

Experience Design Differently.

NOVEMBER 14 / 15 / 16

Tickets on sale at designkenmare.com



This autumn, the picturesque town of Kenmare will host the inaugural **Design Kenmare**, a new festival celebrating creativity and design across disciplines — from architecture and interiors to fashion, graphics, photography, and product design. Uniquely, however, the focus will be on understanding and experiencing design differently from other events.

Taking place over three days, from **November 14th – 16th**, as an official curtain raiser to Irish Design Week, the festival will feature a world-class line-up of Irish and international designers, architects, photographers and creative thinkers in an intimate programme of talks, panels and special events.

Speakers include: Maser, Annie Atkins, Amanda Bone, Linda Brownlee, Rich Gilligan, Darrell Kavanagh, Bryan O'Sullivan, Jenny Huston, Marc Fish, Fingal Ferguson, Paul Galvin, James O'Neill, Gráinne Kavanagh, Mark Joyce, Dermot Bannon, Deridra McBeth, Róisín Buckley, Steve Doogan, Brendan Courtney, the Irish Design Shop, Róisín Lafferty and Simon Ronan.

A Global Conversation in an Intimate Setting

Design Kenmare brings together leading voices from the global design community alongside Ireland's most accomplished practitioners.

Across 12 keynote panels and discussions, speakers will explore themes such as:

- The harmony of form and function in contemporary design
- Storytelling and narrative in visual practice
- Sustainable design and the circular economy
- Cultural heritage and what makes design timeless
- Collaboration, retail experience, and the evolving marketplace

The tone throughout the weekend will be insightful, conversational, and cross-disciplinary — encouraging genuine dialogue between creators, thinkers, and audiences. Each session will conclude with Q&A opportunities and informal discussion, reflecting the festival's ethos of openness and exchange.



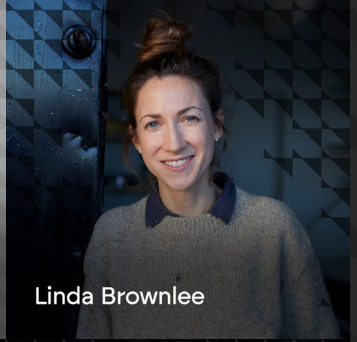
Annie Atkins



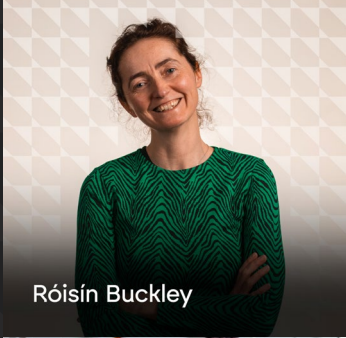
Dermot Bannon



Amanda Bone



Linda Brownlee



Róisín Buckley



Laura Caffrey



Steve Doogan



Fingal Ferguson



Marc Fish



Paul Galvin



Rich Gilligan



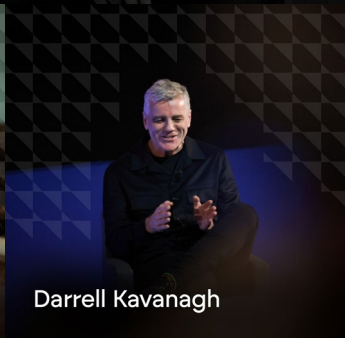
Clare Grennan



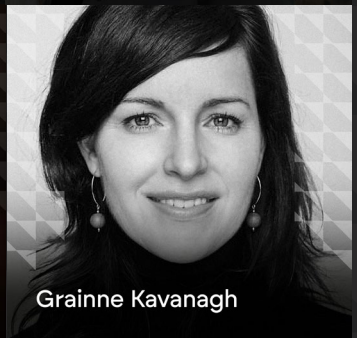
Jenny Huston



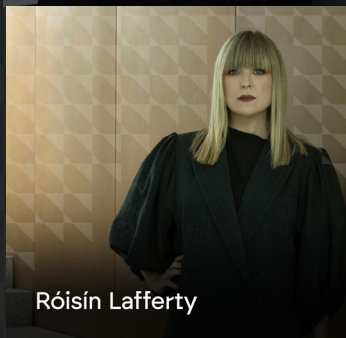
Mark Joyce



Darrell Kavanagh



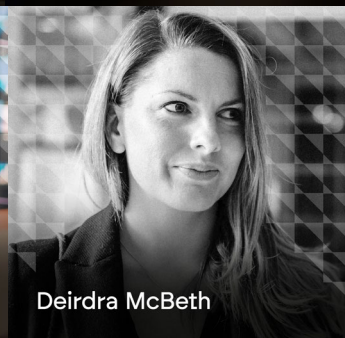
Grainne Kavanagh



Róisín Lafferty



Maser



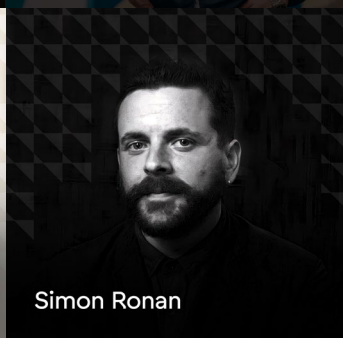
Deirdra McBeth



James O'Neill



Bryan O'Sullivan



Simon Ronan



From Local Collaboration to International Stage

Design Kenmare grew organically from the town's thriving creative design and maker community. In 2024, furniture maker Adrian Duyn and graphic designer Eamonn O'Sullivan brought together 28 local makers, designers, photographers, and publishers for the Le Chéile Showcase Exhibition at Kenmare Butter Market. Its success — and the sold-out evening talks that accompanied it — sparked the idea of creating a festival that would place Kenmare on the map as a centre for creative excellence.

Duyn and O'Sullivan joined forces with photographer Norman McCloskey, hotelier Patrick Hanley and Naoise Nunn of cultural festival specialists Schwappe Curtis Nunn to develop the concept with the support of Kerry County Council. Working with the wider Le Chéile network, they curated an exceptional international line-up — a roster of speakers rarely seen together at one Irish event.

The Design Kenmare team.

Photo by Lynda Kenny (Visual Feasts)



Kenmare: Design in Its DNA

With its Georgian-era planned layout, strong artisan heritage, and vibrant cultural scene, Kenmare provides an ideal setting for a design festival of this scale. All talks will take place within walking distance of one another, allowing attendees to engage with speakers and fellow creatives throughout the weekend. As with the best festivals, some of the most exciting interactions happen between the events.

Beyond the core programme, visitors can enjoy book signings, fringe events and exploring all that Kenmare and County Kerry have to offer, creating a weekend that blends inspiration, networking and creative exchange in equal measure.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for Design Kenmare 2025 are now on sale at www.designkenmare.com. For updates, speaker profiles, and programme details, follow @designkenmare on Instagram.

Experience
Design
Differently.



**Fri 14th Nov
6:00PM**

Carnegie
Arts Centre

**From Street
to Studio:
The Public
Space
as Muse**

**Rich Gilligan
Maser
Simon Ronan**

**Naoise Nunn
(Host)**

From graffiti walls to conflict zones, overlooked corners to bustling squares, public space shapes the stories designers tell. This panel explores how place becomes muse.

**Fri 14th Nov
8:00PM**

Carnegie
Arts Centre

**Timeless
by Design:
Heritage
That Lasts**

**Dermot Bannon
Paul Galvin
Bryan O'Sullivan**

**Jerry O'Sullivan
(Host)**

Why do some designs endure while others fade? Drawing on Kenmare's cultural legacy, this session looks at how storytelling and heritage create design that lasts.

**Sat 15th Nov
10:00AM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**The Spark:
Catching
Inspiration**

**Amanda Bone
Paul Galvin
Darrell Kavanagh
Bryan O'Sullivan**

**Róisín Buckley
(Host)**

Every creative journey begins with a spark. Designers from different disciplines share how they find and keep hold of those elusive moments of inspiration.

**Sat 15th Nov
11:30AM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**Beyond the
Shopfront:
Designing
Retail
Experiences**

**Laura Caffery
Clare Grennon
Mark Joyce
Grainne Kavanagh**

**Jenny Huston
(Host)**

Retail is no longer just about what you buy, it's about how you feel. We explore how design creates memorable encounters both online and in-store, shaping the future of retail.

* Times, locations and contributors are subject to change.



**Sat 15th Nov
1:00PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**Design as
Story:**
When Worlds
Collide

**Annie Atkins
Paul Galvin
Rich Gilligan
Darrell Kavanagh**

Róisín Buckley
(Host)

Storytelling is as old as humanity, but its power to shape design is timeless. From objects to digital worlds, this session explores how narrative transforms the way we create and connect.

**Sat 15th Nov
2:30PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

Photography:
Conversations
exploring how
technology and
art converge
to shape the
future of
photography

**Linda Brownlee
Rich Gilligan**

Naoise Nunn
(Host)

A dynamic panel discussion which brings together cutting-edge photographers pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling.

**Sat 15th Nov
4:00PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**Design for
the Soul:**
How design
hits us
emotionally

**Amanda Bone
Fingal Ferguson
Marc Fish**

Deirdra McBeth
(Host)

Design changes how we feel. From a chair that comforts to a building that inspires, this panel explores how spaces and objects shape emotion, memory, and mindset.

**Sat 15th Nov
5:30PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**Designing
Tomorrow:**
What role does
design play
in building a
more humane,
sustainable
world?

**Amanda Bone
Róisín Lafferty
Bryan O'Sullivan
Simon Ronan**

Dermot Bannon
(Host)

This discussion tackles the materials, methods, and mindsets shaping design for the future.

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**Sat 15th Nov
7:00PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**Selling
the Vision:
Design
Meets
the Market**

**Jenny Huston
Darrell Kavanagh
Roisin Lafferty
James O'Neill**

Deirdra McBeth
(Host)

How does design succeed in the marketplace? From branding to interiors and art, this panel looks at the balancing act between creative integrity and commercial impact.

**Sun 16th Nov
11:00AM**

Carnegie
Arts Centre

**Graphic
Design &
Illustration:
Two creatives
at the very top
of their industry
in an intimate
setting**

**Annie Atkins
Steve Doogan**

Róisín Buckley
(Host)

Through vibrant conversation, they delve into process, collaboration, and the power of illustration and design to influence society and spark change.

**Sun 16th Nov
12:30PM**

Carnegie
Arts Centre

**Inside
the Studio:
The Work
Behind
the Work**

**Annie Atkins
Linda Brownlee
Steve Doogan
Marc Fish**

Jenny Huston
(Host)

What does it really take to bring a design to life? From film sets to book covers, furniture workshops to architecture studios, we reveal the messy, magical processes behind the finished product.

**Sun 16th Nov
2:30PM**

Pobalscoil
Inbhear
Scéine

**The Power
of We:
Collaboration
as Craft**

**Dermot Bannon
Linda Brownlee
Rich Gilligan
Roisin Lafferty
Maser**

Róisín Buckley
(Host)

Collaboration can elevate an idea into something extraordinary. Designers reflect on the challenges, risks, and rewards of creative teamwork across disciplines.

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Design Kenmare

NOVEMBER 14 / 15 / 16

Design Kenmare is an exciting new festival coming to Kenmare, Co. Kerry this autumn, featuring a stellar lineup of top names and talent in various creative disciplines. The festival will focus on architecture, fashion, graphic, interior, and product design, as well as photography and the retail aspect of all these fields.

Over the course of three days in the Carnegie Arts Centre and Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine, panel discussions on various themes and topics will take place, with Q&A sessions from attendees.

Experience Design Differently.

GRAPHIC - INTERIOR - FASHION
PHOTOGRAPHY - ARCHITECTURE
FURNITURE - PRODUCT DESIGN

Annie Atkins
Dermot Bannon
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Linda Brownlee
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Laura Caffrey
Brendan Courtney
Steve Doogan
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