

VIVIENNE BOGAN, KATHRYNA CUSCHIERI,
NICOLA HENLEY AND JANE SEYMOUR

Croi: Form & Fusion



NEW ARTWORKS IN PAINT, GLASS, TEXTILES,
AND CERAMICS • 25 SEPT - 27 OCT, 2026

OPENS FRI 25 SEPT, 6 PM • GUEST SPEAKER
NUALA O'CONNOR • MUSIC BY MAJA ELLIOTT

 **KENNY**
GALLERY
thekennygallery.ie

The Kenny Gallery
Liosbán Retail Park
Tuam Road, Galway
H91 N5P8, Ireland





Croí collective photographed at the Kenny Gallery, 2025

Croí: Form and Fusion 25 September – 27 October 2026 | The Kenny Gallery, Galway

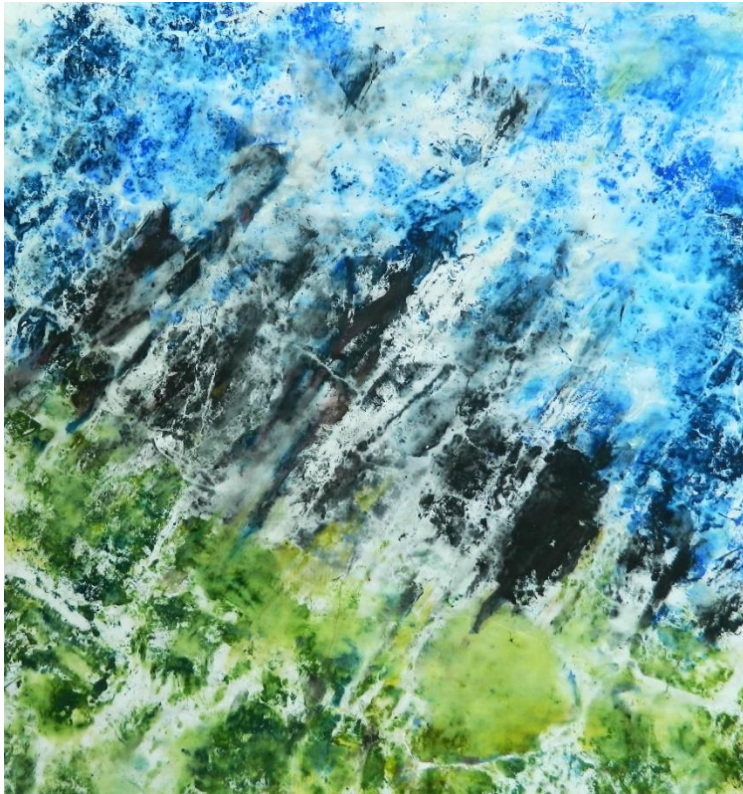
Croí collective including Vivienne Bogan, Kathryn Cushieri, Nicola Henley and Jane Seymour, works in paint, glass, textiles and ceramics from 25 September.

This, their fifth collaborative exhibition, brims with the love and deep connection each has for the place they have chosen to live, Co Clare. Hailing originally from the UK, Malta and Ireland, the four artists have worked together for over twenty years as festival organisers, educators, on arts-based community activities and as exhibitors.

Through the media of glass, fabric, ceramics, printmaking, paint and drawing the exhibition capture varied aspects of the flora and fauna of the artists immediate environs. Huge skies dotted with native birds, large glass sculptures are home to transparent bees and insects, robust ceramic vessels etched with crows and animals, and large frottage prints capture land and sea views. These are just some examples of the diverse yet harmonious blending of subject matter.

The exhibition will be officially opened by writer Nuala O'Connor on Friday 25th September at 6:00pm at the Kenny Gallery in Galway (H91 N5P8), with music by Maja Elliott.

All are warmly welcome to the opening, where refreshments will be served, and the exhibitions continues until the 27th of October.



*Vivienne Bogan, Island, Frottage
Print, Acrylic on Cotton, 48x48in*

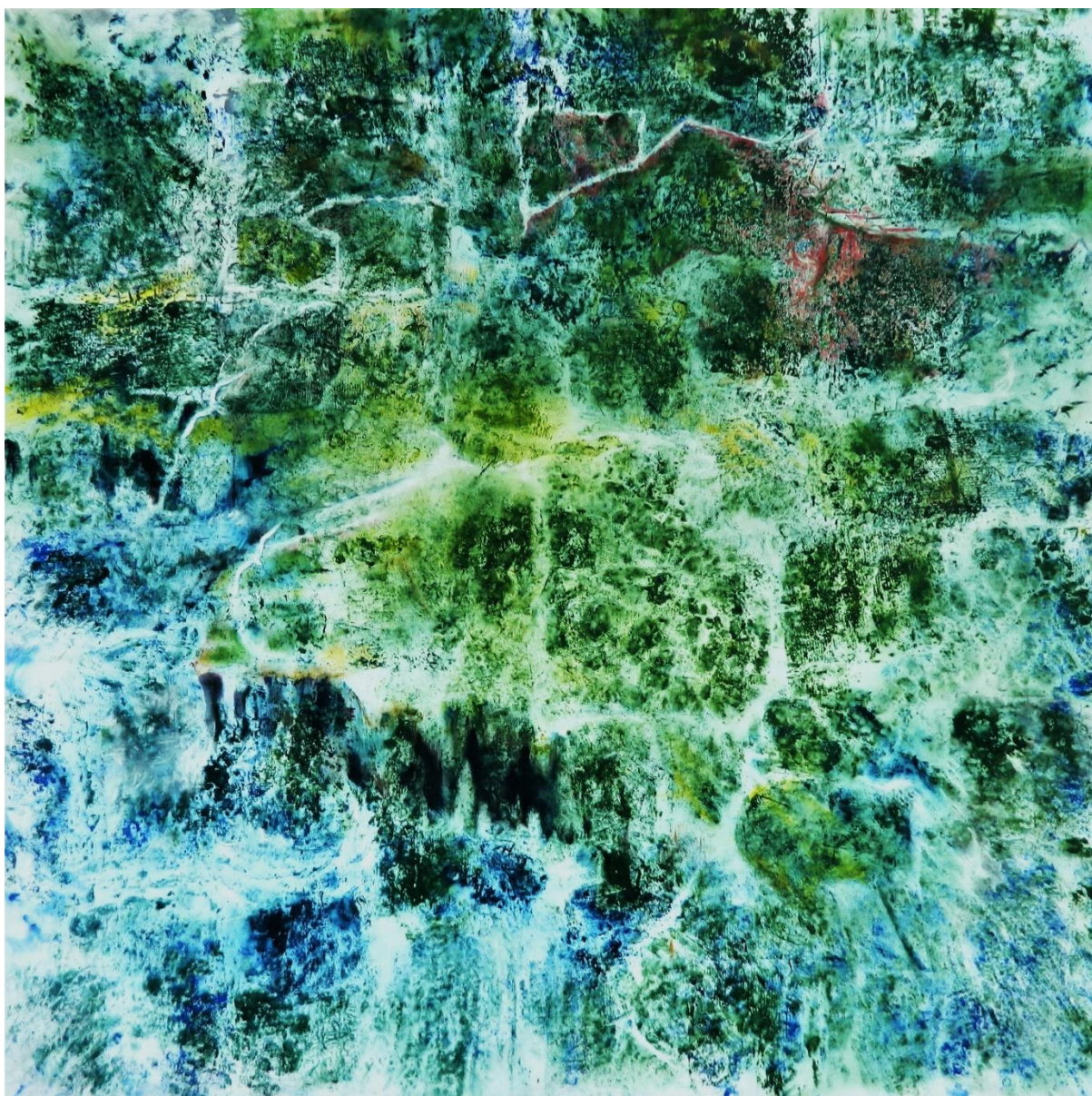
VIVIENNE BOGAN

Vivienne Bogan was born in Limerick in 1951. She studied at the Limerick School of Art and Design and at the Vrije Academie in Amsterdam. The evolution of her corpus reflects the continuous state of transformation her daily life and routine. As the artist herself explains: 'I see what I do as a personal journey of self-exploration and discovery – the vehicle that assists me to glean a deeper insight and understanding of myself, as a spiritual and physical being and of the world and my place in it'.

This appetite for mutation explains why the artist has preferred improvised methods of conception – illustrated by her regular use of found objects and materials – that take the counterpoint to traditional academic techniques. Among the plethora of materials the artist experiments with, paper holds a particular place: 'for its variety and versatility as a surface to create on but also for how it can in itself inspire and stimulate – whether it is the paper I make myself and its 3D, highly textured qualities or the unconventional ways of using the manufactured sheets such as "pinning" embossing, etc.'.

In terms of process, Bogan prefers to work on several works, series and mediums concurrently. Through the simultaneous exploration of different themes, the artist manages to nurture diversity while blending subjects into implicit common threads, such as flight as a form of freedom. The female figure as a maternal 'carrier' is a more recent focus of Bogan's corpus.

Bogan lives and works in Feakle, Co. Clare.



Vivienne Bogan, Coast Road, Frottage Print, Acrylic on Cotton, 48x48in



KATHRYNA CUSCHIERI

Kathryna was born in Malta in 1962, moved to England in 1976 and has been resident in Ireland since 1993.

Her foundation training in art was done at Thurrock Polytechnic in Essex. In 1984 she graduated with a BA (Hons) degree in Fine Art from Coventry University.

Her current studio is situated in Glendree, Co.Clare.

Her work has been purchased and commissioned for several collections throughout England, Ireland and Malta including:

- Bury St. Edmonds Library, Suffolk, England,
- Bord Iascaigh Mhara, Co.Cork
- Raheen Woods Hospital, Co.Clare
- Revenue Offices, Ennis, Co.Clare
- St Joseph's School, Tulla, Co.Clare
- Riverside Two, Sir John Rogerson Quay, Co.Dublin
- Glasnevin Educate Together, National School, Glasnevin, Co.Dublin
- Dooradoyle University Hospital ,Limerick
- Dooradoyle School,Limerick

Artist Statement

Glass: A hard and brittle substance, typically transparent or translucent. It is made by fusing sand with soda and lime and cooling rapidly.

I use the flexible potential and properties of hot glass to explore the emotions that carry our inner world of visions, images and fairy tales.

Fairy tales have become a core part of the individual and collective mind. I am interested in the deep influence they have on cultural development and how they affect the context of our lives. These stories whether traditional, modern or spun from parents' creativity become our personal myths and run beneath our living perceptions and expectations. I am moved and intrigued by the way the inner world of the stories we hold influences the outer life and endeavour to weave these worlds together.

I cast parts or all of the human body as the vehicle to make this magical interrelation of existence visible and tactile. It is an alchemist process of bringing what is ordinarily hidden out into the light, working with the individual's underlying soul story which impacts their lives transmuting it into the mould. Glass is a fabulous medium for this work and expresses this dream world as a visual life-scape running through the final Artwork in Glass.



*Kathryna Cuschieri,
Dress of Vision
(detail), Fused and
slumped glass*



*Kathryna Cuschieri, Dress of Joy,
Fused and slumped glass with
brass inclusions and leather
mounting straps, full body size*



*Nicola Henley, Gannet Dive
(detail), textiles, approx
120x70cm*

NICOLA HENLEY

Nicola Henley is a Fine Art Textile artist based in the West of Ireland who has exhibited widely in Ireland, The UK and worldwide. She specialises in large scale, one-off textile artworks for exhibitions and private and public commissions.

Born in Bristol, England she moved to Co. Clare in 1991 to set up a studio and continue working on large scale artworks, based on her interest in nature and wildlife. Her work is inspired by nature and particularly birds; their movement and sense of freedom, set against the dramatic seas and changing light of the Atlantic coast. She aims to draw our attention to the delicate balance of nature and the connections between ourselves and the natural environment.

The textile pieces are made by a combination of dyeing, painting, and screen-printing cotton calico and texturing the surface with various materials such as handmade Japanese paper and silk stitched onto the surface of the cloth. The change of scale from bold printing and painting to the intimacy of close stitching helps to convey the concept of near detail with open space of a landscape or seascape.



Nicola Henley, Curlew Estuary (detail), textiles, approx 120x85cm



JANE SEYMOUR

Born in 1954 Jane grew up in the countryside surrounded by the marshlands of Suffolk followed by the valleys and mountains of Wales.

Her mother Sally Seymour was an artist and potter, as was her grandmother Muriel Medworth. Jane's grandfather Frank Medworth was head of Sydney Art School in the late thirties, and her paternal grandfather was Albert Angus Turbayne, printer and book cover designer.

Her father John Seymour was a travel writer, and author of self-sufficiency books among many others.

Although Jane's upbringing was unconventional and with little formal education, she was always encouraged to read, paint and draw.

Leaving school early she became a life model in Bower Ashton Art College in Bristol. After moving back to Wales she regularly sat for painter and sculptor John Cleal, who supplied her with art materials and encouraged her with her own drawings. Life drawing became an interest.

While raising a family she ran a small craft shop with her wood-turner partner, designing and making clothes, and painting on wood products and silk scarves. In 1994 Jane moved to Co. Clare, Ireland, where she built a house and a ceramic studio. Surrounded by the rugged landscapes and wild nature of the West of Ireland, some of

her spare time is spent observing and sketching, in particular the dynamics of a particular community of crows living on the coast; fascinated by their individual characters and behavior patterns she often portrays this in her work.

She makes strong slab-built bowls and forms, sometimes abstract in shape, with a controlled and defined surface decoration, inspired by her interest for the figurative, mainly birdlife and the human form, working from her studies and life drawings. She draws and engraves directly into the surface of the unfired clay, applying layers of oxides and stains which are re-applied between firings. As well as working from her own life drawings and bird sketches, her main artistic influencers are Modigliani, Gauguin, and Picasso among other great artists.

Jane is a selected member of the Crafts Potters Association, London UK; a member of Ceramics Ireland, and a member of Portfolio Ireland. Her work is in private collections in Ireland; UK; Antwerp; and USA, as well as by the OPW Ireland. She has exhibited in Ireland, Wales, and UK.

In 2022 her work was included for display as one of Irelands selected ceramists for the Fourth Triennale in Faenza, Italy. Also in 2022 she was awarded the Ceramics Ireland Professional Practice Award.



*Jane Seymour, Blue Bull, Multi-fired Ceramic
textured and inscribed with cobalt carbonate, 49cm diameter*



Jane Seymour, I Dream of the Ocean, Ceramic Wall Panel, diptych, 73x53x6cm



Nuala O'Connor was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1970, and lives in County Galway, Ireland. She is a member of Aosdána. Nuala graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a BA in the Irish language; Dublin City University with a MA in Translation Studies; University of Galway with a Certificate in Women's Studies.

Her most recent novel is *Seaborne*, a re-telling of the life of Irish pirate Anne Bonny. It was shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the 2024 Irish Book Awards and nominated for the Dublin Literary Award 2025.

Nuala's fifth poetry collection *Menagerie* was published in March 2025 by Arlen House.

In late 2022, Nuala won the writing.ie Irish Short Story of the Year at the An Post Irish Book Awards for her story 'This Small Giddy Life', from the New Island anthology, *A Little Unsteadily Into Light*.

Nuala's fifth novel *NORA* (Harper Perennial/New Island, 2021), about Nora Barnacle, wife and muse to James Joyce, was published to critical acclaim in 2021 in the USA, Ireland, the UK, Germany, Croatia, the Netherlands, Estonia and Poland. *NORA* was named as a Top 10 2021 historical novel by the New York Times and was the One Dublin One Book choice for 2022. Nuala curated the 'Love, Says Bloom' exhibition at MoLI, on the Joyce family, for #Ulysses100.

Nuala is currently writing a memoir about late-diagnosed autism. Her seventh novel will be published in 2027.

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Gallery hours:
Mon to Sat, 9:00-17:00
Free Admission