

# MATERIAL *poetry*

*an exhibition of* CONTEMPORARY OBJECTS *from* IRELAND

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The American Irish Historical Society 991 5th Ave New York NY10028



"Erosion" by *Joseph WALSH* 2009 Photo by *Andrew BRADLEY*



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The American Irish Historical Society 991 5th Ave New York NY10028  
October 8th to November 18th 2010

MATERIAL*poetry* will highlight the best of the new wave of design/craft emerging from Ireland. International curator Brian Kennedy will focus on Irish makers whose work is infused with a poetic simplicity and a material honesty. Work influenced by ancient Irish architectural forms, the majestic Irish landscape, a deep rooted knowledge and respect for techniques and a true understanding and love of material. Work which traps for ever a moment in time, a moment in the making, a moment in the dialogue between maker, making and material and offers it up to us to live with and use, for now and to pass on. Work that is of the moment, but not just for the moment.

Also featured in the exhibition are the first pieces from the "STUDIO*practice*" project. This project facilitates collaboration between the W/WORKSHOP, other leading studios and leading design/architectural practices. Launching this initiative will be work by the acclaimed architectural practice O'Donnell+Tuomey and the award winning design office Design Partners.

MATERIAL*poetry* is the first exhibition in a three-year initiative in partnership with the American Irish Historical Society and in association with Causey Contemporary. MATERIAL*poetry* arose out of Joseph Walsh's highly acclaimed exhibition in October/November 2008, the success of which the Society wishes to build on by continuing to host events which celebrate the best in contemporary Irish design and craft. The second exhibition in the series will be DUBH, an exploration of the colour BLACK in art and design, which will take place in April 2011. MATERIAL*poetry* will return to Ireland in July 2011 where it will be a feature exhibition at the Galway Arts Festival, Ireland's premier arts event.

A full catalogue designed and produced by Coracle Press will be published to coincide with the exhibition featuring a specially commissioned series of black and white photographs accompanied by a selection of contemporary Irish poetry.

The Educational Department of the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in New York will host a series of lectures both at the Cooper-Hewitt and at the AIHS during the exhibition.

MATERIAL*poetry* will include work by acclaimed furniture maker Joseph Walsh, contemporary jewellery by Angela O'Kelly, basket ware by Joe Hogan, ceramics by Frances Lambe, glass vessels by Karl Harron, silverware by Kevin O'Dwyer, and hand turned wood vessels by Liam Flynn.

For further information, please contact:

**USA:** Tracy Causey-Jeffery, Causey Contemporary,  
contact: 001 718 218 8939, [tracy@causeycontemporary.com](mailto:tracy@causeycontemporary.com)

**UK:** Brian Kennedy, briing,  
contact: 44 (0)781 615 1568, [brian@briing.uk.com](mailto:brian@briing.uk.com)

**Ireland:** Joseph Walsh Studio  
contact: 353 (0)21 477 1759, [info@josephwalshstudio.com](mailto:info@josephwalshstudio.com)

Appendix I  
**Exhibitors**

MAKER	medium	website
<i>sarah</i> FLYNN	ceramics	<a href="http://www.sarahflynn ceramic.com">www.sarahflynn ceramic.com</a>
<i>liam</i> FLYNN	wood	<a href="http://www.liamflynn.com">www.liamflynn.com</a>
<i>mark</i> HANVEY	wood	<a href="http://www.markhanvey.co.uk">www.markhanvey.co.uk</a>
<i>karl</i> HARRON	glass	<a href="http://www.theglasstudioireland.com">www.theglasstudioireland.com</a>
<i>joe</i> HOGAN	baskets	<a href="http://www.joehoganbaskets.com">www.joehoganbaskets.com</a>
<i>frances</i> LAMBE	ceramics	<a href="http://www.franceslambe.com">www.franceslambe.com</a>
<i>yaffe</i> MAYS	furniture	<a href="http://www.lauramays.com">www.lauramays.com</a>
<i>rachel</i> MC KNIGHT	jewellery	<a href="http://www.rachelmcknight.com">www.rachelmcknight.com</a>
<i>cara</i> MURPHY	metal	<a href="http://www.caramurphy.com">www.caramurphy.com</a>
<i>eily</i> O'CONNELL	jewellery	<a href="http://www.eilyoconnell.com">www.eilyoconnell.com</a>
<i>nuala</i> O'DONOVAN	ceramics	<a href="http://www.nualaodonovan.com">www.nualaodonovan.com</a>
<i>kevin</i> O'DWYER	metal	<a href="http://www.millennium2000silver.com">www.millennium2000silver.com</a>
<i>angela</i> O'KELLY	jewellery	<a href="http://www.angelaokelly.com">www.angelaokelly.com</a>
<i>joseph</i> WALSH	furniture	<a href="http://www.josephwalshstudio.com">www.josephwalshstudio.com</a>
<i>nest</i> DESIGN	furniture	<a href="http://www.nest-design.com">www.nest-design.com</a>
<i>inga</i> REED	jewellery	<a href="http://www.ingareed.com">www.ingareed.com</a>
 <i>STUDIOpractice</i>		
<i>o'donnell</i> +TUOMEY	architects	<a href="http://www.odonnell-tuomey.ie">www.odonnell-tuomey.ie</a>
<i>design</i> PARTNERS	industrial design	<a href="http://www.designpartners.com">www.designpartners.com</a>

Appendix II

**Examples of the artists' work**

Additional examples and hi res images can be obtained from:

**USA:** Tracy Causey-Jeffery, Causey Contemporary, t: 001 718 218 8939,  
Tracy@causeycontemporary.com

**UK:** Brian Kennedy, briing, t: 44 (0)781 615 1568, brian@briing.uk.com



Liam Flynn  
*Barrel Forms*  
2008  
Ebonised Oak, turned  
Tallest 26x23 cm, 10.5x9" (H x W)



*Temple Offering # 0110*  
2010  
Bullseye Reactive Glass and  
Precious Metal Silver  
Base: 4000 year old Irish bog-oak  
Diameter 19 cm , 7.5"



Joe Hogan  
*Pod on encrusted Beech Wood*  
2009  
70x55x56 cm, 27.5x21.5x22"



Frances Lambe  
*Sea Bean #3*  
2009  
Ceramic, GT Material and Porcelain  
33x23x17 cm, 13x9x6.5"  
Photographer: Gerry Morgan



Kevin O'Dwyer  
*Teapot*  
2009  
Architectural series, forged, fabricated and  
patterned sterling silver, rosewood handle  
20x25x15 cm, 8x10x6" (HxLxW)



Angela O'Kelly  
*Bracelet*  
2009  
Paper, felt  
10x15 cm, 4x6" (HxW)



Joseph Walsh  
*Equinox Wall I*  
2009  
Ash, copper leaf and silk, finished in white oil  
  
*Enignum Chair I*  
2009  
Ash and Suede, finished in white oil

## Appendix III

### Curator's biography

#### *brian*KENNEDY

Brian Kennedy studied at The Crawford College of Art and Design, Cork, and Chelsea School of Art in London. Until 2004, Kennedy taught part-time at the Crawford College of Art and Design, and now divides his time between Tipperary and London.

Since 2002 he has been a consultant and curator working in the Craft and Design Sector. He works with State Agencies and private firms to develop strategies, organise exhibitions and build collections.

Curated exhibitions include:

- 2009 *Object*, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
- 2009 National Craft Gallery of Ireland @ *Collect London*
- 2007 *Hue, Line & Form*, Contemporary Applied Arts, London
- 2007 *Mythology, Ecology, Technology*, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny and Farmleigh Gallery, Dublin
- 2006 2007 2008 National Craft Gallery of Ireland @ *SOFA Chicago*
- 2005 *40 Shades of Green*, Glucksman Gallery, Cork , Dublin, Europe and USA
- 2002 *Of Colour in Craft*, National Craft Gallery, Kilkenny
- 1998 *Eight Cities*, Temple Bar International Print Show and tour to Belfast and Stoke-on Trent

## Appendix IV

### **Associated organizations' information**

#### *american irish*HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The American Irish Historical Society headquarters reopened March 16, 2008 after a two-year restoration and renovation.

The Society, founded in 1897 to inform the world of the achievements of the Irish in America, is today a national center of scholarship and culture. From its home on New York's Fifth Avenue, across from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Society serves as a focal point of the contemporary transatlantic Irish experience, a place where current public issues are explored, and where the great renaissance in Irish culture is celebrated in lectures, concerts, art exhibits and a literary journal. Non-partisan and non-sectarian from its beginning, the Society welcomes new members and is pleased to make its library and select events open to the public.

#### *causey*CONTEMPORARY

Causey Contemporary cultivates and represents contemporary artists from their emergence through their maturity. The gallery is dedicated to helping collectors understand and enjoy their artworks within historical, cultural and social contexts, and aims to nourish dialogue and relationships between artists, collectors and curators. Causey Contemporary strives to provide a multilayered platform for each artist's individual voice, and to help that voice be heard by new and seasoned collectors alike.

Causey Contemporary represents exquisite technically and conceptually challenging art. The gallery exhibits the work of its core group of 13 artists in 11 shows annually, in addition to hosting special exhibitions by other critically recognized artists. Causey Contemporary participates in two or more international art fairs annually and also organizes international touring exhibitions.

Causey Contemporary and its artists have been covered in Artnews, Artforum, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and multiple other art and culture publications. Gallery artists are included in the collections of MoMA, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston and other institutions throughout the world.

Causey Contemporary was established in 1999 as Ch'i Contemporary Fine Art. Founder and Director Tracy Causey-Jeffery changed the name in September 2009 to commemorate the gallery's expansion and its tenth anniversary.

## ***coracle*PRESS**

Coracle is a small publishing press directed by artist and writer Erica Van Horn and poet and editor Simon Cutts from what was a small farm in between the hills of South Tipperary, Ireland. Before that time it was based in London from the 1970s culminating in its last bookshop project *workfortheeyetodo*: the issue of the small bookshop has never been far from such production as a means of warehousing and distribution.

Since 1996, in this more remote form, it continues as printer-publisher, editor of spaces, employing many of the devices and formats of hypothetical publishing inherent in the small press. Inevitably, the content of much of the publishing is the nature of the book itself, in both playful and critical dimensions. At the same time there is always poetry and other books by artists and writers, and an extensive arena of criticism.

The books themselves are not so much concerned with craft-traditions of limitedness of edition, hand-made papers and elaborate binding, as with the plain-ness of the simple case-bound book and sewn paperback, and their availability. Most years, Coracle undertakes an editorial and productional project beyond its own program, but utilizing the same approach to both the book and publishing.

## ***Joseph*WALSH**

Joseph Walsh established his studio in 1999 in County Cork, Ireland. However his experimentation with making began at an early age and he is self-taught. He has travelled extensively to workshops of other designers and makers, to museums and galleries, observing at all times, studying and learning.

Joseph Walsh sees his work as transcending design and art, guided only by the sensitive use of materials, excellence in the making, and purity in structure and form. The issues addressed within his work are explored through the development of a series of concepts, realized in the creation of his limited edition Selected Works and One-of-a-kind Commissions and Study Works.

Exhibitions: Having exhibited at a number of international exhibitions, Joseph Walsh was invited to exhibit a large scale art installation at SOFA Chicago 2007 while in 2008 he presented his first US solo exhibition at the American Irish Historical Society in New York. In 2009 he exhibited at Design Miami/Basel, Origin London and at Grassimesse Leipzig while he presented a new body of work at the Pavilion of Art & Design London.

Collections: Joseph Walsh's work is in Museum, Corporate, Liturgical and Embassy Collections and has been acquired by many private collectors. He has also been commissioned by the Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina to create work for a project entitled TEN TEN TEN featuring work by just ten artists worldwide.

## ***culture*IRELAND**

Culture Ireland is the state agency for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide, working under the aegis of the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. Culture Ireland creates and supports opportunities for Irish artists to present their work at strategic international festivals, venues, showcases and arts markets. The agency comprises a board appointed by the Minister and an executive staff led by the Chief Executive. [www.cultureireland.gov.ie](http://www.cultureireland.gov.ie)

***MATERIALpoetry is presented with support from Culture Ireland, the state agency for the promotion of Irish arts worldwide***

## ***crafts*COUNCIL of IRELAND**

The Crafts Council of Ireland (CCol) is the main champion of the craft industry in Ireland, fostering its growth and commercial strength, communicating its unique identity and stimulating quality design, innovation and competitiveness. CCol's activities are funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment via Enterprise Ireland.

***MATERIALpoetry has been part funded by the Crafts Council of Ireland***

## ***Organizers/Venue***

American Irish Historical Society	<a href="http://www.aihs.org">www.aihs.org</a>
Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum	<a href="http://www.cooperhewitt.org">www.cooperhewitt.org</a>
Brian Kennedy	<a href="http://www.briing.uk.com">www.briing.uk.com</a>
Joseph Walsh	<a href="http://www.josephwalshstudio.com">www.josephwalshstudio.com</a>
Coracle Press	<a href="http://www.coracle.ie">www.coracle.ie</a>
Causey Contemporary	<a href="http://www.causeycontemporary.com">www.causeycontemporary.com</a>
Culture Ireland	<a href="http://www.cultureireland.gov.ie">www.cultureireland.gov.ie</a>
Crafts Council of Ireland	<a href="http://www.ccoi.ie">www.ccoi.ie</a>

Appendix V

## **STUDIO*practice***

An important aspect of the “*MATERIALpoetry*” exhibition is the forging of new links between different art forms, between design and craft, craft and writing, music and design. A major development in this cross fertilization is the launch of a new series of exciting collaborations between the W/WORKSHOP and leading architectural and design practices.

Founded in 1999 to produce the furniture of renowned Irish designer Joseph Walsh, W/WORKSHOP has become one of the leading studio workshops in Europe, fusing mastery in making with innovative techniques to realize Walsh’s challenging works. In order to continuously grow it’s knowledge base and push the boundaries of what is imaginable, W/WORKSHOP has initiated linkages over the years with established professionals such as Arup Consulting Engineers (who provide GSA Analysis) and Robert Ingham (former principle of Parnham College 1976 - 1996). It has also built an international team who come from backgrounds such as the Furniture College Letterfrack, Ireland, Shinrin Takumi Juku, Japan, and Les Compagnons Du Devoir, France. Today W/WORKSHOP continues to build skills and accumulate its knowledge of working with solid wood: carving and shaping, bending and manipulating, often employing wood in ways normally associated with engineering.

Now, for the first time, this considerable knowledge and skill, honed by the master craftsmen in the making of Walsh’s own work, will be made available to leading architects and designers. Working with these professionals, to bring their concepts successfully through to realization, W/WORKSHOP can make projects to commission, our experienced team can also assist with detailing a project and are happy to collaborate with appropriate partners.

Under the guidance of Joseph Walsh and Brian Kennedy this ground breaking collaboration promises to lead to the production of exciting new pieces of design that will be seen for the first time as part of the “*MATERIALpoetry*” exhibition. Following the same brief and philosophies as the artists in the exhibition “*MATERIALpoetry*”, “*STUDIOpractice*” will aim to challenge both the design skills in the practices through focusing on new processes and the making skills in the studio by being exposed to new approaches.

The work produced in “*STUDIOpractice*” will be a physical manifestation of the current debate about both the boundaries and common ground between art, design and craft. Walsh and Kennedy believe that the only way to really establish discourse between leading practitioners from different fields is through the production of new and challenging work. Coming together to solve problems is a sure way of being innovative.

In the spirit of innovation the first companies that we have approached to be part of “STUDIO*practice*” are O’Donnell+Tuomey and Design Partners.

O’Donnell+Tuomey established their partnership in 1988 and it has since developed an international reputation for outstanding cultural and educational architecture. Among the firm’s best-known works are the Irish Film Centre, Dublin; the Ranelah Multi-Denominational School, Dublin; the Furniture College of the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (Letterfrack Campus, Galway); the Sean O’Casey Community Centre, Dublin, and the Lewis Glucksman Gallery at the University of Cork. The firm also won a competition last year to design the new student center for the London School of Economics. The practice has been selected for more than 50 national and international awards and commendations over the past 20 years, and has been shortlisted as finalists for major European awards. It has won the AAI Downes Medal for Excellence in Architectural Design six times in the 12 years in which it has been awarded, and in 2005 received the RIAI Gold Medal, the highest award in Irish Architecture.

Design Partners, the award winning Dublin based industrial design consultancy is recognized for its ground breaking designs for brands such as Palm, Dell, Logitech and HP. By creating landmark products designs, including the MX Revolution for Logitech, the Treo Smart Phone for Palm, and the Trilogy range for Le Creuset, the team has helped evolving brands establish leadership in their respective categories. The consultancies work has been recognized by major international design awards including the G mark in Japan, the Janus award in France and an IDSA gold award in the United States. Design Partners work has been exhibited in the Museum of Modern art in New York and in SFMOMA in San Francisco. Brian Stephens, the founding designer of the firm, sees “STUDIO-*practice*” as a real opportunity for dialog between class leaders and an opportunity to bring to the marketplace some exciting and innovative products that will combine world-class design and manufacturing.