



ADAM FREW

When the *New York Times* named potter Adam Frew as one of five up and coming Irish designers to know, they were certainly on to something. Working from his studio in Aghadowey, he creates functional as well as one-off pieces. His latest work? "A new shape of teapot, bread crock with inverted handle inspired by my own sourdough baking, a wider handled jug, tall slim vases and high-sided plates." And possibly tiles. He's just finished tiling his bathroom. Adamfrew.com



Teapot, €175,
Adamfrew.com

Makers & Shakers

25 IRISH DESIGNERS TO KNOW NOW

From established names to up-and-comers, meet the trail blazing Irish ceramicists, furniture makers, lighting designers and textile artists everyone's talking about

WORDS RÓISÍN CARABINE



Large flower
plate, €350,
Andrewludick.com

ANDREW LUDICK

Hailing from Ohio, Kilkenny-based ceramicist Andrew Ludick makes colourful, off-kilter earthenware emblazoned with graphic designs "informed by the rhythm, melody, song structure and forms of sounds" - and by the art of African, Native American and South American cultures. He has also designed a sell-out range of tableware for Anthropologie and continues to collaborate with Ceadogán Rugs - watch out for a new design drop this spring. Andrewludick.com





Mimo set of mugs, €72, Arranstreet.ie

ARRAN STREET EAST

Headed by managing director Dobrawa Brach, Arran Street East is a collaborative studio of potters and glazers - self-dubbed 'architects of clay' - that churn out "simple, well-designed, handthrown useful, useable and beautiful everyday objects" in clean geometric lines and characterful colours inspired by the Dublin Fruit and Vegetable Market. Arranstreet.ie



BAG & BONES

Operating under the label Bag & Bones, Galway-born sisters Gigi and Cavanagh Foyle left behind careers in health research and law to light up London with their LED neon expressive light art inspired by urban street culture, art and fashion and now count model Kate Moss among their many famous fans. Their off-the-shelf collection includes tongue-in-cheek slogans and sensual graphics with a pop art twist. "Next is a range of desktop and life size neon resin sculptures and a new collab." Bagandbones.co.uk



BENEFIELD SPENCER GLASS

Internationally known glass blowers, Scott Benefield and Andrea Spencer came together in 2010 to establish Benefield Spencer Glass, formerly BTU Studio, which operates out of an old farm in Ballintoy. Together they make glassware that combines traditional Venetian cane and filigrana techniques with contemporary forms. Working largely to commission, they've just recently set up an online shop selling more affordable pieces of their signature designs. Benefieldspencerglassshop.com



Filigrana Vase, €35, Benefieldspencerglassshop.com





BOB JOHNSTON

Bob Johnston's career highlight? When HBO commissioned him to create a replica willow 'Iron Throne' and dragons for the world premiere of *Game of Thrones* Season 8. The County Down-based former textile weaver turned willow sculptor is in such demand for his uber realistic Highland Cow trophy heads, life size moose shoulder mounts and freestanding dogs, he has three years' worth of commissions already booked. The new *Homo Faber Guide* includes him in their list of Europe's best artisans. Bobjohnstonbaskets.co.uk



COLIN HARRIS

Since setting up his own studio in Newcastle, Co Dublin in 2015, sustainable furniture designer and Parnham College graduate Colin Harris' career has gone stellar. His award-winning Egon Schiele Chair forms part of the Goodison collection at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge and he's just been included in the *Homo Faber Guide* of Europe's best artisans. "Finding the simplest way to make something that both functions and delights is a great challenge." His bespoke and limited-edition homeware accessories and furniture are made from hand-picked Irish hardwood. Colinharris.ie



ELEMENTS OF ACTION

Edward Coveney and Esther Gerrard are co-founders of Elements of Action, a Cork-based collaborative design practice. "We handcraft beautiful objects and design contemporary spaces." Stuck at home due to Covid got them "thinking about the fabric of our lives and the objects that we bring with us from place to place." With that in mind they've developed a new collection of thoughtfully considered dining and occasional armchairs in leather and steel." Elementsofaction.net



HOUSE OF HACKNEY

Often referred to as pioneers, rebels and positive disruptors, Dubliner Frieda Gormley and husband Javvy M Royle have taken the interiors world by storm with their maximalist approach to design. Co-founders of cult lifestyle brand House of Hackney, with showrooms in London and New York, they're known for their flamboyant florals and wild animal prints - a signature style described as 'William Morris on acid.' Ten years in business and a move from Hackney to a castle in the wilds of Cornwall, the duo have big plans for this year: new collections with a focus on Celtic festivals, a project that reimagines cabin-like interiors and more creative collabs. Houseofhackney.com

GARVAN DE BRUIR

These days Kildare-based, artisan leatherworker Garvan de Bruir is probably best known for his bags fashioned from equestrian bridal leather, although he originally trained as a furniture designer. This year he's getting back into the interiors saddle again with a range of leather homeware accessories - trays, office tidys, storage boxes - for "the new work-from-home brigade," and has plans to add to his online leather furniture collection. Debruir.com



J. HILL'S STANDARD

Anike Tyrell, founder of J. Hill's Standard, is a woman on a mission: to keep Waterford's age-old crystal techniques alive. The award-winning, internationally acclaimed brand (set up in 2014) is known for its contemporary, handmade cut crystal and collaborations with designers and creatives, including Martino Gamper and Scholten & Baijings. This year expect new iterations of Irish illustrator Nigel Peake's (pictured above) collection, an exciting collab with Dutch designer Aldo Bakker and a move to The Arcade in Lismore. Jhillsstandard.com





Tria stool, €117,
Leoscarffdesign.com



LEO SCARFF

Leitrim-based Leo Scarff is a highly acclaimed lighting and furniture designer, lecturer and curator of product design exhibitions with a career spanning over 25 years. Best known for his innovative woven veneer lights, flat-pack, birch plywood furniture and striking commercial sculptures. His latest (and long overdue) venture is fast gaining traction among fans - an online store selling super affordable versions of his signature designs. Leoscarffdesign.com

LUKE IRWIN

It was a lunch chat with a 13-year-old half Tibetan boy that set Dublin-born, London-based Luke Irwin on the path to rug design and a debut collection based on crop circles. Now 18 years in business and the client list for his hand-knotted, custom designs (ethically produced in India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan) reads like a who's who of famous faces, including Prince Charles and Barack Obama. "I love designing rugs, you can really indulge your whimsy." His current Mosaic Collection is his most famous to date, inspired by the discovery of a 2,000-year-old Roman mosaic in the garden of his Wiltshire farmhouse. This year's design collection is based on Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man. Lukeirwin.com



Rugs, various prices
from €1,500,
Lukeirwin.com



MARTIN GALLAGHER

Multi-talented furniture designer Martin Gallagher is a busy man. When he's not creating sculptural limited-edition pieces inspired by Sligo's coastline, he's crafting custom-made, architectural style tables and sideboards or expanding on his range of modern nightstands and home accessories for Etsy. Lately he's been fashioning bespoke kitchens out of rough cut European and smoked oak and collaborating with Ciaran McGill of The Veneerist. Martingallagherfurniture.com

NEW NAMES ON THE BLOCK

Three up-and-comers to watch out for



AIL + EL

Dubliner Aileen Balfe is the creative force behind the contemporary homewares label Ail + El. Her funky signature concrete designs emblazoned with colourful geometric patterns are influenced by the city's architecture and graffiti. In her hands, something as simple as a coaster becomes a work of art. Ailandel.com



Oven glove, €27,
Maxmademedoit.com

WILDBIRD STUDIO

Operating under the moniker WildBird, Alison Byrne is a stained-glass artist with designs on making the ancient craft modern and affordable. "I'm fascinated with geometry and the beauty of maths when applied to art." Think geometric terrariums, dodecahedron lights and bespoke panels – elegant and understated. Wildbirdstudio.ie



Copper love heart
with lights, €45.
Kopperkreation.com



KOPPER KREATION

The sustainably-minded, industrial homewares brand is the brainchild of engineer turned designer Emmet Bosonnet who has been winning fans with his upcycled scrap metal lights, coat hooks, bookends and candelabra fashioned from copper pipes, valves and flanges. Kopperkreation.com

Small triangle
base lamp,
from €100,
Kopperkreation.com



MAX MADE ME DO IT

Best recognised for her personalised letter prints for kids, Carol Maxwell is a Wexford-born, London-based former textile designer turned illustrator, otherwise known as Max Made Me Do It. She's just designed her first wallpaper collection, Outside In, featuring bold, wildly vivid florals and tropical prints that pack a pattern punch, launched a matching homewares range (cushions, tea towels, oven gloves) and opened her first store. Maxmademedoit.com

MOURNE TEXTILES

Founded by acclaimed Norwegian textile designer Gerd Hay-Edie, Mournе Textiles has been producing handwoven products since 1954. Today the family-run weaving mill is headed by Gerd's grandson Mario Sierra who's continuing the brand's long tradition of collabs - with creatives such as Paula Hughes and Project Baa Baa - and reviving patterns and couture tweeds from the archives. They recently opened a second mill and are launching a new collection in January "of timeless mid-century designs, combined with luxury yarns and modern twists." Mournetextiles.com



Herringbone blankets, from €260, Mournetextiles.com

ORIOR FURNITURE

Founded in Newry in 1979 by Brian and Rosie McGuigan, Orior is a design-led furniture brand with global ambitions. Since son Ciaran took over as creative director in 2012 Orior have opened a showroom in New York, launched their first ever rug collection (in collaboration with Ciaran's fashion designer sister Katie Ann) and taken on high profile contracts, including the London private club Annabel's and Karaya Blue, a sustainable development in the Turks & Caicos. Next? Their own hospitality project, a boutique hotel in Savannah, Georgia. Oriorfurniture.com





SHANE HOLLAND

With a career spanning 30 years, designer Shane Holland has won many awards for his bespoke furniture and sculptural works but it's lighting he truly excels at. His first light was recycled from a Russian vacuum cleaner. "I like the idea of finding alternative uses for things that are already formed." His latest luminaires feature repurposed aviation parts from Boeings. He's also been working on more affordable designs for his online home interiors range. Shanehollanddesign.com



Wall sconce, €87,
Sparkandbell.com

SPARK AND BELL

"It all started with a healthy brass obsession and a starter home we wanted to make our own." Brighton-based, Naas native Emer Gillespie is a lighting designer known for her handmade, vintage-style, minimalist brass luminaires. Operating under the label Spark and Bell Emer's ethos of "making custom lights affordable" combines with a passion for sustainability, slow production and zero waste. Sparkandbell.com



TWO WOODEN HORSES

Woodturner Terry Cullen and photographer Joanne Murphy are the husband and wife duo behind Two Wooden Horses, (collaborating with their best friend Gavin Beattie from Tinylittlehorse.com). From their studio in Wicklow they make every day useful things beautiful. "We specialise in handmade furniture and kitchen utensils made from sustainably-sourced Irish hardwood, inspired by music, horses and nature," says Cullen. They're currently working on a new range of furniture and art prints. Twowoodenhorses.com



Ash trivet, €98,
Superfolk.com



SUPERFOLK

"Slow down, stop and look. Know, love and protect," proclaims Jo Anne Butler describing the motivational mantra behind Superfolk's work. Inspired by "the geography, textures and colours of the wild Atlantic Way" on their County Mayo doorstep, Jo Anne and husband Gearóid Muldowney produce low-fi, carefully curated, sustainable homeware and accessories that include screen prints trivets and incense holders. Superfolk.com



ZELOUF & BELL

Laois-based design duo Susan Zelouf and Michael Bell's success is the stuff that wide-eyed design students' dare dream of. Their handmade bespoke furniture fashioned from luxurious, responsibly-sourced materials – described as museum quality, 21st century classics – which sells for tens of thousands of euro, regularly features in the pages of the *Financial Times* How to Spend it and has a worldwide A-list following. Their latest work, a series of Fabergé-inspired cocktail cabinets, features a diamond-studded serpent clasping its own tail. Inspirational! Zeloufandbell.com



Cairn tables, €POA,
Zeloufandbell.com



Butterfly end tables,
€POA, Zeloufandbell.com