welcome to first year at NCAD

This project will help to inform the initial block of work in the first semester. With this in mind you should consider it carefully and give yourself enough time to carry out some of the tasks, and to collect as much diverse and interesting material as you can find. As the material you bring with you will be used to generate other work, you should make it as varied and as exciting as possible.

Coláiste Náisiúnta Ealaíne is Deartha

National College of Art and Design

We look forward to seeing you in your first year at NCAD.

We want you to be excited, stimulated, and ready for the rewards that will come from the efforts you invest in your work.

On social media you can use this project to start engaging with the NCAD community online. You can document and share your collection and other activities using the hashtag #ncadsource

find/collect/bring

We want you to bring a broad selection of types of items to work from across a range of colours, textures, shapes, and sizes. Variety is paramount here.

These should be a mixture of organic, mechanical, soft items, flexible, hard edged, crumpled up, old, new, discarded.

The specific items on the list are to help you to focus and to think about what you are bringing.

- 4 sections of clothing, each containing a feature
- 4 lengths of line
- 4 items that have two different colours
- 4 diverse items that reflect your personality
- 4 old photographs
- some old or broken tools
- 3 different shoes + 3 different gloves + 2 hats
- a jar of interesting fragments
- a jar of uninteresting fragments
- 2 grey things
- 2 old toys that are easily broken up or torn apart something with roots attached

Do not bring precious or valuable items that you are not prepared to cut up, break apart/dismantle/mangle etc

Bring both parts of the project with you on the first day you attend NCAD. This includes your art materials and tools.

Your objects should be contained in a strong plastic box that you will retain and move between project spaces. Ideally this will have a lockable lid for security and wheels for mobility.

As well as all of both parts of the Sourcing Project, bring a representative selection of your portfolio work along with the note book you used to gain your place in First Year NCAD.



To help prepare you for being in NCAD, as well as collecting items, we would like you to engage in the process of making some work. These tasks should take you no longer than a week to complete, but the time you spend is really up to you.

look/invent/record

You can paint; you can draw; you can film moving images; you can make 3 dimensional objects, you can record sounds - variety of media and scale of work is better than doing everything in the same way, at the same size, over the same time span. Don't be afraid to try totally new ways of working.

Carry out at least 3 of the tasks listed:

make 10 drawings of pairs of toes
record a journey along a busy shelf
make a self portrait using items of food
take 10 good photos of uninteresting items/situations
take 10 bad photos of interesting items/situations
make 3 small colour studies of 3 different corners
invent a new way to stop your hat from blowing away
record something chaotic

take a selfie balancing an odd item(s) on part of yourself make 3 A5 sized paintings in a location of your choice describing (or observing) light changing over time