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Interior designer Róisín Lafferty has opened a gallery space that not only showcases her studio's signature creativity, but also spotlights an incredible wealth of Irish design

words Melanie Mullan photography Barbara Corsico



Stepping inside the terraced red brick building on Fitzwilliam Square you expect to be mesmerised, it's a gallery designed and curated by Róisín Lafferty after all, but nothing quite prepares you for the extravagance and magnificence of what has been created inside these Georgian walls.

A project that has been a dream for many years for the team at Róisín Lafferty, Róisín took the leap to making it happen in August 2024 when looking for a new office space "We were lucky enough to get a place on Fitzwilliam Square, and we very much had [a gallery] in the front of our minds. It's a large building, too big for a design studio. For me it couldn't be more perfect for a gallery, because of where it is."

Unsure of whether to keep it as a gallery for her own designs, a collection that has been a work in progress for many years and which Róisín acknowledges always takes the back burner over client work, she soon realised that it didn't make sense. "We're so much more



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Sphere was designed to stimulate creativity amongst guests. The space is a combination of custom work and vintage pieces sourced alongside Domhnall Ó Garbhí. Large sash windows provide beautiful light to a Bryan O'Sullivan furniture piece. A Hugh O'Connor photograph is one of many statement art works throughout the gallery. The main gallery room transports guests into another world. The Jud Wall Lamp by Draga & Aurel combines a geometric brass frame with resin-filtered glass to produce a delicate, polychromatic glow.

PREVIOUS PAGE A dramatic entrance sets the tone for what to be expected at Sphere; creating an atmosphere is what is important to Róisín Lafferty and her team.



about having a mix of styles and types of pieces and collective things,” she says. “It makes more sense for it to be a diverse gallery and to really capture all of these elements. We source these pieces day in, day out for projects.”

The deadline for a May launch meant a short lead time for sourcing products, building relationships for the custom work that they wanted in the gallery, and bringing it all to life with Róisín’s exceptional attention to the interiors detailing and through the craftsmanship of the furniture, lighting and artwork featured throughout.

The result is Sphere, a gallery based on the eternal feminine, the simplest and most complex of forms, the universe and the endless cycles we live within, which is set over two floors taking visitors on a creative journey through bold furniture, statement artwork and photography and beautiful vintage pieces.

The finished gallery is the culmination of work from artisans such as Miller Brothers Stone and Myra Glass to markers and artists that include wood turning from Richard West, artwork from Jan Cools and Molly Judd, and photography from Hugh O’Conor and Daniëlle Siobhán. For sourcing the gallery’s vintage pieces, Róisín worked alongside long-time collaborator Domhnall Ó Garbhí of Acquired.

A couple of Róisín’s own furniture and lighting pieces do feature throughout. The Moon Light collection in the main gallery room was inspired by Enid Blyton’s *The Faraway Tree*, while a statement red table on the second floor is inspired by her love of stiletto heels.

Irish makers and contributors are represented abundantly in the space, and for Róisín it’s all about the talent that we have on our small island. “I know everything isn’t about awards and press,” she says. “But at the same time, it’s wonderful when you do see Irish designers on that international stage. We’re such a small country, but there’s such talent here, and there are such incredible makers, so to be able to showcase that, I think that’s incredible.”

When discussing what makes this space different and important with Róisín she regularly refers back to the importance of the atmosphere they create. “I think for me, what we do is create atmospheres and you can never really truly understand that unless you step within,” she reflects. “The majority of our work is private, and you can only capture a feeling to a certain extent with photography and with video, but good design is much more than that, and it should be tactile, and it should envelop you and capture you. For me, that was such an important thing for clients to get to experience.”

It’s also about having a space that “stimulates creativity and gets people thinking”. For her, having vintage pieces will force change when those pieces are gone, so there’s no room for being stagnant, although that’s something I feel this space will never become. roisinlaffertygallery.com





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Róisín says the space they have on Fitzwilliam Square couldn't be more perfect for a gallery. Each space is bold and unique showcasing the makers as well as the exceptional interior detailing work of Róisín. Bright and bold colours is something that has been embraced in the design of the gallery. The paint used throughout is from Róisín's Prestige Collection at Fleetwood Paints. Building relationships with creators for custom made pieces for the gallery was an important part of the process.

