

The IRON-Research Project , a collaboration between CIT Crawford College of Art and Design (CCAD) and the National Sculpture Factory with the support of the Coleg Sirgar, Carmarthen, UK.

Biography

Matt Toole: Professor of Foundation Studies & Sculpture, Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD), Georgia, US

Matt Toole grew up around the barrier islands and salt marshes of Savannah, Georgia. He received a BFA from Georgia Southern University in 1994 and an MFA from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville in 2000.

Toole has since been a resident artist at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, The John Michael Kohler Art's Center in Sheboygan Wisconsin, and Franconia Sculpture Park located just north of Minneapolis/St Paul, Minnesota. He has traveled throughout the U.S. and U.K. collaborating on cast iron projects and creating performances dealing with the process of casting metal. Mr. Toole has been involved with the International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art since 1997 and is currently a professor of Foundation Studies and Sculpture at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia.

Recent Awards have included: 2010 Savannah College of Art and Design, Presidential Fellowship, 2005 Chancellor's Award, University System of Georgia/Americas Council, 2002 Franconia Sculpture Park/Jerome Fellowship Award., 2001 Franconia Sculpture Park/Jerome Fellowship Award, 2000 Scottish Sculpture Workshop International Bursary Award.

Biography

Andy Griffith: Artist & Head of Sculpture, Coleg Sirgar, Carmarthen Wales, UK.

Andy Griffith grew up in North Wales and studied foundation art and design at Wrexham, he started a degree course but left to pursue a career as a singer, recording nine singles and three albums between 1978 and 1983 (now available as The Best of the Wall, on Captain Oi Records). Griffith returned to college to study sculpture at Central School of Art and Design, London in 1983 and graduated in 1987. He set up as a self employed sculptor and worked as a foundry man at the A&A Fine Art Foundry on a part time basis where as well as learning bronze casting he worked as personal assistant to artists such as Barry Flanagan and A R Penk.

During this time Griffith exhibited mainly in London: Alexander Palace, Royal Festival Hall, and the East End Open Studios. In 1992 he had the opportunity to work in Seville, making sculpture for Expo 92, it was on returning to London six months later he decided to move back to Wales.

Griffith was appointed Head of Sculpture at the West Wales School of the Arts and continues to make and exhibit his work. In 2006 he built his first cast iron cupolette with other staff and students from WWSOTA and poured at the 5th International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art, Ironbridge. Griffith was then asked to co-chair the 6th International Conference which was held in 2010 in Kidwelly West Wales. He regularly runs cast iron pours in the UK, including at The Royal College of Art, London and Dartmoor Arts School and has been a visiting artist across the UK and USA.

Biography

James L. Hayes: Artist & Lecturer in Fine Art - CIT Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork.

Irish Artist James Hayes studied fine art at Limerick School of Art & Design, The University of Vigo, North Spain, De Montfort University Leicester, and the University of London in the UK. From 1997 to 2003 Hayes occupied a studio in London's East End, where he also spent time gaining industrial experience in AB Fine Art Foundry Ltd.

In 2003 he was appointed Sculpture Lecturer at Stamford College in Lincolnshire, UK, going on to lead the Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art. In 2005 he returned to Ireland where he was appointed as Fine Art Sculpture Lecturer at CIT Crawford College of Art & Design in Cork. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 he received major funding awards from the Irish Arts Council to attend sculpture Symposia and residencies in New Mexico, New York and Denver Colorado respectively.

Hayes has exhibited regularly since 1995 in Ireland, UK, Spain, Switzerland and the USA both in selected group shows and in solo shows. His work has also been purchased by both public and private collections in Ireland, UK, USA and Spain.

Recent selections include, 'Invite & reject' at POP LOOP, Chicago, The Mart Instructional European Tour (London Berlin, Norway, Bratislava, Dublin), The Worcester Contemporary Open-2010, 'The Eye-Kea Project'-an International Video art event, Cork, Limerick Printmakers Gallery, The Blankspace Gallery in San Francisco, The Burris Hill Galley in New Mexico, International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Sculpture at Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham, Alabama. 'Ev+a' 2008 'too early for vacation.' Limerick (curated by Hou Hanru), The USUK International Sculpture Symposia, New York, "Global Warming at the ICEBOX"- Philadelphia (curated by Adelina Vlas Curator of Modern & Contemporary Collections at the Philadelphia Museum of Art).

Recent projects include a solo shows at the 'The Good Children Gallery' in New Orleans, Louisiana and the completion of a temporary site specific sculpture commission for Cork County Council.

Currently Hayes continues to make both film based work in conjunction with public sculpture projects and gallery based sculptural installations, he is currently resident at the National Sculpture Factory, while also teaching Fine Art Sculpture at CIT Crawford College of Art & Design in Cork.