

From unmissable exhibitions to top theatrical productions, DEIRDRE MULROONEY has November sussed.



DANCE CULTURE

After a tour of South Korea, our own Dance Theatre of Ireland and Korea's NOW Dance Company bring the fruit of their international collaboration – celebrating 25 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries – on a national tour through Galway, Clare, Cork, Castleblayney, Bray and Wexford this month. The exotic double bill, *Parallel Horizons* by Robert Connor and Loretta Yurick and *Under the Roof* by In-Young Sohn, unleashes its original live music and drumming across our island from **November 12** at Dun Laoghaire's Pavilion Theatre. A twelve-strong cast of musicians and virtuoso dancing bodies explore “two cultures, two traditions, two unique music and dance histories”, www.dancetheatreireland.com.

DEREK WILSON



CRAFTY CUTS *Breaking Out*, at the National Craft Gallery, Castle Yard, Kilkenny, **until January 31**, provides a wonderful opportunity to discover Irish craft's world stars of tomorrow – and I'm not talking Aran jumpers or tacky crystal vases. Ceramicists, jewellers, glass artists, woodturners, furniture designers, fibre artists and silversmiths will showcase their creations. Many, for example jewellery graduate Natasha Rollinson, from the University of Ulster, are fresh out of college.

THE ART OF ROMANCE

Get into a romantic frame of mind with the Crawford Gallery's major retrospective of 19th century pre-Raphaelite Cork-born artist, Daniel Maclise in *Romancing the Past*, **October 24 – February 14**, a unique opportunity to absorb this reunion of more than 200 of Maclise's works (on loan from Irish and British collectors) in his home town.

DON'T MISS WELSH NEO-SOUL SONGSTRESS DUFFY TOUCHES DOWN IN DUBLIN'S OLYMPIA THEATRE ON **NOVEMBER 24**, EN ROUTE HOME FROM HER US TOUR. AMERICANS REGARD THE SINGER OF “MERCY”, “WARWICK AVENUE” AND “STEPPING STONE” AS THE LATEST IN A RECENT WAVE OF “BRITISH INVADERS” – FEMALE ARTISTS WITH A UNIQUE TAKE ON WRITING AND PERFORMING SONGS. THINK AMY WINEHOUSE. WE JUST LIKE HER QUIET ASSURANCE AND BIG TIME-WARP RETRO SOUND.





GOTTA HAVE FAITH "The work is done in all the conversations," says fashion-turned-fine art photographer **Jackie Nickerson**, who, new to the art world, recently won the prestigious AIB prize. "The picture is the thing at the end," she shares of her current process. It's very different from end-product-oriented fashion photography, which she excelled at for the likes of *Wallpaper*, *Arena*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, *Marie Claire*, and brands like Burberry and Issey Miyake.

"What you're trying to get is a psychological portrait. It's not documentary photography. I'm not trying to say if you are a nun, here is the room you will be sitting in, and these are your surroundings. I want to bring the viewer into the room, like they have been sitting there with them all day. It's the feeling, the atmosphere, the spirituality, the psychological - how do you get that? How the hell do you put that across? This was the challenge. I had a go at it."

Faith, her exploration of the quotidian world of the Irish Catholic clergy - a world so familiar to us, but strange and remarkable to Nickerson, when she encountered it for the first time in 2002 - premiered in Dublin's Paul Kane Gallery in 2006. It has been celebrated in New York, Paris and, this month, in Rome.

Over ten years ago, the Boston-born photographer who grew up in England,

worked in New York and internationally ("I definitely feel like a mongrel"), and abandoned her successful fashion career, re-emerged after a four-year African sojourn with her acclaimed Zimbabwe-inspired body of work, *Farm*. Not only did *Farm* take the New York art world by storm in 2005, but it also helped to open the doors of Ireland's enclosed convents and seminaries when she approached them with a view to her subsequent project, *Faith*.

"I think moving to Ireland was the best thing that ever happened to me," says Nickerson, who married an Irish man in 2002, and downplays her own Boston-Irish ancestry. "You're not allowed to get above yourself. It's fantastic. We can go off into the world and have all these great openings in New York and Rome, but it's always fantastic to come home."

Far from the glamorous world of fashion photography, Nickerson's next opus, *Domicile*, due out late autumn 2009, is inspired by her new home, Co Louth. In the meantime, you can be in with a chance to win a print from *Faith* at the Gallery of Photography 30 print raffle for €30 this month.

Jackie Nickerson, *Faith*, Brancolini Grimaldi Gallery, Rome, until November 16; Gallery of Photography Dublin, 30 (group show), from November 21.



ON THE NOSE "MAJOR KOVALYEV'S NOSE HAS GONE MISSING - IT'S GALLIVANTING ROUND TOWN AND IS PROVING TO BE A REAL HIT WITH THE LADIES." HOW'S THAT FOR A PREMISE? OVER AT PROJECT THEATRE, DIRECTOR JO MANGAN'S PERFORMANCE CORPORATION STAGES NIKOLAI GOGOL'S SURREAL SATIRE *THE NOSE*, STARRING THE MULTI-TALENTED ALL-SINGING, ALL-DANCING LISA LAMBE, LEFT, FROM NOVEMBER 11.

Dip into the burlesque, colourful world of the 1960s travelling circus, as Wexford playwright Billy Roche unveils his newest work, *Lay Me Down Softly*, at the Peacock Theatre from **November 14**. Among the cast is Irish-Ethiopian rising star Ruth Negga (*Breakfast on Pluto*), in what promises to be a 2008 gem.

"PORTRAIT OF ETTORRE SOTTASS" BY NUALA GOODMAN

COMEBACK SHOW

At last, the time has come to take a long-awaited stroll through the 178th Royal Hibernian Academy Exhibition in its breezy, newly refurbished environs, **November 11 - December 13**. After a year's closure for renovations, this prestigious annual exhibition will showcase over 500 works of art, most of which are for sale. Encouraging emerging artists, approximately half the art works are selected through the RHA's open submission process. These will be dispersed among 200 or so pieces by RHA academy members, including the newly elected Amelia Stein, Donald Teskey, Neil Shawcross, Maeve McCarthy and Ellis O'Connell. Then there are the 80 invited artists - from Dorothy Cross to Milan-based Irish artist Nuala Goodman, Hughie O'Donoghue, John Shinnors and Rose Stapleton thrown into the mix. Prices can range from €200 for an unframed print to €70,000 for the large works - so consider your wall space. While you're at it, why not mull over which artists you think merit the 21 artists' prizes. And should you get a little overwhelmed by the dizzying abundance of work on offer - from painting, print, photography, sculpture and drawing to architecture - or should you require a quiet moment to contemplate your budget, take a breather in the gallery's new café, run by the Unicorn Restaurant.