

In Profile – meet our alumni ↓

Róisín O'Donnell
Painting & Communication Design



Name: Róisín O'Donnell

Current Career: Painter, Illustrative Graphic Designer

Graduation Year: 2018, 2020

Discipline: Painting and Graphic Design

Location: Donegal

What career path did you want to follow as a child?

Growing up, I was never far from a pencil and piece of paper, although a job in art hadn't occurred to me as a career choice until I reached my teens. I was in my element in life drawing classes in secondary school and from then on, I knew a job in the creative industry was right for me.

Why did you decide to study at National College of Art & Design?

My art teacher once referred to NCAD as the 'Crème de la Crème'. Naturally as a young, eager creative, I wanted to strive for the best. Nobody in our school had been accepted into NCAD before, so that gave me more incentive to polish off my art portfolio and apply.

How did you develop your career towards your current practice?

I recall the difficulty of having to choose a disciplinary area of either Fine Art or Design in First Year at NCAD. I was torn between Painting and Communication Design. I was persuaded to choose Paint and it was definitely the best decision I have ever made. During Final Year, my interest in Design increased so I continued my studies, completing an additional degree in Graphic Design. Now, when working on projects, I often merge both practices, which I believe makes my work unique.

What is the one experience during your time at NCAD that has informed you most in your work to date?

I believe I owe a lot to my paint tutor, Paul Nugent, who gave me confidence in my work. He taught me how to think conceptually both about the work I created

and the work I was inspired by. From him, I learned to keep my work true to me as an artist.

If you were chatting with current NCAD students today what is the one piece of advice you would offer?

Learn to be in a state of constant creation. Whether it be sketching ideas in a notebook on the way to college or talking to peers about a project you're working on, let your creativity flow into your everyday routine. Take snapshots in your mind of things you see that inspire you. I found that by doing this, before you know it you have an abundance of work created and you had so much fun doing it.

Given the global turmoil and change accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, what in your opinion are the opportunities for those in creative industries?

The pandemic is a great opportunity to solely focus on creating new personal projects, or learning and exploring new skills. We have the opportunity to convey the message of change we wish to see in the world through our work. The positive creative changes we make now - particularly if they concern ways to better our future - will lead to more opportunities to follow beyond this pandemic.

Portfolio Links:

<https://www.behance.net/gallery/112308297/Portfolio2021>

Awards ↓

Congratulations to **Seoídín O'Sullivan** who currently lectures in first year and Visual Culture. She has been awarded an artist studio residency at Digital Hub. [A link to the press release can be found here.](#)



We are delighted to see NCAD Design staff being shortlisted in the **IDI Design Awards** yet again.

- SERVICE DESIGN category: StrokeLINK - **Emma Creighton**
- COLLABORATIVE category: StrokeLINK - **Emma Creighton**
- PRINTED BOOK DESIGN category: The Restless Bogman - **Kate Brangan** at Or Studio & Laura Fitzgerald
- WEBSITE DESIGN category: NCAD Prospectus - **Bob Grey** at Red&Grey

Four nominations is a fantastic haul!

IDI 2021 AWARDS

More good news for NCAD design students who have won the **DOTFL Design Innovation Award: Student Category:**

Winner: WAFFLE

Tadhg O'Connell, Federico Tusacciu, Sinead Spring, Gareth Byrne and Ava White

Runner Up: IONTACH

Giancarlo Nollora, Katie O'Brien and Kate McKenna

Design on the Frontline was an open call to the design & innovation community for ideas to some of our most pressing healthcare challenges.

Frontline staff are currently facing intense new challenges and Covid-19 has exposed cracks in many of the existing services and processes. The healthcare system and people are under pressure. In response, the HSE created **Design on the Frontline** - a national call to the design and innovation community for help. They see Design on the Frontline as a way to explore, demonstrate and highlight this opportunity and bring new ideas and fresh thinking when we need them most.

For more information, please visit:

www.DesignOnTheFrontline.com

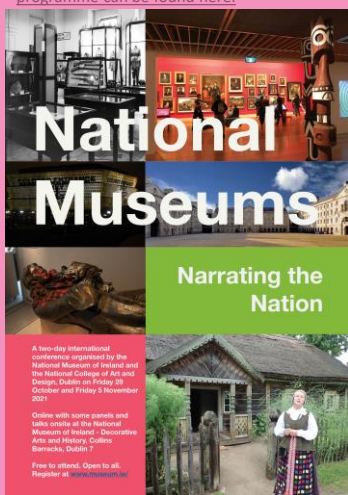


Of Interest ↓

Narrating The Nation: NCAD is partnering with the National Museum of Ireland to hold a 2-day conference (online and onsite at Collins Barracks) on the role of National Museums. It takes place on Friday 29 October and Friday 5 November. We have a great international line up of curators and historians from around the world speaking about many live issues - decolonising the museum, the representation of 'minority' communities, restitution, nationalist-populism, etc.

The event is free and open to all.

Registration is required - please do join us (attending just part is fine). [A link to the programme can be found here.](#)



NCAD In Public ↓

As part of our **NCAD In Public** programme we are delighted to present in the **NCAD Gallery** the **ELECTRONIC SHEEP** duo of Brenda Aherne and Helen Delany with their exhibition, **Electro-Fuse**, 12th November 2021 - 14th January 2022. The Internationally renowned designers have worked together since 1998 creating illustrative and typographic knitwear/jacquards based on narrative storylines drawing on their personal lives and socio-political histories. **Electro-Fuse** captures an edit of knitwear from this prolific practice to include the first showing of newly commissioned 'The Kilburn Tapestries', and the premiere of their **Electro-Fuse 2021 Collection**. The exhibition also includes iconic retrospective pieces and ephemera from the **Electronic Sheep** archive. As part of this project the NCAD Gallery is bringing this work to Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris in 2022, organised and curated by Anne Kelly, Curator, NCAD. For full details see: <https://ncadinpublic.ie/>

Student Support ↓

Student Assistance Fund: The deadline for applying to this fund is Friday 5 November. Information and online application form can be accessed here:

<https://www.ncad.ie/students/support-services/student-assistance-fund-1/>

Childcare Grant: The deadline for applying for help with the cost of childcare is also Friday 5 November - information and online application here:

<https://www.ncad.ie/students/support-services/student-assistance-fund-1/>

If you are a student with a disability, mental health condition, significant ongoing illness or have a specific learning difficulty please contact the Student Learning Support Service for advice, help and support.

learningsupport@staff.ncad.ie
Information on the service can be accessed here: <https://www.ncad.ie/student-learning-support-service/>

To find out about assistive technology and how this may help you with your study contact Hannah at: assistivetech@staff.ncad.ie

NiteLine ↓

NiteLine, provide a free instant messaging and phone call listening service for students by students. It's a safe space for students to vent and chat every night during the year from 9pm-2:30am.

Check them out on nitedline.ie if you are interested in volunteering with them. You can also follow them on our social media on tiktok and instagram, @nitedlinedublin, where they post information about any events or workshops that they may have. They also hold competitions there, and overall just post much wholesome and cute content from our volunteers. Feel free to call them on 1800 793 793, or message them at nitedline.ie



Director's Note ↓



As the Trimester continues there is a lot happening in the College which we are delighted to share with you in this month's newsletter.

Connecting the work of the NCAD community with the world beyond the campus is a large part of our strategy **Futures, Bold and Curious** and this month we are very excited to be working our strategic partners, the **National Museum of Ireland**, to present a major international conference, **Narrating the Nation** and to be reopening the **NCAD Gallery** with a major exhibition of **Electronic Sheep**, the internationally acclaimed label run by NCAD Alumni Brenda Aherne and Helen Delany. This important exhibition, curated by Anne Kelly, will then travel to the CCI in Paris further connecting the work of the NCAD community globally.

We are very aware that life continues to be extremely challenging for many of our students, with many different pressures creating the need for specific supports to be in place. It is important that we are all aware of the supports that are available so we have included an update in this newsletter.

And finally, I would like to thank you everyone for their ongoing commitment to following our COVID protocols and keeping the NCAD community safe. It is very important that we remain vigilant and remember that although some freedoms are returning to us, COVID still represents a significant threat to our society and that simple rules of mask wearing, hand sanitisation and social distancing are crucial to see us through this challenging winter. I hope that you keep well and stay safe and that we all continue to enjoy everything that life on campus has to offer.

Sarah Glennie