

artnews



Anthony Scott at the Beaux Arts in Bath

How does a sculptor like **Anthony Scott** who chooses to live in the West of Ireland manage to find a market for his art in these depressed times? Scott lives and works in Sligo 'under bare Ben Bulbin' where he models stylized animals, horses, dogs, deer, bulls and even birds drawn from Celtic mythology. These then have to be transported to Dublin where they are cast at the Cast Bronze Factory on South Brown Street in Dublin. The finished products are then shipped to his main gallery in the UK, the Beaux Arts in Bath which is run by one of the lucky diaspora, **Aidan Quinn** from Strabane.

Scott (see the *Irish Arts Review* Summer 2009) hit the headlines earlier this year when the piece he had designed for the National Stud in Kildare was unveiled by **Queen Elizabeth II** during her visit there in May. The design was of a globe, with small figures of horses therein. But why a globe? The answer lies in the connection to the founder of the National Stud, one Col William Hall-Walker, the Kodak heir, philanthropist, art collector and lover of horseflesh. Walker, strongly influenced by astrology, believed that the Signs of the Zodiac had more bearing on a thoroughbred's racing performance than had its blood line. Whatever about that, his *The Soarer* won the Grand National in 1896 and Scott's Globe called *Sea of Stars* commemorates the Colonel's faith in the firmament.

Scott also shows his work each year at the London Art Fair in January, the Royal College of Art in London and the Art London show in Chelsea. ■

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Artists in residence

The cream of those programmes to mollycoddle artists who formerly, we are led to believe, had to survive in garrets is surely to be found at the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris where **Sheila Pratschke** has been the Director for some years. The only snag is that you have to be very lucky to be selected and visual artists appear to be in the minority. The CCI programme which usually spans a three-month residency not only has the huge attraction of living in the centre of Paris but the bursary comes with free travel and accommodation and €700 per month pocket money thrown in. In recent years visual artists partaking in the programmes have included **Mick O'Dea, Martin Healy, Eithne Jordan, Maud Cotter** and **Eamon O'Kane**.

Back home the residencies available at IMMA are perhaps the most sought-after in Dublin, but there are an increasing number of residencies available for artists in the country thanks to more local authorities taking the initiative in this area. Apart from these, the annual RHA/Tony O'Malley home and studio residency in Kilkenny is hard to beat. **Magnhild Opdøl** has been

living there for the past year in O'Malley's family home which was converted by **Jane O'Malley** and made available for the student residency. Next year the lucky recipient will be **Ciaran Murphy** who has shown at the Douglas Hyde and Grimm Gallery, Amsterdam in addition to the RHA. It is said that his

practice is 'predominantly an enquiry into what it means to perceive the world through the human eye'.

The most valuable of all residencies, of course, is the one offered by the Arts Council for the programme at Location One in the Soho district of New York. This year the lucky recipient is the 33-year-old **Atsushi Kaga** who scooped the \$45,000 bursary for a ten-month stay in the Big

4 Anthony Scott with Queen Elizabeth II ©Getty Images

5 Ciaran Murphy, winner of the RHA/Tony O'Malley studio residency

6 Ministers Jimmy Denny, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport and Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills at the launch of the Irish Arts Review Online Archive