

Local fashion designers exhibit collections

‘Sustainability is important to me’

Kiri O'Neill

LIZZIE McGee and Izzy Evans, final year Fashion Design students at the National College of Art and Design (NCAD), exhibited their graduate collections at the NCAD Works 2026 Graduate Exhibition last week.

Ms McGee, from Kilkenny City, and Ms Evans, from Thomastown, both attended Loreto Secondary School where they studied art. Ms Evans says: “We both did art in Loreto and loved it. I think that was a big part of why we chose to come to NCAD.”

Ms McGee has experience working with Irish Fashion Designer Rashid in both her Dublin and Paris studios. She also worked at Paris Fashion Week for Belgian designer Julie Kegels and at the Paul Costello and Graduate shows during the inaugural Ireland Fashion Week.

She will be participating in Ireland Fashion Week 2026 as a graduate designer. Her graduate collection Break the String “explores the belief that people are controlled by societal standards and expectations in a similar way to how a puppet master controls a marionette” and “embraces the significance of breaking the string.”

INSPIRED
Ms McGee says: “I was sort of inspired by my positive childhood perspective on the world compared



Loinnir (left) and Break the String (right) Pictures: Rachel Baum and Emily McGee

to societal restrictions that we face as young adults in Ireland - like the housing crisis, cost of living things like that - and then trying to bring those elements into the project.”

Ms Evans' collection Loinnir was inspired by her younger brother and his love of the beach.

“He has cerebral palsy, so he really loves the sensorial element of being outside, on the beach in particular,” she says.

“My project is all about trying to recreate the textures and feel of sitting beside the seaside. I suppose it's quite a simple idea, but my aim with the project was to recreate a

very literal look of the sea and surrounding landscape in the pieces.”

On her medium, Ms Evans says: “Sustainability is quite important to me, so I was trying to use waste yarn and sustainable materials.”

Ms Evans is planning to undertake a Master's in Design Thinking for Sustainability at University College Dublin. She completed her Erasmus year at Manchester Metropolitan University where she specialised in knitwear.

Break the String and Loinnir were on exhibition at the National College of Art and Design earlier this month.

‘Growing distress among staff facing redundancy’ - Senator

SENATOR Patricia Stephenson has called on the Minister for Further and Higher Education to provide urgent clarity on the future of staff and students affected by the closure of Carlow College.

“There is growing distress amongst staff who are facing redundancy with that process beginning as soon as August,” Senator Stephenson said in the Seanad.

“The transition as it was framed as positive news simply does not reflect the reality of what is happening to the college community. Staff have dedicated many years of service to Carlow College, they remained committed throughout discussions about the college's future, believing there would be opportunities to transfer or deploy as part of a transition involving SETU. Instead, now



Senator Patricia Stephenson

many are facing redundancy asking the minister was the closure of the college always on the cards?

“There are serious questions about how this process has been managed, staff deserve to know when it became clear that a merger with SETU would not happen and what efforts were made to protect

jobs and when was Carlow College advised it was not going to transfer to SETU?

“Some administrative and support staff are earning little more than the minimum wage despite years of dedicated service; workers fear that they may only receive statutory redundancy rather than the enhanced arrangements they believed would be available.

“The impact on students has been equally devastating. Students in the process of accepting offers and planning their futures and those opportunities suddenly disappeared.”

Senator Stephenson concluded that the gap remains that the 87 staff were not involved in discussions this is brand new and shocking, for students also it has completely out of the blue.”

NOTICE PURSUANT TO: SECTION 177AE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) AND THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED)

IDA Belview Infrastructure Development, County Kilkenny

Notice of Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for Approval

Notice is hereby given that Kilkenny County Council intends to seek the approval of An Coimisiún Pleanála under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) to construct IDA Belview Infrastructure Development, County Kilkenny.

The proposed development will provide access to the IDA Ireland land bank at Kilmurry, Belview, Co. Kilkenny to facilitate IDA development as well as provide active travel modes for the area. The subject site is located in South Kilkenny approximately 3 km east of Waterford and north of IDA Science and Technology Business Park.

The proposal will provide an upgrade of local road L3412 from the existing eastern IDA Ireland roundabout and will be back into the existing L3412 to the west via a new roundabout. The upgrade will be taken online on the existing road and offline on adjoining land.

The development forms part of the wider L3412 upgrade connecting Abbeylands/Ferrybank to Belview Port and will integrate with future infrastructure improvements which will be progressed separately and will incorporate Active Travel facilities in accordance with Settlement Strategy Variation No. 6 of the County Development Plan 2021-2027.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared as part of the application for approval in respect of the proposed development.

An Coimisiún Pleanála may give approval to the application for development with or without conditions or may refuse the application for development.

A copy of the plans and particulars of the proposed development and the Natura Impact Statement will be available for inspection between Wednesday 24th June 2026 and Wednesday 5th August 2026 (Inclusive of both dates) at the following locations:

- The consultation website of Kilkenny County Council at <https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en>
- The Planning Section of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny City, R95 A39T between the hours 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday (Excluding Public Holidays).
- Piltown Municipal District Offices, Kilkenny County Council, Ferrybank Shopping Centre, Ferrybank, Co. Kilkenny, X91DE42; from 9am to 1pm & 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday (Excluding Public Holidays).
- The offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 between the hours 9:15am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday (Excluding Public Holidays)

The Natura Impact Statement and the Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected free of charge at the locations above or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making a copy).

Any submissions and observations on the proposed development in relation to -

- i. the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development in the area concerned,
- ii. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- iii. the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European Site, if carried out,

may be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin, D01 V902.

Any submission/observation must be received by An Coimisiún Pleanála not later than on or before 5.30pm on Wednesday 5th August 2026.

A person may question the validity of any such decision by An Coimisiún Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2019 (as amended).

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Publications - Judicial Review Notice on the Board's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information website www.citizensinformation.ie Dated this Wednesday 17th June 2026.

Mary J Mullholland,
Director of Services,
Kilkenny County Council.