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Open/Invited ev+a 2010 Matters

The committee of the 34th annual exhibition of visual+ art invites you to the official opening of Open/Invited ev+a 2010 Matters at LSAD Gallery, Limerick School of Art and Design, LIT Clare Street Campus, Limerick, Ireland.

Bus tour on Saturday 13 March 2010 from Thomas Street Centre, Thomas Street, Limerick.

OPEN/INVITED e v+a 2010 will be open for viewing from Saturday 13 March at venues throughout Limerick City. The e v+a HUB on Thomas Street will be open from 10am with a Free Bus Tour leaving the HUB at 11am.

10:00 Venues open: Thomas Street Centre, Thomas Street and Windmill Court, Lower Gerald Griffin Street

11:00 Bus departs Thomas Street Centre, for Bourn Vincent Gallery, University of Limerick. Refreshments, tea, coffee and scones

11:45 Bus departs UL for Limerick City centre locations

6:00pm Event: Catherine Street Cultural Dig - Packet and Tripe served at Thomas Street Centre

Bus kindly provided by Bus Eireann.

Limerick City Gallery of Art is part of Limerick City Council and is supported by The Arts Council, The Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland and Fás.

LCGA LIMERICK CITY GALLERY OF ART
<http://www.limerickcitygallery.ie/>



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e v+ a mission

‘As a collaboration among artists, curators, sponsors, workers and committee members, e v+ a presents yearly to its audiences in Limerick the evidence that the best of contemporary art offers for the assessment, understanding and celebration of the contemporary culture that surrounds us.’

<http://www.eva.ie/>

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Events for National Tree Week 2010 in Co. Galway

Launch of Ballinasloe Community Garden for Tree Week

On Wednesday 10th March at 11:30 am in St Grelan’s Park, Ballinasloe, the launch of the Ballinasloe Community Garden will take place. This project is a collaborative effort between the People and Nature Project, Galway County Council, Ballinasloe Town Council and Galway Rural Development in conjunction with the St Grelan’s and St Teresa’s Estate Residents Association. The project has been supported by the work of the HSE’s Creagh Training facility.

Representatives from the agencies involved will meet with school children from the local Scoil an Croi Naofa to do some tree planting and seed sowing to mark the official launch of the garden project and celebrate National Tree Week (7th – 15th March).

The aim of the garden is to build on the work already done by the residents of St Grelan’s and St Teresa’s with the help of participants in the Creagh Training Scheme in enhancing the appearance of the green spaces in the estates through planting of flowers, trees and shrubs. The new garden is also intended to enhance the nature value of the area through planting schemes that are attractive to birds and insects.

The garden was designed by wildlife gardener Kay Synnott and will feature a variety of trees shrubs and flowers as well as a hedgerow, a wildflower meadow and a lawn bordered by a low stone wall and log stepping stone feature. Local wildlife will be encouraged by the bird feeders and nest boxes as well as hedgehog and bumble bee hibernation boxes to be incorporated into the garden.

So come along to St Grelans on the 10th March and join the local community in celebrating Tree Week and welcoming the long-awaited Spring Time!

Saplings

Saplings, donated by the Tree Council of Ireland will be available free of charge to Community groups, schools and other voluntary organisations.

Contact : Galway Co. Co. Stores at 091-509000

Athenry

Athenry Environmental Network is running an Environmental weekend on the 13th/14th March which will include planting trees. This weekend is funded by Galway Co. Co under the LA21 Environment Partnership Fund.

Contact : Patrick Creed 086 167 8503 or e-mail athenryenvnet@gmail.com

Castleblakeney

Castleblakeney Heritage Centre in conjunction with the local National School and Secondary School will undertake tree planting during the week of 7th March 2010 to 13th

March 2010, to celebrate National Tree Week. The Heritage Centre will be involved in educating the local children and adults in the maintenance of the gardens within the grounds of the Centre and Graveyard, which will include the care of the herb garden, and the use of our natural resources i.e. rainwater, composting. This project is being funded by Galway County Council under the LA21 Environment Partnership Fund.
Contact : Valerie Kinsella 0909678238

Living Willow Sculptures in Schools

During Tree week, students from six County Galway Schools will get to take part in a special project to design and create their own living willow sculpture on their school grounds. With the help of Mr Mark Wilson, pupils from schools in Ballindereen, Ballinasloe, Mountbellew, Foghena, Peterswell and Milltown will use living willow saplings to craft a green dome, fence or seating area for their school garden. As well as gaining a lovely feature for the school, the children will learn about growing trees and sustainable use of living resources. This project is sponsored by Galway County Council, the People and Nature Project and Galway Rural Development.

Glinsk Tree Walk

On Thursday 11 March, pupils from Glinsk primary school will take part in a tree walk in Glinsk Heritage Park. The walk will be led by botanist Dr Janice Fuller, author of the recently published 'Hedgerows of County Galway' (available from Galway County Council). The students will learn about the trees and other nature of Glinsk Heritage Park. A variety of native and introduced species have been planted there over the years and the park has developed a lovely woodland habitat complete with a river and a lake which make it an ideal spot to get to know trees. This event is sponsored by Galway County Council, the People and Nature Project and Galway Rural Development.

Competition

Galway County Council in conjunction with Galway Rural Development and the Applied Ecology Unit NUIG are holding 'A County Galway Tree Heritage' competition to celebrate National Tree Week. The public is invited to submit photographs depicting trees. In addition to this they can also submit a poem, story, or account of any aspect of tree related heritage in County Galway. The photos or writings can highlight any feature of tree heritage including biodiversity, folklore or local history. Please ensure any image is between 1024x768 pixels or 800x600 pixels and is in a compressed format such as jpg, max file size of around 1mb. Entries should be emailed to heritage@galwaycoco.ie by 15th March 2009. The winning entries and runners up will be featured on the County Council Heritage web page and prizes will be awarded for the best pictures and writings as part of Galway County Council's Heritage Awards Ceremony.

For further information please contact either Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer, Galway County Council phone 091 509198 or e-mail mmannion@galwaycoco.ie or Elaine O'Riordan Galway County Biodiversity Project Manager, Applied Ecology Unit, Centre for Environmental Science, NUI, Galway Phone 091 493863 or e-mail elaine.oriordan@nuigalway.ie

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Biodiversity: Coming to life.

The ‘Reel in the flickering light’ is one of Christy Moore’s more enchanting ballads and tells the story of a chance encounter with an unusual group of creatures one evening. A dove, a pigeon, and a worm in a weed watch on as a daddy longlegs dances with a red carnation; “Oh round we go, heel to the toe, ‘Oh god’ says I ‘tonight’s the night, we’ll dance to the reel in the flickering light’. It’s an endearing tale which connects biodiversity to our own cultural heritage (Irish dancing and music) and shines a very different light on the way we look at biodiversity, but given that 2010 is the international year of biodiversity, perhaps its time we followed suit. Biodiversity doesn’t have to be a confusing science. It doesn’t have to be a science at all, just something we simply enjoy.

As we head into Spring after a harsh Winter, it’s a good time to get back to basics and remember what biodiversity actually is. In our homes, many of us enjoy the companionship of our pets. That’s biodiversity. The gardeners among us will begin planting shrubs and vegetables over the coming weeks. That’s biodiversity. Young lambs can already be seen enjoying themselves in the fields and they’ll soon be joined by young calves and foals. That’s biodiversity. As the weather improves and we don the walking shoes, we’ll begin to notice buds on the trees overhead, and green shoots turning to snowdrops, daffodils and primroses all around us. That’s biodiversity. Anyone with birdfeeders will have witnessed an increased number of visitors during the frost and snow, and the dawn chorus will soon be a welcome reward for their efforts. That’s biodiversity. Before we know it, everywhere will be full of colour, smells and sounds again. And that’s biodiversity.

Very often we forget just how close biodiversity is to us, yet all we need to think of are the number of animals and plants associated with our homes and gardens, from the house martin and the house mouse to the barn owl and the wall rue. Many people consider themselves lucky when they see a swallows nest in the garden shed, while the cheeky robin is a gardeners constant companion. Speaking of the robin, many of us probably received Christmas cards with images of three or more robins happily feeding together, however, as robins are highly territorial, this would likely have led to all-out war (I bet you thought they were completely innocent!).

If we did look at biodiversity in a similar way to the ‘reel in the flickering light’, what would we see? A circus on the sea cliffs where the puffins are clowns with their colourful triangular beaks and unusual habit of burrowing into the cliff top rather than building a nest, while the choughs provide a spectacular show of aerial acrobatics with their distinctive red beaks and feet. Or maybe it’s the dolphins of the Shannon estuary making quite a scene as they follow the boats in a manner similar to an over-energetic young pup being brought for a walk. The many butterflies and bees flitting from flower to flower in summer can often reflect a busy shopping street, with each flower flaunting their own special offers to attract customers. The otter family would probably be regarded as ‘not quite right’ as they seem to spend more time playing and messing around than foraging, yet the neurotic rabbits would be advised to take a leaf out of the otters book, given that they spend more time looking out for danger than looking for food. Indeed there are a lot of dangers about and not just for the rabbits. Everybody’s favourite, the beautiful ladybirds, are the worst kind of baby-faced killers as they hunt for aphids, yet for many gardeners and farmers they are a Godsend. Speaking of babies, an exposed cliff face where eggs and chicks are just centimetres from a huge drop and certain death may not seem like an ideal nursery, yet thousands of seabirds choose it as a protection from predators. Artic terns provide their own protection as any intruder will find out. The whole flock will attack, and these birds are known to draw blood

from a person's head. Given that they have the longest annual migration of any bird, it's not surprising that they can be a bit cranky. And perhaps the most overlooked scene of all is that of ash tree leaves dancing the can-can in a light breeze! The *Bunakippaun LIFE wood in Atteyslany, Tubber* is a good place to see ash trees, but it also demonstrates another important message.

In the past, we've often been faced with a 'do not touch' sign when it came to biodiversity, but in the last three years at the Bunakippaun wood, Coillte have shown how we can 'get our hands dirty' and significantly enhance biodiversity.

The project involved the removal of non-native trees and shrubs allowing rare native woodland to regenerate (www.woodlandrestoration.ie).

It also included the planting of young native Irish yew trees among the existing yew, as this type of woodland has become quite rare in Ireland. The removal of conifers has allowed light to reach the ground level, and as a result orchids, wood sedge, honeysuckle, pignut and broad-leaved helleborine have begun to flourish, while birdsong has increased and mammals like bats and stoats have also been spotted. However, before we condemn non-native species, we should note that some beech trees were retained for the benefit of the rare bird's nest orchid. This is evidence that, with a little bit of good management on our behalf, biodiversity itself will do its bit and flourish. Coillte have an open forest policy which welcomes all visitors to the wood, so if you do plan on going for a walk in Bunakippaun, or any woodland, bear in mind that most woodland flora, such as bluebells and wood anemone, can be seen at this time of year before the leaves appear on the trees and block out the sunlight, however, a woodland in mid summer will always provide a wonderful day's outing, while the falling leaves in autumn produce a completely different experience. And therein lies the beauty of biodiversity; the ability to provide something for everybody at any time of the year; but Spring will always be special; Spring is when biodiversity really comes to life!

Until next time...

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Vertical Thoughts: Morton Feldman and the Visual Arts

An exhibition featuring works by many of America's and Europe's most celebrated 20th-century artists opens to the public at the Irish Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday 31 March 2010. *Vertical Thoughts: Morton Feldman and the Visual Arts* focuses on the work of the influential American composer Morton Feldman and the many leading visual artists with whom he was closely associated, including Philip Guston, Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. The exhibition, the first of its kind in Europe, marks a decisive period in the coming together of two apparently distinct art forms, reflecting IMMA's own multi-disciplinary approach to its programme.



Mark Rothko, *The Green Stripe*, 1955, Oil on canvas, 170.2 x 141.7 cm, The Menil Collection, Houston. © 1998 Kate Rothko Prizel & Christopher Rothko ARS, NY and DACS, London 2010

Irish Museum of Modern Art
<http://www.imma.ie/>