

Exhibiting a New Species of Craft

Renowned Glass Studio Launches Animal Inspired Exhibition 'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom'

A passion for animals has inspired the Leadbetter family of Jerpoint Glass Studio to host a new mixed-media exhibition inspired by the animal world. Launched at Jerpoint Glass Studio, Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny, 'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom' features specially commissioned pieces from over 30 established and emerging Irish artists, designers and craftspeople.

This distinctive exhibition was inspired by Jerpoint Glass Studio founder Keith Leadbetter and his family's love of animals and unusual family pets. A real family affair, the exhibition features glass wall-hangings by Keith's wife Kathleen titled 'Birds of Paradise' and paintings by his daughter Roisin and granddaughter, Sarah. Keith's oldest daughter Sally is organising 'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom' and hand-picked the highly regarded exhibitors submitting animal inspired pieces from metalwork, basketry and illustration to paintings, jewellery and glass.

"Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom is a celebration of our family's love of animals as well as our passion for new art forms and design", says Sally Leadbetter of Jerpoint Glass Studio. "From as early as I can remember our home in Jerpoint has been teeming with pets from dogs and cats to terrapins and pigs. This animal theme really inspired our exhibitors and showcases some amazing one-off pieces specially created for this exhibition."

Celebrated Irish designer, Pat McCarty officially opened 'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom' at an exclusive preview held to launch the exhibition. Pat's mens and womenswear designs were stocked in legendary stores Barney's New York, Fred Segal LA and Liberty of London and he now provides design consultancy services from his Inistioge studio.

'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom' promises an entertaining look at Irish craftmakers and designers' interpretation of the animal kingdom from the farmyard to the more exotic. Its accessible theme is expected to attract a broad audience of animal lovers and families as well as high-end craft enthusiasts and budding collectors. A percentage of exhibition proceeds will go to Kilkenny's SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

Coinciding with Kilkenny Arts Festival, 'Jerpoint's Animal Kingdom' will run from August 1st to September 7th 2008 at Jerpoint Glass Studio's 'Glass Attic Gallery', Stoneyford, Co. Kilkenny. The exhibition, sponsored by FloGas, is open 7 days, admission is complimentary and families are welcome. For further information contact Sally Leadbetter on 056 7724350 or enquiries@jerpointglass.com

Jerpoint Glass Studio, a family business founded in 1979 by Keith and Kathleen Leadbetter, designs and produces a wide range of exclusive hand-made glass available world-wide. www.jerpointglass.com

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