

PRESS RELEASE

Drawing Day at Malahide Castle - The Best things in Life are Free!

If the best things in life are free then what could be better than joining Fingal County Council's Arts Office and a host of professional artists for lots of free drawing workshops to celebrate National Drawing Day, **Saturday 22nd of May at the beautiful Malahide Castle.**

Drawing Day is a National Initiative which promotes the practice of drawing at various cultural institutions throughout Ireland. Fingal Arts Office programmed its first series of Drawing Day events last year at Farmleigh, Dublin 15 with great success. This year we are bringing an even bigger programme to Malahide Castle and Demesne.

We have invited the internationally acclaimed illustrator and author Oliver Jeffers to give a special talk on his work. Many will be familiar with books such as the 'Incredible Book Eating Boy', 'Lost and Found' and 'To Catch a Star'. 'Lost and Found' was made into an animated film and was awarded a BAFTA for Best Animated Short Film. Following on from this we have Nicky Phelan, character designer and director of the Oscar nominated and multi-award winning 'Granny O'Grimm's Sleeping Beauty'.

Caroline Cowley, Public Arts Co-Ordinator with Fingal County Council said "Nicky will deliver workshops on the starting points of animation and how to bring your drawing alive and we might even get the opportunity to see the Granny O'Grimm film on the day. We are delighted this year to welcome artists Caroline Donohue, Maev Leneghan and Siobhan Hyde from Graphic Studio Dublin, who will teach participants all about printing techniques using dry point and mono printing, they will encourage everyone to make their very own limited edition print." She continued "The aim of Drawing Day is to offer a number of approaches to drawing and demonstrate just how far a simple pencil and

piece of paper can go, and we hope that people taking part in this year's event will be inspired to take up a new artistic hobby."

The packed list of artists participating in Drawing Day at Malahide Castle include Fingal artist, Una Sealy, a long standing exhibitor at the Royal Hibernian Academy, who is teaching two adult drawing sessions using still life and life model formats. Geraldine Lane will show younger children how to draw portraits using a variety of tone and line techniques. Artist John O'Connell aims to bring his art class on fact finding mission in the castle, and will gather pieces from Malahide's grounds to form part of his shadow workshop. Joesph Beuys said 'everyman is an artist' and so do artists Piia Rossi and Crona Connolly who invite everyone to come along and contribute to a collaborative drawing throughout the day.

Drawing Day will take place at Malahide Castle & Demesne, Co. Dublin on Saturday 22nd May 2010.

All events are free but must be booked. For further information or to make a booking please contact:

Caroline Cowley, Public Arts Co-ordinator, 01 870 8449, E: caroline.cowley@fingalcoco.ie,
Julie Clarke, Youth & Education Officer, 01 8905960, E: Julie.clarke@fingalcoco.ie

Details of all events will be available from our website www.fingalarts.ie

ENDS 13/05/10