



**EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE CRAFT PRACTICES IN
HARMONY WITH NATURE - Ireland (Borris,
Carlow) - 16 – 20 May 2022**

**MAKER EXCHANGE RESIDENCY PROGRAMME
OUTLINE**

Queries & Questions: The closing date for applications is 2nd February 2022. Queries in respect of applications should be diverted to Melissa Doyle , EU Projects Administrator , Carlow County Council , Enterprise House , O'Brien Road , Carlow e-mail mdoyle@carlowcoco.ie or phone +35359-9129783

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| Residency Name: | Nicola Brown – Clasheen | | |
| Date of Residency: | 16 th – 20 th May 2022 | Time: | 9am – 5pm |
| Host | Nicola Brown | Location: | Borris., Carlow |
| Aim of Residency: | | | |
| <p>This residency aims to create a new way for beginner and experienced makers with a passion for nature to engage in a new environment. It will offer participants an exciting opportunity to explore and develop processes and discover new techniques.</p> <p>The Residency will provide a stimulating forum for discussion and exchange of ideas between participating practitioners, create new bonds, strengthen peer networks and encourage collaboration between individual makers. There will be a maximum of 6 participants.</p> | | | |
| Who is the ideal participant for the residency ? | | | |
| <p>Participants with a passion for the natural environment, who enjoy working in a mindful way and with a view to sustainability in their practice will get the most from a residency at Clasheen. Enjoying the outdoors, taking pleasure in little things, working with natural fibre and foraged vegetation, having an open mind, these are all qualities that will enhance the experience.</p> | | | |
| What basic skills will you need prior to attending the residency ? | | | |
| <p>Previous wet felting, eco printing or textile experience is welcomed although not strictly essential. Participants who enjoy creating larger installations or sculptural work in different fields are also very welcome to apply for this residency.</p> | | | |
| What package will the host provide for you ? | | | |
| <p>Participants will be collected from their accommodation each morning and driven to Clasheen; on arrival each day there will be a welcome get together with fresh pastries, Irish soda bread, tea and coffee. A delicious lunch will be provided daily prepared using fresh local ingredients (please advise in advance of any food allergies) and on the second last evening a late eco printing session is planned with a celebratory meal and drinks! At the end of each day participants will be collected and driven back to their accommodation.</p> <p>All the necessary wool, silk and embellishing fibres for the duration of the residency will be supplied by Nicola and participants will have easy access to equipment, tools and eco printing vegetation.</p> | | | |

About Nicola Brown

Nicola Brown is a textile artist and DCCI (Design & Crafts Council Ireland) member who works from her studio at Clasheen, Ballybrack, in the shadow of the Blackstairs Mountains. She is developing a sustainable textile practice, her current work explores the use of eco printing to impart colour directly from organic materials onto silk, wool, handmade felt and vintage linen. As well as creating exhibition pieces and work for sale Nicola facilitates regular felting and eco printing workshops online.

Since her introduction to textiles in 2007 Nicola Brown has studied extensively in Ireland, Europe and the US to learn new techniques and develop her fine art textile practice. As a mature student, Nicola chooses not to go down the traditional art college route but instead attends technique specific workshops, masterclasses and symposia with international tutors whose work she admires. This is an ongoing process. Currently Nicola's work is on display in The National Design & Craft Gallery in Kilkenny at the Made In Ireland Exhibition.

Residency Requirements:

This Residency will last for 5 days and will take place in the Studio and Grounds at Clasheen. Nicola will provide full access to all her tools and equipment; there will be an extra cost of €60 per person for materials (silk, wool, embellishing fibres, eco printing vegetation). Each day will run from 9am until 5pm with an option for working later on the fourth day. Nicola will be available to act as technician, guide and help participants throughout the residency. As a result, there are no requirements to have previous experience in textiles, felting or eco printing, all that is needed is a passion to learn and explore. This Residency is limited to 6 participants.

Craft Hub Project Inputs

Participants will be required to participate in the creation of Digital Content and feed into the materials library as part of their residency. Participants will be required to produce at least 1 video content piece and 2 materials samples as part of their experience. Participants will be required to complete a contract and submit paperwork in line with their sending countries requirements prior.

Daily Agenda:

An introduction to Nicola Brown and Clasheen.

Three words describe what Nicola does, simple, natural, crafted.

At the start of the residency participants will be brought on a tour of Clasheen. The property includes an off the grid garden studio, an indoor studio, 18 acres of land with over 13,500 native trees and eucalyptus grove, dry stone walls, natural dye borders, garden and small orchard. A passion for nature, rural landscape and the natural environment is a big help for those who visit!

On the first day Nicola will share examples of her own work and encourage group discussion to get everyone's creative juices flowing. Early in the residency participants will concentrate on felting then Nicola will introduce and facilitate eco printing, an exciting process where leaves, onion skins, bark and seed pods are used to create beautiful colour and prints on fabric. These prints are achieved without using powdered mordants (metal salts), the traditional method of fixing colour on textiles. It's an area of eco printing that Nicola specialises in and the technique that she shares of harnessing the metal composition of the processing pot is now referred to as working in a 'dirty pot'.

As the residency progresses participants will be able to collaborate or work on individual projects, explore either felting or eco printing techniques and head off in different directions as the processes inspire and dictate. Nicola will be available at all times to help, advise, act as technician and teach as appropriate. On the fourth evening it will be possible to keep the eco printing pot going until late if participants would like, this will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy an evening meal together and then have an exciting late night unbundling of prints!

On the final day of the residency participants will finish work, review, discuss all that has happened over the course of their time together and share plans for the future and any resulting collaborations. An exhibition of work will be installed in the studio and garden the local community invited to visit and share in the celebration.

What will be provided by the host

Welcome Tea/coffee pastries each day
Homecooked Lunch using local produce
Ongoing fruit and light refreshments throughout each day
Silk, wool and all eco printing vegetation
Optional Group dinner on the fourth evening
Access to Craft Hub Project Team
Accommodation