

Visual Arts Trail

AIB
Jerry Cahir

Sculptures using bog oak, yew, pine, deal, elm, sweet chestnut as well as stone such as marble and limestone. Inspired by landscape and his experiences, Jerry also uses paint, drawing and mixed media to convey his reactions to the environment.

Birr Castle Courtyard Café
Alison Rosse

Landscapes and interiors reflecting an attraction to the remains of the past in the landscape and the beauty in the countryside; inspired by the Midlands landscape around her home in Birr Castle and the wider corners of the Estate.

Birr Castle Science Centre
Flora Birrensis

An collection of oils and watercolours of floral wonders from the award-winning gardens at the Demesne, by some of Ireland's leading botanical artists. www.birrcastle.com

Birr Community Nursing Unit
Residents Exhibition

Anam Beo (Lively Spirit). Facilitated by local artist Jackie Lynch, a studio environment was created for residents who led and decided their own art projects, the results of which are as individual, unique and expressive as their creators.

Birr Library
Getting to know Birr

Photographic exhibition by Kieran Hoare, Paul Barber and Martin Roberts.

Birr Theatre & Arts Centre
Carole Quinlan

Batik with applied fibre work exploring the theme of open space, portraying the progression of ideas from the tiny detail of everyday things to the vastness of the space around us. www.birrtheatre.com

Show us your Shorts

Following calls for submissions, this showcase of short films from local and visiting filmmakers is an ideal opportunity for artists to show work and view that of contemporaries. 8pm, Tuesday 19.

The Chestnut
Sorcha O'Raghallaigh & Isobel Egan

Horses in my dreams. A collection of illustrations by Sorcha Ó Raghallaigh.

Intimate Spaces. Delicate structures in exquisitely crafted porcelain, explore issues of fragility, personal space and memory by Isobel Egan.

Dooly's Hotel, Blazers
Birr Stage Guild Archives 1958 - 2008

Recall memories of pantomimes, plays, musicals, pageants, The Good Olde Days, A.I.M.S weekends and Choral Festivals. Exhibition opens Saturday 16. www.birrstageguild.com

Ely House
Hazel Green; Students of Bramber Studio & Group Show

Hazel Green exhibits original paintings in oil and silk along with a selection of prints.

Students of Bramber Studio exhibit a selection of paintings in acrylic, silk, pencil, watercolours and oil. Contact: Cyril Stanley 087 2889616. Wine reception 7pm, Monday 18.

Group Show. Open art exhibition and sale from Monday 18 - Friday 22.

John's Hall
Offaly Crafty

A network of craft artists from Offaly, display a selection of work including wood, metal, glass, jewellery, silk, slate and ceramics from 15 members. www.offalyartsandcrafts.com



Kabelo
Emma Barone

Vintage Shoe. THE WOMAN'S SHOE: An external covering for the foot? An unhealthy obsession? Or a peek into the inner workings of her soul? One size fits all!!! www.emmabarone.com



Out Of The Blu
Martin Spillane

Photographs of the wonders of Birr Castle Demesne, displaying the wonderful colour and the changing landscapes over the four seasons.



Tin Jug Studio
Group Show

Reflections. A theme taken philosophically or literally, by a group of regional artists, working in different mediums, including painting, sculpture and photography. Official opening on 8pm, Thursday 14, with launch of Derek's CD *A Voice of Birr*.



Spinners
Willie Dillion

Original photographic images; atmospheric black and white portraits & nudes, and beautifully vibrant and distinctive colour images of flowers produced the old fashioned way - in a darkroom. Opening reception on 8pm, Friday 15. All welcome

Shop & Pub Windows
40th Anniversary Birr Vintage Week & Arts Festival!

Look out for 40 Festival Years celebrated in displays of photographs and memorabilia in pub & shop windows across town throughout the Festival.

About 100 Experiments curated by Eilís Lavelle

Curated by Eilís Lavelle, the exhibition explores the ways in which contemporary visual artists respond to, and draw upon scientific discoveries, ideas and methods. The work of 20 artists, acclaimed and emerging will be presented at various locations throughout the town. In 1907 Charles Parsons conducted 'about 100 experiments' in his initial attempts to create artificial diamonds. This was a costly quest and in his biography described as 'the senseless pursuit of a chimera.'¹ In 1955 scientists at the General Electric Company's laboratories in America turned graphite into diamond using essentially the same methods as Parsons pioneered.

Curator's talk
Eilís Lavelle will hold a talk on About 100 Experiments following Margeret Hogan's historic tour of the Workhouse at 3pm, Monday 18.

Birr Union Workhouse

Birr Union Workhouse is the main venue where the work of seventeen artists will be displayed including Aideen Barry, Diana Caramaschi, Anita Delaney, Damien Flood, Jessica Foley, Michael Fortune, Fiona Hackett, Helen Hughes, Wendy Judge, Aileen Lambert, Sarah Lincoln, Brian Lynch, Christine Makey, Orla McHardy, Kate Minnock, Jack Phelan & Sharon Phelan.

Masonic Hall

I see a darkness. New oil paintings by Mark Cullen, that contend with the stars, the heavens, atomic material and how it is subjectivised in our imaginations through popular science and science fiction, and how its imagery is presented in scientific media. Opening 3pm, Saturday 16.

Birr Castle Demesne Pavilion

Anna Baraham and Clodagh Emoe exhibit new work in the unique pentangle glass pavilion located beside the Leviathan telescope in the grounds of Birr Castle Demesne.

Emma's Café Deli

A drawing and print exhibition offering a closer look at the working methods and preliminary studies made by some of the artists exhibiting in About 100 Experiments.

