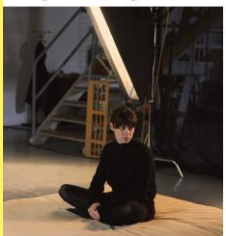


In Profile – meet our alumni ↓

Lucy van Lonkhuyzen



Alumni (Jewellery & Objects)

We caught up with Lucy van Lonkhuyzen, National College of Art & Design graduate and production designer, to chat about her career, and work on internationally acclaimed television drama *Normal People*.

Name: Lucy van Lonkhuyzen

Current Career: Production Design

Graduation Year: 1996

Discipline: Metals (Jewellery & Objects)

Location: Ireland

How have you ended up in your current job?

After graduating I wanted to travel and work overseas; at first, I worked for a jewellery studio in San Francisco, and then in similar jobs in Australia. After returning to Ireland, I took up a place on an RTÉ trainee programme for production designers. The three-year programme proved to be an incredible on-the-job learning experience. Working mainly on drama and light entertainment shows, I was part of a multidisciplinary team of specialists. I already had some Photoshop and Illustrator experience from college and began learning hard skills like AutoCad in order to work with teams of carpenters, metal fabricators and lighting designers. These specialists require accurate technical drawings to create the sets and build the furniture, as well as ensuring that the lighting creates the appropriate backdrop for filming. I quickly realised I was good at production design; my personality and soft skills helped me get things done efficiently. I'm always working with suppliers, hustling to strike a deal to stretch budgets; it's a high-pressure environment. Then, in the early noughties, I left RTE and went freelance.

What did you learn – during your time at NCAD - that helped prepare you for your career?

A design degree teaches you the process of design and that, in order to do the job professionally, you should be prepared to put the time in. From the initial research, to the development of mood boards, creating detailed specification drawings and 3D

models for the team, there's a sequence of steps you must take. All this work requires a process but importantly, it also requires a high level of grit and determination too. My work can be relentless. So, I fall back on my college experience and the endless hours of studio practice that are required.

What sort of research and preparation is required for production design in a TV series like *Normal People*?

I was invited to pitch for the job with Director Lenny Abrahamson and created several production design mood-boards. My research mainly involved focusing on Irish life; I draw a lot of inspiration from researching Irish photography; the use of lighting and composition in photography is always a significant source of reference in my work. Thankfully, my research was well-received. I was invited back for a second interview, before being offered the job. My experience working in the industry has heightened my intuition and I'm closer to knowing instinctively what will work and what won't.

How did the idea of filming a scene for *Normal People* at NCAD happen?

My husband, film location manager Eoin Holohan, was struggling to find a perfect location in Dublin for the Swedish Apartment scene. I remembered my days in the old Granary Building as a foundation art student and felt it might make a great location for the shoot. So, we approached NCAD Buildings Manager Nick Andrews. After an initial site visit, I developed an apartment design and specification list not only for my team but for Nick too. NCAD lighting and temporary studio partition walls had to be removed before the film crew moved in during August 2019 to build the set. We even created a fully functioning bathroom that required the installation of a temporary water tank. Working with Nick Andrews and NCAD was a great experience. The set build took less than two weeks, and all filming was completed in two days.

What plans do you have for the future?

Reviews of my production design on *Normal People* have been really positive, which is exciting. While I wouldn't say the phone is ringing off the hook due to the pandemic, I'm now suddenly receiving calls from overseas. As I work without an agent, this is a breakthrough. Right now, filming on my current job *Valhalla* has ceased due to lockdown. In the meantime, I'm up-skilling and re-skilling by taking online courses in 3D modelling packages such as Rhino, Vectorworks and Sketchup.

Director's Note ↓

Welcome to our first summer newsletter - a new monthly update for our NCAD community giving a snapshot of the many things happening in the College that people can get involved in and giving a regular glimpse into the extraordinary work of our students, alumni and faculty.

While we have not been able to be together on campus over the last few months, work has not stopped and all our students and staff have shown incredible resilience and creativity in ensuring that their practice has continued with some extraordinary results despite the challenges. We will be sharing the work of our graduating students both physically and virtually from September on but in the meantime we are delighted to share a link to the virtual exhibition of our [First Year Studies students](#).

[NCAD In Public](#) continues through the summer with a rich programme of webinars tracking the changes to creative practice that are happening in response to the current moment and with the launch of a new annual programme of commissioned projects celebrating the achievements of our recent graduates with Jonah King's *Tongue The Sun*.

Embedded partnerships beyond the College are central to learning at NCAD and we are delighted to launch our new online project *The Urban Everyday: Design and Material Culture of Dublin 7*, by NCAD MA Design History and Material Culture and MA Service Design students, in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland with a webinar that took place on Friday 3rd July, and to highlight in this newsletter a dynamic new partnership with Kingspan Water and Energy. And finally I would like to thank NCAD Bureau+ design students who designed this new template for our newsletter, following on from the great work they did last summer in designing our new strategic plan [Futures, Bold & Curious](#).

Sarah Glennie



RadioNCAD continues over the summer.

Recent uploads include;

- Maebh O Regan's fascinating interview with sculpture tutor Louise Walsh about her experiences making public art and studying in Belfast in the 1980s.
- The latest issue of NCAD Cribs features a conversation with Caoimhe Cronin, a final year TAA student about her work and life during lock-down.
- And the most recent DJ set in the Yellow Box Selector series is from Evan Magee.

To listen, go to radioncad.ie.
New content always welcome - please email radioncad@staff.ncad.ie

In Action ↓

Repurposing waste plastic using digital technologies was the focus of *The Reprint Project*, an innovative collaboration between National College of Art & Design and Kingspan Water & Energy, during the 2019-2020 academic year. The research project explored how digital technology offers new tools for engaging with materials and involved NCAD staff and students working with Kingspan to put waste material to new use through 3D printing technologies and hand-making processes.

Speaking about the research partnership, Thomas Jefferson, Marketing Manager at Kingspan Water & Energy Ltd said: "At Kingspan, we decided to team up with young creatives to design and make wearable art using Kingspan recycled pellets, bringing a second life to this material." Kingspan provided all funding for the partnership and contributed to building a greater studio capacity for new technologies research projects for NCAD First Year Studies.

The project was led by NCAD lecturers Tara Whelan, Logan McLain, Anthony O'Connor and Felicity Clear. Tara Whelan, Interaction Design Lecturer at NCAD commented: "This creative research partnership with Kingspan has given our students the opportunity to work on a really innovative and challenging project. It reinforces the importance of using reclaimed materials and their potential for versatility." [Find out more.](#)

Mockup image by Derek McGarry.

Jewellery design by Emily Jennings (First Year Studies student).

Portrait image by Dmytro Tolokono.

www.unsplash.com



Staff / Student Achievements ↓

We are pleased to announce that six undergraduate students from Product Design have been nominated for the international RSA Student Design Awards. The competition was won in 2019 by NCAD students Marie Kane and Hannah Grogan.

Congratulations to the NCAD staff and students who have been awarded grants by the Thomas Dammann Junior Memorial Trust:

- Katie Blackwood (NCAD NIVAL) awarded €3,000 for a digitization research project in NIVAL;
- Brendan Dowling awarded €3,000 PhD candidate in the School of Visual Culture to undertake research in Switzerland;
- Andrew Kiernan awarded €1,000 for mounting a joint exhibition between NCAD / Hochschule fur Grafik und Buchkunst, Leipzig;
- David E Maher awarded €2,000 for a research project in the Netherlands.

These awards represented 25% of the total successful applicants, more than those affiliated with any other institution.

Further congratulations for the students who were selected for exhibition and/or won awards at the Highlanes Awards:

- Former MFA Fine Art graduates Elaine Grainger and Susan Buttner have been awarded Open Submission Highly Commended Prizes each worth €500 at the Highlanes Gallery Open Submission 2020. Drogheda exhibition ran from 7 June - 11 July;
- Bernie Masterson MFA Art in the Digital World graduate won the first prize of the Janet Mullarney Award of €3,000;
- Additional MFA FA graduates in the show include Harry Walsh Foreman, Saidhbhin Gibson and Austin Hearne;
- Current MFA FA students Bara Palcik and Niamh McGuinne were also selected for exhibition as well as Méabhbh Hennelly, FA Media studio, going into 2nd year.

Current MFA Fine Art student Isabella Delaney has won Best Experimental Short at the Top Shorts Film Festival, New York for her film *The Clothes Wear You*, a video performance featuring her character Meryl Daze. [The trailer link is here.](#) And finally, congratulations to Henry Martin, PhD candidate in the School of Visual Culture, who has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship at the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.

What's Coming Up ↓

With public health restrictions still in place, we invite you to join us for our summer programme of online events, webinars and exhibitions.

Online Exhibition

In the NCAD first year experience our students begin with a common exploratory semester and progress to working in their chosen specialist departments.

The images in this online exhibition are from this final specialist module, made in the time of COVID. [View the exhibition here.](#)

NCAD Gallery Exhibition Events

Tongue The Sun | Jonah King

Online Event: Friday 17 July 2020, 5pm.

A reading from the essay, *Unfathomable Intimacies* by Jonah King, broadcast on the NCAD Gallery - In Public Programme YouTube channel [here.](#)

The NCAD Gallery is delighted to present the newly commissioned project, *Tongue The Sun*, by artist Jonah King: an online exhibition experience of new work to focus on conversations on queer ecology. Find out more [here.](#)



NCAD In Public Webinars

The Air We Breathe: Multiple Publics in Future Practice

Webinar: Thursday 30 July 2020, 5pm.

The Air We Breathe: Multiple Publics in Future Practice directs a discussion around social engagement in the age of social distance. In consideration of the implications posed for art practices that utilise information flows and social systems as their medium, representing one of the contemporary dominant modes of art-making. Find out more and register [here.](#)

Webinar in Partnership with the National Museum of Ireland

The Urban Everyday

A webinar was held in July 2020 to mark the launch of *The Urban Everyday: Design and Material Culture of Dublin 7*, an online project by MA Design History and Material Culture and MA Service Design Students at NCAD in partnership with the National Museum of Ireland. [To see the site, click here.](#) A recording of the event will appear on the NCAD website in July.