



Quiet Now, Rory Nolan (lamda print on dibond)

Wexford County Council manages a creative and co-ordinated arts programme, which plays a role in enriching society by increasing access to and participation in the arts, whilst nurturing a sustainable arts community. One steadfast approach to achieving this goal is through the Arts Ability Programme.

Arts Ability was initiated by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and Wexford Mental Services, in association with the Arts Council, during 2003; with the aim of celebrating the creative imagination of people who experience mental health problems and / or disabilities and providing inclusive opportunities for equality of access to the arts.

For nearly one decade, Arts Ability has had a significant impact on enhancing the life of its participants, through not only promoting access and participation in the arts, but just as importantly, by recognising participants as artists in their own right.

The success of the Arts Ability visual art programme at St. Senan's Hospital has been very much due to the commitment of the participants, the enthusiastic support of all staff, and the vision of Kathleen Delaney in nurturing creativity and inspiring imagination.

Congratulations to all involved on their ongoing commitment and on this impressive exhibition celebrating their work.

Sinéad Redmond
County Arts Officer
Wexford County Council

Mr. Holmes, John (ceramic glazed)



For further information please contact **Kathleen at E kathdcuratorart@gmail.com**

Photography by Rory Nolan

Thanks to Alice Norton and Clody Norton, Newtownbarry House



a·sy·lum (*uh-sahy-luhm*) **noun.**

a place of safety or protection

*An exhibition of artwork by service users and staff
from Wexford Mental Health Services*

**Newtownbarry House Bunclody, Co. Wexford
29 February - 9 March 2012**

Curated by Kathleen Delaney and Frances Murphy

Open from 11am - 5pm daily, Closed Sunday & Monday. Admission free



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Within the context of St Senan's RT Unit and KTAC, service users may find a means to absorb themselves, self expression, to develop new skills and build confidence. It is also a social event that can bring enjoyment. Satisfaction in artistic achievement is also a positive outcome.

Asylum is an exhibition which has come about to mark the changes within the services at St Senan's Hospital. The life of the building is changing. Some of the artwork within the exhibition makes reference to the architecture of the hospital, distinct in its style as its ornate towers are silhouetted against the skyline.

The tea ritual plays an important part of the KTAC and RT Unit's art workshops. With this in mind, the teapot project was undertaken. At the centre is a large scale ornate teapot decorated with foliage textured and richly glazed. Following this individual teapots were made resulting in an eclectic mix.

Staff at St Senan's are also showing work, some self expression. Other works document the building and aspects of the social life past and present.

Kathleen Delaney,
artist facilitator on the Arts Ability programme since October 2010.

The artist works with Nurse Frances Murphy.

Art and creativity has been available to service users at St Senan's and was already established within the structure of resources delivered by Frances Murphy and Neill O'Muirí. Through the Arts Ability Programme, professional artists work alongside and facilitate art projects with service users. Previous artists working on the programme were David Redmond and Heather Deacon. Each artist brought with him/her, an individual style and approach. David Redmond worked through many mosaic projects as well as painting. Heather Deacon introduced ceramics as an integral part of the programme.

There are many areas of creativity that can be explored by service users, from painting, drawing, textile, weaving, knitting, ceramics and sculpture. When Kathleen Delaney came to the project, she was interested in finding out about service users areas of interest, methods and techniques. She subsequently built on these encouraging people to further explore their own creativity.

Some Service Users preferred to work mainly in a hard edge style, or take works of abstract art as inspiration and points of departure for their own work. Others had their own unique style of drawing and painting in a naive manner. Others chose to work on textile as part of a group project or on individual undertakings.

In *Arts Health and Wellbeing* (2007) an Arts Council England publication, the connection between arts as a contributing factor to the overall wellbeing of the individual is outlined.

Arts in Health; A Review of the Medical Literature (Staaricoff) was published by Arts Council England in 2004. When looking at the area of mental healthcare, it is found that the arts introduced into this area, assists the service user in finding new avenues to express the self. In turn, this becomes a channel of communication with other people.



Tower, Ray (ceramic glazed)



Tower, Tom (ceramic glazed)



Rivers of Blood (detail), Kathleen Delaney (mixed media)



Tea Ritual, group work (ceramic glazed)



Tea Break, John (ceramic glazed)



A Little Bit of Knitting, group work (mixed media)



Primavera, Frances Murphy (ceramic glazed)



Forest Mask, Catherine (ceramic glazed)



Spiral Mask, St Christopher's Ward (ceramic glazed)



House in the Woods, Ray (acrylic on canvas)



No.61 (Rust and Blue) after Rothko, Tom (acrylic on canvas)



Silver Houses, Ray (acrylic on canvas)



No.24 (Untitled) after Rothko, Tom (acrylic on canvas)



Fourteen Discs after Heron, Tom (acrylic on canvas)



All God's Creatures 20, Michael (mixed media on canvas)