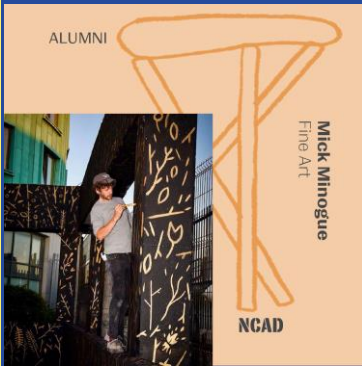


In Profile – meet our alumni ↓



Name: Mick Minogue

Current Career: Freelance Creative and Art Director

Graduation Year: 2007

Discipline: Art & Design Education, specialising in Textiles

Location: Finland

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

In no specific order: I wanted to study everything Titanic; to be a volcanologist; study and find the Loch Ness monster; to be Bill Murray for a few years (which I still might do); do art; be an animator - most likely whilst doing art; find a Yeti; be a full-time Yeti carer; a teacher of something. But I was only good at art, so, an ART TEACHER; Artist.

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

It was a place to go to explore all my unknown creativity, in Dublin, close to where my brother lives.

How did you develop your career towards your current practice?

I went and studied art education to please my folks, with the guarantee of a solid job in a solid workplace. I tried it for a while, but I realised I hated being in school, and why did I think I wanted to be paid to be back in it? Since NCAD, I've stayed highly creative. I got to where I am today naturally, and not wanting to sound full of it, by not taking the easy options. I wanted to live a happy life, so I thought it best if I sculpt, cut and make it up as I go along.

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

I had four great years there, and a lot of growing experiences. I was training to be a teacher, but I was digging, seeing and feeling how all the teachers and tutors were teaching us.

Some teachers seemed to rehearse practices they had learned at the beginning of their career and just repeated them. We had others, who I instantly attached to. I went into NCAD wanting to come out a master painter, but then I met Helen McAllister, Head of Applied Materials. Helen transformed me in a BIG way, because she was teaching her passion with no script. She was the first one to tell you if something was terrible. She was the kind of teacher I wanted to be. So, I stayed and learned what I could from her, spending years in textiles. If I ever step back into teaching, and I hope to, I think I would request some life lessons from Helen.

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

Pull the tablecloth. You MIGHT do it right and all the cups and plates stay in place, or they come crashing down into a mess. Getting it right the first time, that's it, you're smug and done. Learn to love your mistakes enough to make them again, and again. The day where I think I have nothing else to learn will be my least favourite day. You're never good enough, you can always do better, it's awful boring otherwise.

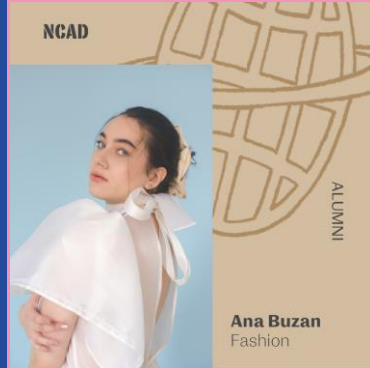
Given the global turmoil and change accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, what in your opinion are the opportunities for those in creative industries?

It's a difficult time, for everyone, no matter what you're involved in, everyone is in the same boat. I think for creatives, it's a time to really explore your kindness. To use your talent, whatever it may be, to cheer someone up, to show someone you care. I can only talk from personal experience; I started posting my work to whoever wanted it for a small cost and I am still at it. In my opinion, it's a great time to use your creativeness. Be kind. Rewind. Play the hits.

Portfolio Links:

<https://www.instagram.com/mickminogue/?hl=en>

In Profile – recent alumni ↓



Name: Anna Buzan

Current Career: Fashion Design / Tailoring

Graduation Year: 2019

Discipline: Fashion Design (BA)

Location: Dublin

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

I was always daydreaming growing up. Creating animated illustrations throughout my childhood, I wanted to tell a story. I pictured myself following the pathway of animation. But I needed to be theatrical, bold and expressive, as I have an auto-biographical approach to my work. Fashion gave me all. I was the creator, the executor. It gave me the control and freedom I wanted.

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

I was born and raised in Dublin, so I've always felt at home in the heart of the city. NCAD has a close-knit community feel among the students and tutors, allowing for cross-collaboration within the fine art and design departments. NCAD was able to provide me with resources. I found myself getting lost in the National Irish Visual Arts Library - the boundless selection of books never failed to inspire me throughout my studies. And the liberty that gave me the opportunity to shape myself as a creative designer.

How did you develop your career towards your current practice?

I knew at a very early age that I had a love for tailoring, therefore it was the next step I pursued after college. I began a position as a tailor in Paul Henry Tailoring shortly after my final year exhibition. Alongside this, I began stocking in Powerscourt Shopping Centre and Om Diva Boutique. I slowly built my network with talented photographers, designers and artists. With that, I began constructing my own fashion label 'Anna Buzan'. My experiences have been the backbone to my start-up

business, whether it be summer interning with experienced seamstresses, or working face-to-face with customers in retail. It was vital for me to understand where I fit into the design sphere, and what I have to offer as a designer.

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

I found that my technical pattern cutting class gave me a chance to work alongside experienced tutors and technicians. I was lucky to get a first-hand view into garment construction, pattern drafting and making. These class exercises and assignments are things that I still apply to my everyday work routine. As well as this, critical reviews and one-on-one presentations with my tutors built up my confidence, it gave me a voice and allowed me to think and react as an independent creative designer.

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

Never doubt your creative intuition; be confident, unapologetic and fearless. Never limit yourself. That will set you apart from every creative mind just like you. You only go forward by making mistakes. Seek advice and support; it is not a form of weakness. It will allow you to flourish as a young developing designer. Explore alternative creative sectors and learn from others, as it will only benefit your perspective, views and ways of thinking as a creative.

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

In this time of change, people's perspective has greatly shifted. The reality is that the creative industry is at a very malleable state. No matter how unfamiliar and alien the challenges that we are faced with may seem, problem solving is in our nature as designers. We must see this as an opportunity to re-evaluate ourselves and refocus our attention to the 'new changing future'. As designers, we have the power and control to reset the ways of non-ethical manufacturing, marketing and production. It is a time of change and hardship, but within that, a time to make us designers heard more than ever.

Portfolio Links:

<https://annabuzandesign.wixsite.com/annabuzan>
<https://www.instagram.com/buzzzanna/?hl=en>

Of Interest ↓

Check out the **DIFF** collaboration with NCAD with a collection of posters drawn from our film programme. Now in its third year, this exhibit acts as a visual shorthand to approximately a third of the screened films and as such represents both the Irish and international nature of the festival. [More information can be found here.](#)

Congratulations to 2nd Year Illustration student **Matthew Kelly**, whose artwork was published in the Irish Independent (print and online) as part of [New Irish Writing](#).



NCAD Gallery ↓

The NCAD Gallery is delighted to announce the LUCIDA Collective as the winners of the 2020 Graduate Open Call 2021 with their forthcoming exhibition, *Infinite Becomings*, 13 April – 11 May, 2021. The LUCIDA Collective emerged from the Clancy-Quay Professional Development Programme during the early Covid-19 lockdowns and comprises graduates: Silvia Koistinen, Jane Tonra, Eileen Mantel, Michaela Nash, Lydia Hickey, Katie Whyte (Image Credit: Lucida Collective, clockwise L – R).

Infinite Becomings is a hybrid. It takes shape as a site-specific installation that extends beyond physical geographic limits as a zine and web archive. Augmented Reality filters which can be used with all forms of the work, bridge the gap between digital and physical space. *Infinite Becomings* exists as a multiplicity, shifting between physical, digital and relational forms. Each exists in tandem with the other, to form a collective whole.

Link to more information here:

www.ncad.ie/about/gallery

We continue the NCAD | The Digital Hub Digital Cultures 2021 Webinar Series with our second webinar event, *AI and Ethics*. *Moral Machines - Model Behaviour* on Thursday 1 April 2021, 7pm-8pm (GMT). Panelists, artist Nora Al Badri and Prof. Barry O'Sullivan join artist Elaine Hoey. [Info here.](#)

March on Campus ↓

We have been delighted this month to welcome back some of our studio based postgraduate and Final Year undergraduate students to the campus and facilitate vitally needed access to the studios and workshops. Many of students remain in the position of learning remotely and remain very grateful for their continued strong engagement and commitment to their programmes in these challenging circumstances. We look forward to welcoming them back on campus when we can.

Myself and two colleagues, Rachel Tuffy and Dr Feargal Fitzpatrick had the great pleasure this month of meeting the 10 final year students nominated for the **Staff Prize**, our annual award generously supported by NCAD staff. The standard was incredibly high, with all students demonstrating an inspiring focus and maturity in sustaining their practice through periods of working at home. It was extremely difficult to choose a winner but I am delighted to announce that the 2020 NCAD Staff Prize winner is **Lauren Kelly** / Sculpture, with the second prize going to **Mary Kervick** / Painting & Visual Culture. We also selected three highly commended students: **Louise Cleary** / Fashion Design, **Amy Kerr** / Textile Surfaces and **Isabella Utria** / Communication Design / Graphic Design with Critical Cultures. Since being shortlisted is itself a distinction, all other nominated students received a financial contribution as a once off measure to reflect the quality of the work and the challenges faced by this year's graduating students.

AfterEffects ↓

Aftereffects and Untold Histories. Politics and Spaces of Performance since the 1990s is a research project and five-week public online events programme running from 15 April - 15 May commissioned by NCAD in partnership with IMMA and NIVAL.

The programme is part of NCAD's contribution to an EU funded L'Internationale project Our Many Europes. L'Internationale is a network of major museums and education partners.

The Aftereffects and Untold Histories programme includes discussions, conversations, archival material, interviews and live performances that will examine the intersections of politics and performance in Europe in the 1990s as well as their legacies today, and features over 30 artists, curators, writers and academics from Ireland and abroad. Events are free to attend and open to all, but as some events have limited attendance - early booking is advised. The full schedule of events / booking links will be launched next week.