



Leinster Printmaking Studio

The Leinster Printmaking Studio is an artist led studio situated in Clane, Co. Kildare, Ireland.

Margaret Becker, stained glass artist, printmaker and member of the Graphic Studio in Dublin, along with several other artists, including Jean Dillon, Deirdre Shanley, Pamela de Brí, founded the studio in 1998. The studio received initial support for capital expenditure from Kildare Co Council Arts Service and from the Arts Council and is consistently supported by Lucina Russell, Arts Officer with Kildare Co. Council, without whose help the studio could not exist.

The studio caters for anyone with an interest in printmaking, from the beginner to the professional artist. It currently offers facilities for printmaking by intaglio, etching, aquatint, screen-print, photo-etch, photolithography and relief printing.

The studio comprises a large workroom with photo etch light box, a clean area which incorporates a quiet space for reading, drawing or as a place for holding meetings. Alongside is a dark room for developing the photo etch and lithography plates. A second large space serves as an inking-up and printing area and a smaller room holds the etching and aquatint facilities. An adjacent room contains a large guillotine and there is also a small, equipped kitchen.

In order to limit the damage to the environment and to the practitioners the Leinster Printmaking Studio is a 'safe' or 'green' studio – members strive to use safe and non-toxic materials.

Over the years the L.P.S. has established links with other printmaking workshops including Seacourt, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, Limerick Printmakers, Limerick, Galway Printmakers, Galway, Graphic Studio, Dublin, and Regional Print Studio, Wrexham, North Wales among many others. The studio has hosted, organised and participated in many national and international exhibitions. The following is a small selection of past activities:

- *Little Stories Little Prints was a 1916 Commemorative Visual Arts Project through the medium of Printmaking. Fifty Printmakers from eight Printmaking Studios around Ireland accepted an invitation to participate in the project, which aimed to create*

awareness of little known events or incidents during or around the time of the Easter Rising in 1916 in Ireland. The artists researched incidents and aspects of life at the time and created little prints in response to their research. The project toured nationally during the year. In most venues the exhibition was accompanied by a workshop for adults and/or children. A limited edition illustrated publication is still available for purchase. A website for the project has been set up to document the years activities. The prints, along with the stories, incidents or events that inspired them, can be viewed on the website. <https://www.littlestorieslittleprints.com/>

- *“An Duanaire” a curated printmaking exhibition, involving studio artists and invited printmakers from Ireland and Wales was held in venues across Ireland between 2013 and 2015. The exhibition was in response to “An Duanaire, an anthology of Gaelic poetry from 1600 to 1900”, compiled by the Irish scholar and Gaelic poet, Sean O’Tuama.*
- *“Bog 50x70”, was an exhibition of prints inspired by the Bog of Allen, curated by Peter Jones and shown in venues around Ireland 2010-2012*
- *“Where Siva meets Medb” explored the literary writings and mythological legends of both Ireland and India. The inaugural exhibition was opened by the Indian Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Khumar. This exhibition travelled extensively around Ireland.*
- *“Le Chéile” project was a 7 year collaboration between printmakers in studio and printmakers from Regional Print Studio, Wrexham, Wales. see <http://lecheileprintproject.blogspot.ie>*

The studio is funded by Kildare County Council, by its members, associate members and friends.

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