

### In Profile – meet our alumni ↓

**Donna Rose**  
MA Design History  
& Material Culture



**Name:** Donna Rose

**Current Career:** Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Irish Art, National Gallery of Ireland

**Graduation Year:** 2019

**Discipline:** MA Design History & Material Culture

**Location:** Dublin

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

I was always drawing as a child and my favourite subjects in school were English, History and Art. I always wanted to do something that combined all of my favourite things but I wasn't aware of the amazing possibilities out there until I went to college as I hadn't known anyone who worked in the art, academia or cultural industries.

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

It made sense for me for a number of reasons really. I was very interested in the Master's course in Design History & Material Culture, which is the only one of its kind in Ireland, and the fact that there was a scholarship available made it more accessible to me.

Also, I was new to Dublin at the time and wanted to continue living here, and I had heard great things about NCAD and the experience of studying there.

#### How did you develop your career towards your current practice?

My Bachelor's degree was in Fine Art from the Crawford College of Art and Design and it had a focus on art history and theory. This, combined with my Master's in Design History and Material Culture from NCAD, meant that I had built a strong knowledge of the history of art and design in Ireland, and its wider social and cultural context.

Leaving the Master's, I was well-equipped to research and interpret objects in an archival and cultural setting and this really has

helped me to be successful in my job now, as a Research Fellow in one of Ireland's largest cultural institutions, The National Gallery of Ireland.

The Centre for the Study of Irish Art is a research centre, library and archive of materials with a focus on the history of art in Ireland. My job there includes researching the collection, caring for it, exploring ways to share it with others through outreach and engagement, and developing projects and exhibitions which focus on the archival objects. The ability to interpret objects and situate them historically and culturally is an important part of my job. I have just started taking on some lecturing work too, on the topics of art history and material culture, and my positive experiences as a student combined with the hands-on experience of working with objects has really helped to inform my teaching.

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

Your classmates are all experts in something and you can learn so much from each other and make some real friends for life. Presentations are a great way to practice sharing your ideas with other people. If you get nervous, remember that your classmates and lecturers are rooting for you! If you want to share your ideas with people after college in a way that is interesting and engaging, getting involved in the public speaking aspect of your course will really benefit you.

Also, when it's possible again, I would recommend spending some time in the library. I know from experience that it can be tough when juggling college with work, but spending just a few hours a week walking up and down the aisles and picking out books that spark your interest can lead you down some really interesting paths.

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

I think at the moment there is a big focus on how we can adapt things to the digital world. Things like online exhibitions, research, events...they can be made accessible to more people who share the same interests. Now more than ever, online networks of people in creative industries are growing.

### Exhibitions ↓

We are delighted to present our graduate showcase, **NCAD Works 2021**, launching on **June 24th** with live events taking place at IMMA and around the city from 24th - 26th June. This year's showcase will be presented both online at the [NCAD.works](https://www.ncad.ie/works) digital platform and around the city in a series of satellite events and occurrences.

On the grounds of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, NCAD students will be performing, showing, wearing and speaking about their work, as well as publicly presenting images of their degree projects. Meanwhile, across the city centre, representations of NCAD graduate's work will be popping up in unexpected locations. A full programme of online talks will encourage further interaction with the ideas and work of the graduate students.

NCAD believes that our students can change the world through bold and curious thinking, making and doing. The creativity and imagination can make our environment more sustainable, our society more inclusive and our lives richer. We are proud to invite you to view and celebrate their work, both on and offline in our graduate showcase, **NCAD Works 2021**.



As a result of the NCAD Staff Open Call opportunity, **berte and harmey** will be resident in the **NCAD Gallery** space in June 2021 with the research and development phase of *Nul Punt Wolk*, their critical mapping project which will focus on specific locations in Dublin. **berte & harmey** was formed by artists Filip Berte (BE) and Cliona Harmey (IE), to share research and resources whilst exploring ideas around spatial politics, critical geography, historical legacies and socio-technical systems of exclusion and inclusion.



### Awards ↓

**Eight Product and Interaction Design students** have been shortlisted for the **HSE Design on the Frontline** challenge. The HSE put out a national call to the design community for ideas to current healthcare challenges. Alongside designers from Fjord and St James Hospital, two teams from Studio+ Bureau Product and Interaction Design were shortlisted.

- Waffle - an app to enable simple communication for those with amplified needs
  - Tadhg O'Connell, Federico Tusacciu, Sinead Spring, Gareth Byrne, Ava White
  - Iontach - Older adult daily motivation
- Giancarlo Nollora, Katie O'Brien, Kate McKenna

[More information can be found here.](#)

Congrats to the **four Design students** shortlisted for the **D&A Awards** in May. D&A Awards celebrates creative and craft excellence in design and advertising. More information on the projects can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

**Niamh Hyland** was announced as the winner of the **River Island NCAD Bursary** in May. She will receive a cash prize and 3 months paid internship with River Island in London. Shortlisted students were: Niamh, Lisa Reilly, Stephanie Finney, Louise Cleary, Kim O'Mara, Karen Bruness and Nala Ghantous. River Island commented on the outstanding work and very high standard of entries this year.

We are also delighted that **Aaron McGouran, NCAD fashion design graduate 2020** has been announced as a finalist in this year's **Mittelmoda Design Competition**. Mittelmoda is one of the most respected international fashion competitions for young talent. Every year they receive entries from over 600 fashion, art and design schools including MA courses from over 44 countries worldwide. The final will be held in Milan this September, will keep you posted!

**Mitch Conlon**, a graduate from the MA Art in the Digital World Programme in 2014, is part of the Array Collective based in Belfast and recently nominated for the **Turner Prize**. Venessa Daws from the same year and programme was the recipient of a recent major Arts Council award for her project - **Swimming a Long Way together**. [More information can be found here.](#)

### Of Interest ↓

In autumn 2021, **NCADs Clancy Quay Professional Development Programme** will collaborate with the **Arts Council of Ireland Superprojects** and the **Project Arts Centre** to launch a new blended professional development programme for five recent graduates of the National College of Art and Design. The programme which will run from October 2021 to February 2022 aims to equip emerging artists with essential professional skills required to navigate the complexities of the art world. Sessions will take place bi-monthly on-line, on Tuesday evenings from 6-8pm with three days on-site/in-person in Dublin across the programme (October, December & February) for studio and gallery visits and collaborative sessions.

There are 5 places available to 2021 NCAD Graduates on this free programme. Places will be awarded based on merit and need, through a selection panel from NCAD, Project Arts Centre and Superprojects, following receipt of the completed application form by the deadline on Thursday June 10th at 12pm. [Link to the application is here.](#)

#### Studio+

The **Art with Health and Wellbeing** strand of Fine Art Studio + ran a complimentary programme of Teaching and Learning beyond hospital framing alone as pandemic arrangements suspended access to Health facilities.

Very recently a selection of NCAD student work has been presented within the Creative Life Pillar in MISA comprising research posters, images encapsulated objects and lens based work. The work has conformed to wipeable surfaces and infection control. The work has been very welcomed by hospital Management and Staff and will be 'in situ' for several weeks.

One outcome from the inaugural **NCAD FIELD Studio+ Spring semester** saw students devise and design a 'Floriegium' from plant (and other specimens) gathered from **NCAD FIELD**. The plants, some identified and some not, testify to the botanical diversity and layered history of this site being a mix of native, exotic, human cultivated and also vegetables gone 'feral'. Students composed and digitally scanned these specimens blowing them up 300% in scale. This process references a history of plant gathering and pressing (with the scanner and resultant digital file replacing the analogue) and also questions how to empirically reengage with the natural world

in the time of the Anthropocene and ecological collapse. With support from Gareth Kennedy, Sculpture and Expanded Practice.



NCAD FIELD Students Alicia Arco (Erasmus), Rebekah Purcell (TAA), Liath Murdoff (Paint) and Sarah Penny (Visual Culture) fixing the FIELD Florilegium Billboard on Red Square. Photo: Gareth Kennedy

#### What Does He Need? by Fiona Whelan, Brokentaklers and Rialto Youth Project. In Association with The LAB Gallery.

Until 7 June 2021, the **What Does He Need?** project presents two interconnected public art works: a 30 minute audio piece and a public poster project, both exploring the ways in which men and boys are shaped by, and in turn influence the world around them. [Click here to listen.](#)

**Eight Fine Art Textile students** created **Woven Connections**, an Irish art association that has emerged as a social community during the Covid crisis. Their first online exhibition runs from 30 May until 6 June on [@wovenconnections](#) where they will present a selection of works as a collective showcase.

**ARTSTHREAD** have, for the second year running, teamed up with **GUCCI** who will be the exclusive partner for the 2021 Global Design Graduate Show. It is open to all art and design students graduating in the Academic Year 2020-21 (undergraduate and postgraduate) in any related creative discipline. Students have until 31st August 2021 to upload their end of year projects onto the ARTSTHREAD platform. Enter [ARTSTHREAD Global Design Graduate Show 2021 here.](#)

As the academic year is coming to an end, we would like to remind you that your **library books should be returned soon.**

**No late fines will be charged - we just need the books back safely!**

The opening hours for returning books are as follows: 31 May - 4 Jun - open 9.30am - 4.00pm. If you are unable to make the trip to campus to return your books, please contact [libraryloans@staff.ncad.ie](mailto:libraryloans@staff.ncad.ie) and arrangements will be made for you to post them back, free of charge.