

IMAGE INTERIORS & LIVING

soaring
Georgian
heights
in Dublin

AROUND THE TABLE
seasonal tipples and
chocolate craft

m
ENTERTAINING WITH A FESTIVE FLOURISH

NOVEMBER-
DECEMBER
2019
€4.99/£2.30



MEET THE
WINNERS OF
OUR 2019
DESIGN
AWARDS

PHOTOGRAPHY
DOREEN KILFEATHER
WORDS
MEGAN BURNS



BEST TEXTILES JENNIFER SLATTERY

It was her embroidered Irish linen that first caught the design world's attention, but Jennifer Slattery's foray into the world of wool has been equally lauded. The Dublin-based designer has been working with McNutt of Donegal for three years on a range of scarves, but it was a visit to the Donegal Yarns factory that inspired her Imperfect Check design. "I love the character of imperfections, and that was the quality I could see in the Donegal yarn."

It took a careful sampling process with McNutt to get the final result, as the yarn was heavier than what they usually use. "It almost looks like embroidery, because it's a little heavier, and slightly raised. It's got texture and tactility, which is a big part of all my work," Jennifer notes.

She has plans to develop the design, and play further with the multi-toned Donegal material, but is by no means leaving linen behind. Currently working on a capsule collection of linen shirts, she has also commissioned Emblem Weavers to produce a checked linen for a future shirt design.

She's working on new weaves for her table linen, too, and Jennifer seems to relish the challenge of multiple projects. "One thing feeds another, it's important for me to be working on different things and with different people. Collaboration is really key when you're a small business like myself."

jenniferslattery.com



EMERGING DESIGN TALENT HUGO BYRNE

Although they're undeniably beautiful, Hugo Byrne is horrified at the thought of his knives being treated as purely decorative objects. He tells me with disbelief that a customer in America emailed to thank him for the knives and mentioned they were currently at the framers. "I mean, I was flattered, but she totally missed the point."

With their delicate patina, the knives are inherently full of character, made with high-carbon steel, as opposed to the more immutable stainless. However, the real magic, Hugo insists, comes when the knife is used. "The blade changes and tells the story of every use: it's kind of alive. I think it's gorgeous, much more so than clean metal."

The beauty of Hugo's knives lies not just in these dappled blades, but his carefully chosen handle materials. "The first knife I made used a piece of driftwood from a beach I went to every day in Connemara, so I like using something significant in the handle."

A range of beautiful wood has found its way into his handles since, including pear, yew and ancient bog oak, which Hugo juxtaposes with colourful pieces of plastic he finds washed up on Irish beaches. "The plastic is quite a postmodern material," he explains, "it's almost the opposite of the slow, organic nature of wood." With this alluring fusion of times ancient, modern and future, it would be a shame to leave these knives locked behind glass. hugobyrneknives.com



FURNITURE DESIGNER OF THE YEAR TRICIA HARRIS

Talking to Tricia Harris, you get the sense that patience is a real virtue in her line of work: in the world of furniture design, nothing is fast. Even starting her own brand took some time, and it was a lecturing job with summers off that allowed her to build up enough of a portfolio to launch back in 2013.

Bespoke furniture is also not something people rush into purchasing. "I have found that people might have picked up a card at a show two years earlier, and then come back for a piece," Tricia says, "but equally they're happy that it is going to take a couple of months to go through the design process, and that it's not just instant."

This thoughtful process is all part of the appeal for Tricia. "The longevity of furniture is a draw for me. I like making something that somebody's investing in, something that they might hand down as an heirloom." She finds increasingly that her clients share the same opinion. "I do find more younger people are getting in touch. Right now I think with ethical and sustainable thinking, people don't want to buy items that they're just going to throw away."

The designer works with people to create a piece that's unique to them, or they can choose from one of her existing products, and customise the materials. The result is functional yet beautiful pieces that can elevate any space, and a piece from Tricia is certainly something to hold onto for life. triciaharris.ie