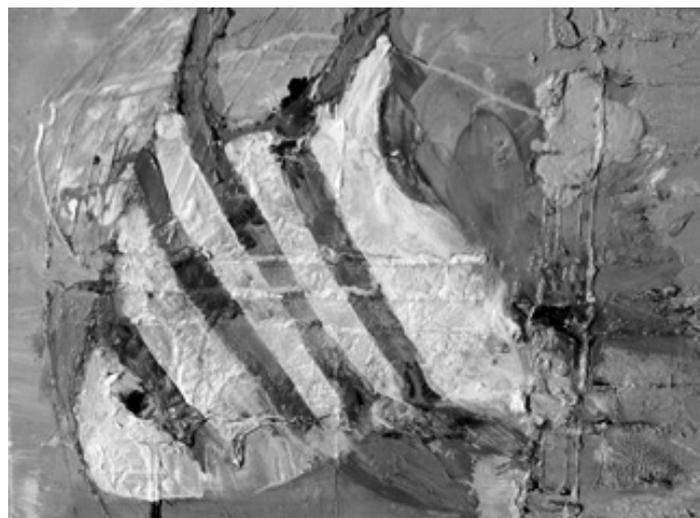
An Exhibition of paintings by John Cullen

From Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

John Cullen works and lives in Sligo and is currently based in a studio at Model Arts Centre, Sligo. John graduated with a B.A (Hons) in Fine Art from Sligo I.T and has exhibited in solo and group shows. He works in paint, mixed media and printmaking.

John's current body of work is based on the theme of fish. In his paintings he tries not to be too descriptive, rather he captures

something of the 'fishiness' of fish – their bony, scaly, fleshiness and a sense of the 'other worldliness' of marine existence.



Starting with an initial image as a 'template' the painting becomes very process-based, using a combination of aqueous dispersions, industrial paint, and oil colours. At some point the painting moves from being 'about' an image, and becomes about the paint, colour and surface, eventually arriving at something approximating 'fishiness'.

Opening Reception: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 7–9pm

## In Memory of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau

By Ger Thomas

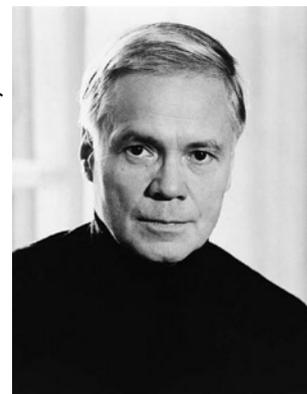
The death took place of Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau on My 18<sup>th</sup> just ten days short of his eighty sixth birthday. His career covered some 50 years. He was first of all a Lieder singer, especially of Schubert and was regarded by many as the most important singer of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

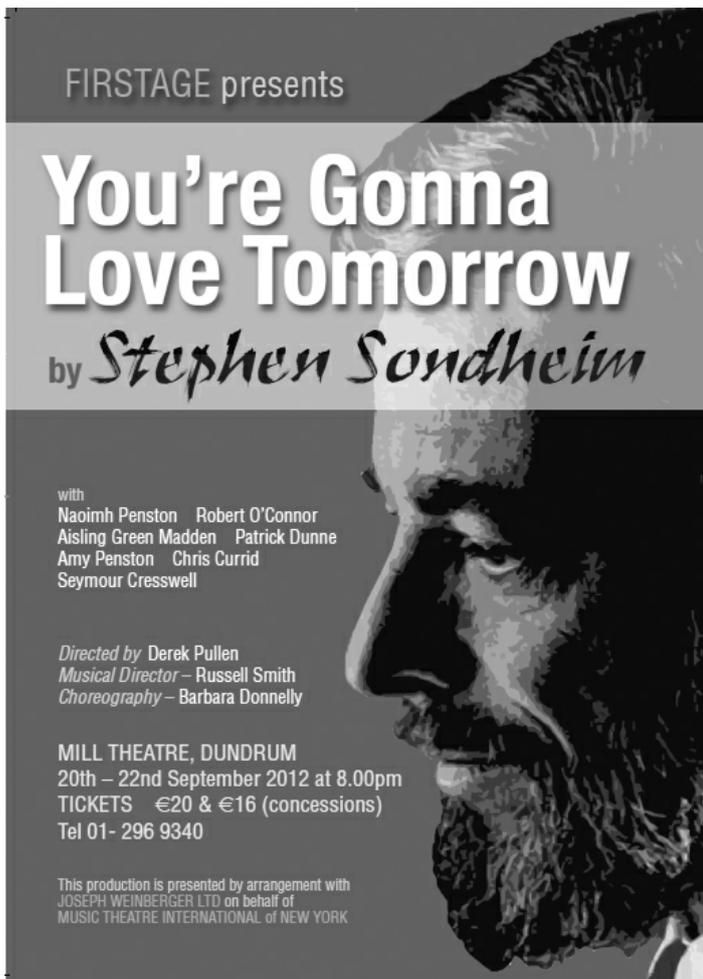
In 1941 he was called up to serve in the German army. He was posted to Russia and Italy where he spent four years. He is possibly the most recorded baritone in history; mostly Lieder, especially of Shubert, Shuman and Brahms.

Very late in his career he undertook the mammoth task of recording all of Shubert's songs, some 650. It took four years to complete. In comparison, his operatic career saw him concentrate on a small number of European houses. His was not, perhaps, a voice for the Metropolitan Opera. His operatic recordings are few. To many outside his homeland he is known only as a Shubertian. His operatic debut was in Berlin singing Verdi. He was particularly famous for his role as Don Carlos.

One of my own treasures recorded early in the 1960's is Rigoletto in which he sings with Carlo Bergonzi and Renata Scotto. He sings with great feeling and pathos as well as revealing the dark side when required.

He gave up teaching in 1992. He will be sadly missed as one of the truly great voices of the century. May he rest in peace.





## Fund Raiser for Bray Arta

New committee member Eithne Griffin doe not ‘let the grass grow under her feet.’ Already she has conjured up an intriguing evening of chat, music and snail racing (yeh, I know ... I think?) to raise a few, much needed, coppers for Bray Arts. She has informed the journal of the following :

“Big night out for Arts club members at Bray sailing club in October, date to be confirmed. So keep your ears pinned because there will be a limited number of tickets. This event is not only a mini fund raiser but a chance for regular members to have a chat and socialise in a great venue over-looking the harbour and the now famous boxing club!

There will a 'tearoom session' with classical music and yes exotic buns from 7pm onwards, followed by a blast from the past with a reggae session and SNAIL RACING at 10pm. If you have never engaged in such a sport before, you must have a go (betting will take place; so be prepared; racing snails provided. NOTE: all snails will be released afterwards to happy hunting grounds) After that, live music from our members till the cock crows. What more can I say only it will be a great fun night out. See ye there!”

## Bray Arts Evening Mon Sept 10th

Martello, Seafront, Bray Doors Open 8:00pm Adm: €5 /€4 conc. Everyone welcome.

**Opening Music - Amy Richardson - Harpist**

**Art Presentation - Orla Callaghan - Textile Artist**

**Novel - Dermot McCabe - Writer**

**Closing Music - Gavin Coleman - Singer/Songwriter**

### Submission Guidelines

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

Email submissions to the above or post to :

Editor Bray Arts Journal  
‘Casino’, Killarney Rd., Bray,  
Co. Wicklow

Text in Microsoft Word  
Pictures/Logos etc Jpeg preferably 300 dpi

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