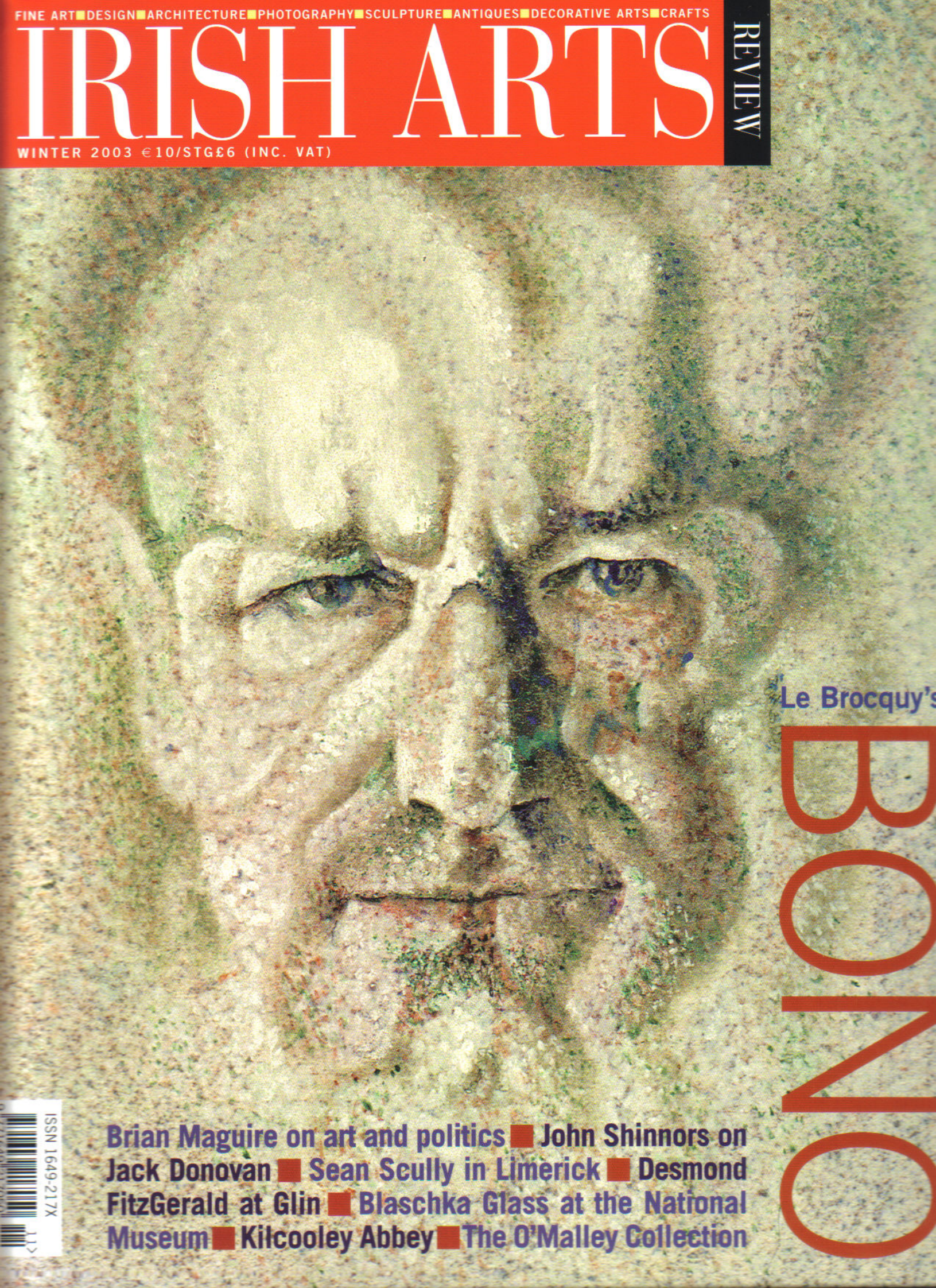


FINE ART ■ DESIGN ■ ARCHITECTURE ■ PHOTOGRAPHY ■ SCULPTURE ■ ANTIQUES ■ DECORATIVE ARTS ■ CRAFTS

# IRISH ARTS

REVIEW

WINTER 2003 €10/STG£6 (INC. VAT)



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**Brian Maguire on art and politics ■ John Shinnors on Jack Donovan ■ Sean Scully in Limerick ■ Desmond FitzGerald at Glin ■ Blaschka Glass at the National Museum ■ Kilcooley Abbey ■ The O'Malley Collection**

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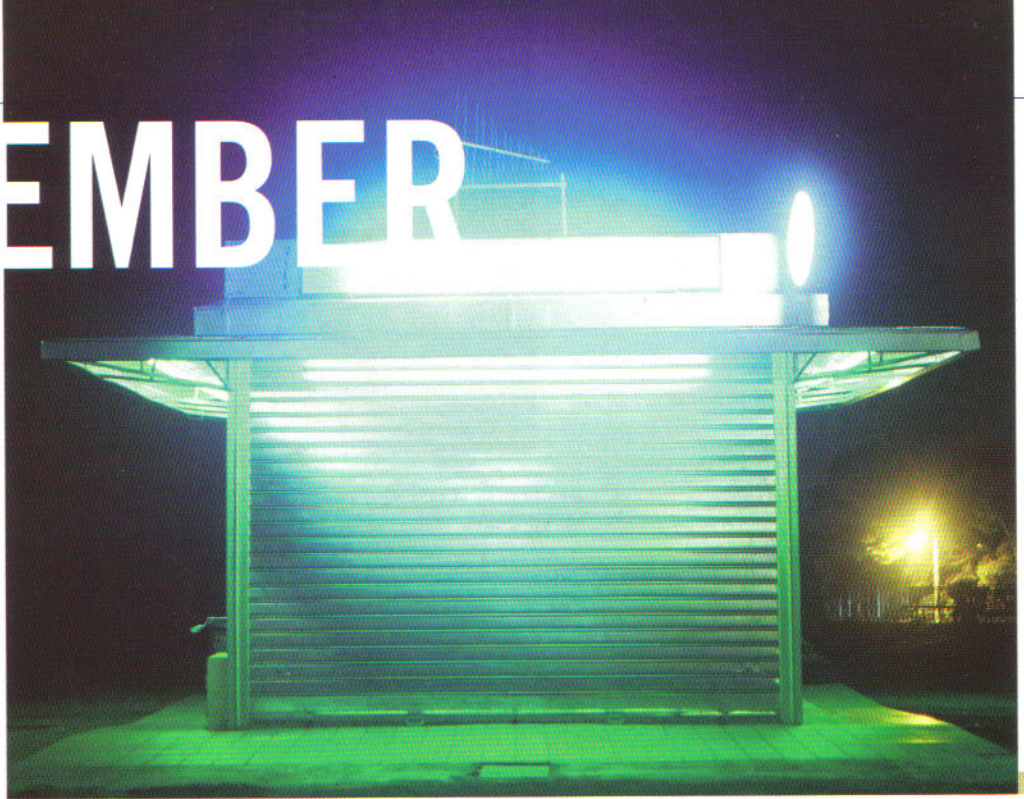
# DECEMBER

## TOWERING TALENT

The **Tower Design Centre** on Pearse Street in Dublin will host an Open Day on 4 December to showcase the talents of the contemporary designers and craft workers based in this historic industrial building. Jewellery designers **Alan Ardiffe** and **Seamus Gill**, sculptor **Elizabeth O'Kane**, ceramic artist **Christian Hughes**, and tapestry designer **Patricia Clyne Kelly** are just some of the contemporary designers hoping to tempt visitors looking for unique Christmas gifts this year. *Tower Design Centre Open Day 4 December*



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## CYPHERS IN CORK

'Cyphers' is the enigmatic title of an exhibition of new paintings by **Ger Sweeney** at the **Triskel Arts Centre**, Tobin St, Cork. The same venue is also presenting 'Terrestrial,' a photographic show by **Robert O'Connor**. The Cyphers exhibition is a collaborative tour with Roscommon Arts Centre and launches Sweeney's most recent body of work. Drawing largely on the landscape for his inspiration, Sweeney creates paintings that offer an intriguing mix of colour, texture and shape - all characterised by dynamic/energetic layering of paint. 'Terrestrial' by O'Connor is part of the PERIFERIE project photographed in Sardinia, Italy. The full series was executed during the night in the environs of Sardinia and its industrial zone. O'Connor visually investigates the uncertainty of what is perceivable and perceived, using several strategies - the light, the angle and the enclosure. *'Cyphers' Triskel Arts Centre to 18 December; 'Terrestrial', Triskel Arts Centre to 19 December*

7 ROBERT O'CONNOR AT THE TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE

## IRISH ARTISTS AT THE FLORENCE BIENNALE

Since its inaugural exhibition in 1997 when the work of 317 artists from 17 nations was exhibited, the Florence Biennale has been acclaimed as a panoramic survey of contemporary art. Participation is by invitation only, and this year the prestigious International Committee of the Florence Biennale has invited Irish artists John Nolan, Gregory Toal, Deborah Donnelly, Roger Cummiskey and Tommy Barr to join more than 600 artists from 50 countries in Florence. The exhibition takes place at the Fortezza da Basso in Florence from 6-14 December 2003. *Florence Biennale 6-14 December*



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8 ROBERT O'CONNOR AT THE TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE

## THE NEO-CELTIC EXPERIENCE

'Neo-Celtic Art' at the **National Museum of Ireland** illustrates the development of a style inspired by the art of Early Christian Ireland. It encompasses metalwork, manuscript illumination and architecture from about 700 BC to AD1400. Artefacts from the collections of the Art & Industrial and Irish Antiquities Divisions of the National Museum trace the history and development of neo-Celticism from its roots in exact replication of art treasures such as the Tara Brooch and the Ardagh Chalice. A 19th-century replica of the Cross of Cong is one of the most stunning artefacts on display in this section. This visually arresting style soon evolved into an innovative and abstract art form, touching all areas of the decorative arts, from glass engraving to bogwood carving. It also incorporated the political use of symbols from Ireland's rich cultural past in the cause of nationalism. In this context, emblems such as the harp, shamrock, round tower and wolfhound represented/strengthened a sense of national and cultural identity. *National Museum from December*



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9 ELIZABETH O'KANE AT THE TRISKEL ARTS CENTRE

10 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF IRELAND