



## PRESS RELEASE

### **'Ways of Seeing' – A Photography Exhibition by Fingal Students**

On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Swords Castle opened it's beautifully renovated Chapel to the public to host an exhibition of new photography work by second level students from Fingal.

Pupils of Malahide Community School, Skerries Community School, Pobailscoil Neasain Baldoyle and Loreto School Balbriggan came together to celebrate the wealth of creativity among the young people of our county. The exhibition, funded by Fingal County Council's Arts Education Programme, was the result of a three-month collaboration between professional photographer Tim Durham and transition year students in the schools, and focused on an exploration of visual awareness.

The students learned the technical features of a digital camera and the importance of visual language in photography. Tim introduced the students to his own portfolio, provided them each with a digital camera, and the time to explore their local environment.

The exhibition, titled, **'Ways of Seeing'**, consisted of 109 prints displayed imaginatively on music stands in the main Chapel space, and another 109 images digitally projected in the Castle Tower. Each student selected two photographs from their newly established portfolio to exhibit. The evening was officially launched by Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Ciaran Byrne, who commended Fingal Arts Office and the schools involved on their creative thinking and execution of the work.

With over 70 people in attendance, the atmosphere on the night was one of joy and pride as the students showed their work to parents, friends and teachers. Caroline Bond, Art Teacher in Pobail Scoil Neasain, Baldoyle, has been involved on the programme for a number of years and said “Anyone interested in the visual arts or a career in them, should view Tim’s course as a basic necessity.” One of the participating students said, ‘Before the course I would only take pictures of friends and family on special occasions, but now I’m interested in everyday objects and things in nature, so I want to take my camera with me everywhere in case I see something that interests me.’

For further information on this or similar projects please contact Julie Clarke, Youth Arts Officer, Fingal County Council at: [julie.clarke@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:julie.clarke@fingalcoco.ie)

ENDS 26/01/10

**Notes for editor: Photographic images available upon request**