Good Old TCD from the collections of the Library, Trinity College Dublin which features in the Drawn to the Page database of book illustrations by Irish artists.
Message from the Head of Department

In 1987, I attended the junior freshman orientation session for new students to the History of Art Department, at which Prof Anne Crookshank simultaneously filled us with excitement and trepidation about the years of art history study ahead. Little did I think then that almost thirty years later I will be giving that same talk to a new cohort of students this September.

As incoming Head of Department I’m pleased to update all our alumni on events of the past year, some plans for next year, and news of some of our graduates.

One of the highlights of last year was our celebration of 80 years of the Purser Griffith diploma. This was attended by over 200 of the 700 or so graduates of the course, who gathered to hear the reminiscences of departmental staff, and participate in an ‘alternative’ slide test that relied as much upon staff members’ acting skills, as it did upon the participants’ knowledge of art history.

It was also a busy year for conferences, with academic gatherings organised by staff on topics as diverse as early medieval Irish manuscripts, Spanish and Latin American art and Irish visual culture in the past 100 years. A number of research projects have created employment for our graduates as researchers as well as introducing our postgraduate students to the excitement of making new discoveries in the field of art history. Many of these activities are reliant on funding from various sources, whether government research funds such as the Irish Research Council, corporate philanthropy, such as the Bank of America Merrill Lynch or the generosity of alumni and friends of the department. The Manie Jellett fund, established in 1988, for example, continues to provide financial assistance for students in the History of Art travelling abroad on one of the official departmental visits. Thanks to a generous bequest from Dorothy H. Downes we are very pleased to include details in this newsletter of the establishment of a new award specifically for our recent alumni to assist in the further study of the History of Art after graduation from Trinity.

Finally, it is always a pleasure to hear what alumni are getting up to. In this year’s newsletter we have an interview with Penny Day, together with news of some of our other graduates. If you have news that you’d like to share with your old classmates let us know and for updates on events and lectures throughout the year follow us on our Facebook page ‘Department of History of Art and Architecture Trinity’.

Rachel Moss
Head of Department of History of Art and Architecture
In May, the Department hosted an international conference on Insular manuscripts. Entitled ‘The Wandering Word: the travels of Insular Manuscripts’, scholars from the US, Scotland, England and Ireland explored different aspects of early medieval manuscripts that survive across Europe. The conference also provided the opportunity to display four of Trinity Library’s lesser known treasures, the Book of Mulling, the Garland of Howth, Codex Usserianus Primus and the Book of Dimma together with its shrine. The conference was rounded off with a trip to St Mullin’s, Moone and Castledermot – sites associated with the production of early manuscripts and high crosses. The holy well at St Mullin’s proved to be particularly popular, with several delegates taking the plunge! A publication which will include papers from the conference is now in preparation, edited by Rachel Moss with Felicity O’Mahony and Jane Maxwell from the Department of Manuscripts in Trinity Library.

Creating Networks – Shortening Distances: Spain and Latin America

Peter Cherry, along with Luisa Elena Alcalá (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid) and Nelly Sigaut (Colegio de Michoacán), organised an international conference, Creating Networks – Shortening Distances: Spain and Latin America, held over two days at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid and the Museo Nacional del Prado. Speakers set out to explore the shared historiographical traditions which underpin the history of art of Spain and Latin America and to question the validity of these for future study. Peter Cherry’s paper examined the sustainability of the conventional organisation of artistic ‘schools’ into ‘major’ and ‘minor’ masters. Papers will be published online early next year. The almost complete absence of attendees from the English-speaking world highlighted the need to establish networks beyond the Spanish-speaking art-historical community.
Departmental Activities 2015-16

TRIARC Summer School – June 2016

Last June, the department successfully launched the first TRIARC Summer School in the History of Art and Design. The five-day course examined key aspects of Irish and European art and design history – from Insular art to Georgian Dublin to Gothic art to Renaissance painting to contemporary practices in curation. The course comprised of a series of lectures, seminar workshops and site visits, with parallel sessions for teachers specifically focussed on current second-level art and design curricula.

Departmental staff Christine Casey, Angela Griffith and Rachel Moss were joined by guest lecturers including Trinity graduates Danielle O’Donovan of Irish Heritage Trust, Myles Campbell, Office of Public Works curator at Dublin Castle and Kate Strain, the newly appointed artistic director of the Grazer Kunstverein, in Graz, Austria. Master scribe Tim O’Neill and fine art printer Mary Plunkett led workshops on manuscript and contemporary artist’s book production and site visits included Dublin Castle, the Prints and Drawings Department of the National Gallery of Ireland and Christchurch cathedral, where participants were afforded the opportunity to ring the cathedral bells!

In a convivial atmosphere, participants engaged with experts in their respective fields allowing teachers, students, educationalists and art history enthusiasts to deepen their knowledge and enhance their visual literacy.

The summer school will be an annual event. For alumni interested in registering for next year’s course please contact Angela Griffith at griffiam@tcd.ie
Research

Discovering the secrets of Trinity Library’s Early Irish Manuscripts

We have all heard of the film the Secret of Kells, but what about the secrets of Trinity Library’s other manuscripts? Rachel Moss has teamed up with Susie Bioletti, Keeper of Preservation and Conservation in the Library to look in closer detail at four early Irish manuscripts. Funded by the Bank of America Merrill Lynch art conservation project the manuscripts are being conserved, digitised, analysed and researched. A blog maintained by project research fellow Dr Colleen Thomas provides weekly updates on findings on topics as diverse as pigment analysis to evangelists’ shoes and provides direct links to the digitised manuscripts. www.tcd.ie/library/early-irish-mss/early-irish-ms-project

We are particularly grateful to Bank of America Merrill Lynch for their generous sponsorship, and especially pleased that the project was shortlisted for the prestigious Allianz-Business to Arts best large sponsorship award, 2016.

Migrant Manuscripts

The Chester Beatty Library is best known for its collections of non-western material. However Alfred Chester Beatty and his wife Edith were enthusiastic collectors of a wide range of objects, including medieval European manuscripts. Only a small number of these books are now to be found in Dublin, the rest having been sold during Beatty’s lifetime and shortly after his death. In 2015 Laura Cleaver, Ussher lecturer in Medieval Art, directed a research project, funded by the Irish Research Council, to trace the medieval manuscripts that passed through Beatty's collection and to understand his purchases in the context of the contemporary trade in manuscripts. Nearly 200 manuscripts passed through Beatty’s hands between 1914 and his death in 1968, with much of the collection being sold in major sales in 1932 and 1933. In forming his collection, Beatty was heavily influenced by other major collectors, notably Sydney Cockerell (Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge) and Henry Yates Thompson. The taste of this generation of collectors played a major role in shaping the market for manuscripts and early scholarship on medieval illumination. Beatty developed a reputation for only owning very high quality manuscripts, but in reality he also bought and sold a large number of less celebrated volumes. Beatty’s manuscripts are now in collections all over the world, and one of our MPhil students, Karen Winslow, even found some leaves from a Book of Hours once owned by Beatty in Trinity College Library! More information can be found on the project’s webpage: www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/research/migrant-manuscripts.php

Monastic Ireland: Landscape and Settlement

Many departmental alumni will recall field trips to some of the hundreds of medieval ruins scattered across the Irish countryside. Over the past three years Rachel Moss has been leading an Irish Research Council funded project to dig deeper into the history of these sites and their impact on the landscape around them – without digging. In collaboration with Discovery Programme and Department History UCC, in depth historical and art historical research together with site surveys using new technologies have helped to elucidate the often complex histories of a range of monastic sites. The use of drones has produced some stunning footage of ruined friaries like Moyne in Co. Mayo, while ground penetrating survey is beginning to reveal that some sites, like Kilmacduagh in Co. Galway and Ferns in Co. Wexford, have far more complex architectural histories than had previously been suspected. Visit the project website at www.monastic.ie
Alumni Interview

What first sparked your interest in the History of Art?

As a child in the 1980s my parents took me to the Tate Gallery in London whilst we were visiting family in England. I remember seeing Henri Matisse’s The Snail and being very impressed. We also had a card game which was basically Happy Families but with artists and I spent years trying to ‘collect’ all the Hockneys and Bacons! Almost 30 years on, I find myself working with real collections as well as the Tate on occasion.

What made you decide to study History of Art and Classical Civilisation at Trinity?

I knew I wanted to study History of Art but decided on Class Civ in part because my sister had studied Archaeology at Trinity and I was interested in the mythology and literature but not the digging! I thought the two subjects would complement one another. Trinity as a university was an obvious choice as my whole family had gone before me and I also loved the idea of being in the centre of town.

Where did you work after graduating from Trinity?

After graduating, I thought about going into conservation and spent a short time with the National Gallery learning about restoring paintings and with my aunt (a professional conservator) learning about frames. I also studied gilding at West Dean College in Chichester and still do the odd bit to keep my hand in. Understanding the physical condition of works and their presentation is a huge part of what I do now so I’m grateful I had the chance to absorb that early on. In 2004 I moved to London. After a short period of odd jobs, I spent a year and a half at Christies as a graduate trainee, working with Irish and Victorian Art before moving to Bonhams Modern British and Irish Art department ten years ago.

What has been your proudest moment in your career to date?

It’s always rewarding when you can help somebody achieve a personal goal by selling their art for the best possible price, be that for school fees, a new house, or as in 2013 when I handled the sale of Lucian Freud’s 8 x 12 inches drawing Oil-Bound Puffin for £385,250, the vendor gifted the proceeds to charity. Also, selling Henry Moore’s 1945 plaster Reclining Figure for £1.55 million in June this year was pretty special. It’s not all about the sales though and I’m proud to have arranged long term loans and bequests to institutions such as Crawford Art Gallery and the National Gallery in Dublin, as well as securing privately owned masterpieces for major international exhibitions such as Frank Auerbach at Tate.

Alumni Updates

Kate Strain B.A. (2005) and Fiona Hallinan’s B.A. (2006) project Department of Ultimology was one of the highly competitive winners of Trinity Creative 2015. The award is open to projects and ideas with a focus on interdisciplinary creative arts practice across a wide range of forms including performance, visual art, music, film, design, new media, animation, gaming and creative technologies. For more on Kate and Fiona’s work see www.tcd.ie/trinity-creative/fiona-kate.php

Congratulations to Patricia McCarthy (B.A. Ph.D. 1999) on her book, Life in the Georgian Country House in Ireland and Book published by Yale University Press. According to the Irish Examiner Patricia ‘opens a door on a gilded Irish age. Life in the Country House in Georgian Ireland’ is a magisterial, beautifully-illustrated and elegantly-written examination of the Irish of the big house in the decades before and after the Act of Union’.

Edited by Ellen Rowley B.A. Ph.D. (1995) and published by Four Courts Press earlier this year, More than Concrete Blocks: Dublin City’s Twentieth-century Buildings and their Stories is the first book in a three-volume series on Dublin’s architecture during the 20th century, richly illustrated and written for the general reader. Among the contributors is another History of Art alumna, Natalie de Róiste (B.A. 2004).

Look out for the publication this autumn of Trinity Tales: Trinity College Dublin in the Nineties (Lilliput Press), edited by alumna Catherine Heaney B.A. (1995), which includes an essay on the Department of History of Art and Architecture. As with previous volumes in this series, royalties from the book go to the Long Room Library fund. The funds raised will facilitate research incentive schemes and a Seed Funding Scheme which encourages new proposals for interdisciplinary research.

Following her post at the Courtauld Institute working on the Gothic Ivories Project, and a brief return to Trinity, Catherine Yvard B.A., Ph.D. (1998) has been appointed Curator, National Art Library Collections at the V&A Museum, London. Conor Lucey, Irish Research Council ELEVATE Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the department for 2013-2016 has been appointed college lecturer in the school of Art History and Cultural Policy, UCD. We wish them both the very best in their new roles.
Forthcoming Events

All alumni are welcome to attend the School of Histories and Humanities public lectures and evening courses, where you can hear from Trinity academics and other thought leaders from around the world. In the coming year the department will be hosting two Long Room Hub Visiting Fellows, Dr Carol Farr and Dr Heather Pulliam, both experts in early medieval Irish art who will be delivering public lectures during their visits to Trinity. We have a varied programme of events planned so please do keep in touch to see what’s coming up.

Shadows and Lights: Women and Irish Visual Culture Symposium Series
An interview by Catherine Marshall with the artist Janet Mullarney
Emmet theatre, Wednesday, 2 November 2016, 7.00pm

Continuing the Shadows and Lights: Women and Irish visual culture symposium series, the Department will host an interview between Catherine Marshall and the Irish-born artist Janet Mullarney. A member of Aosdána, Mullarney works primarily as a sculptor. She has travelled extensively and is based for most of the year in Italy. Her work, imbued with expressive primitive qualities, draws on ancient global sources and is also informed by medieval and early Italian art. Her work is held in major national and international collections and most recently she curated an exhibition entitled Two Birds One Stone which was hosted in Farmleigh, Phoenix Park to great critical acclaim.

Catherine Marshall is a former lecturer in the Department of the History of Art and Architecture, Trinity and Head of Collections in the Irish Museum of Modern Art. She has published and lectured extensively on art and was co-editor of Art and Architecture in Ireland – Twentieth Century, Volume V (Yale University Press, 2014).

Places for this event are limited, to register your interest please email Angela Griffith griffiam@tcd.ie

Launch of Drawn to the Page: Irish Artists and Illustration Database

The Department of the History of Art and Architecture will be launching the image database Drawn to the Page; Irish artists and illustration this coming November.

Led by Angela Griffith, this digital resource project provides an authoritative introduction to the subject of Irish artists, including George Petrie, Daniel Maclise, Beatrice Elvery and Harry Clarke, who worked as illustrators during their careers. The database contextualises an under-researched aspect of Irish visual culture. Conceived and designed as a teaching and research tool, the Drawn to the Page: Irish artists and illustration database will provide a platform for new critical writing and encourage wider academic and cultural dialogues on the topic.

This interdisciplinary project was created in collaboration with the Trinity Centre for Digital Humanities, the Library, Digital Resources and Imaging Services, Digital and Web Office Research IT and TRIARC. For a flavour of what is to come visit the online exhibition that will accompany the database at www.tcd.ie/Library/exhibitions/drawn-to-the-page/index.php

Janet Mullarney, St Anthony's Rabbit, Lime wood, wool (2014)
New Funding Opportunity for Recent Alumni: The Mr W. Henry Naylor and his Sister Mrs. Henrietta Mary Downes Bursary

This prize was established in 2015 from the estate of Dorothy H. Downes in memory of Mr W. Henry Naylor and Mrs Henrietta Mary Downes. It is awarded annually to a graduate of Trinity in the History of Art or Fine Arts born in Ireland for further education or training in the discipline. One award having an approximate value of €600 may be made each academic year. For details of how to apply consult www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/undergraduate/tsm/awards.php

Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Upcoming Alumni Events

Christmas Commons
7 and 14 December 2016
Christmas Homecoming
21 December 2016
Other Upcoming Events
www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/events

Class Notes

Do you have any news or updates that you’d like to share with your fellow alumni? Submit your news with an image, subject of study and year of graduation to alumni@tcd.ie

For more information please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/publications

Remember. The power of a legacy to Trinity

There’s an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you’re planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You’re empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You’re supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You’re helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations. When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Carmen Leon.

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www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art

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