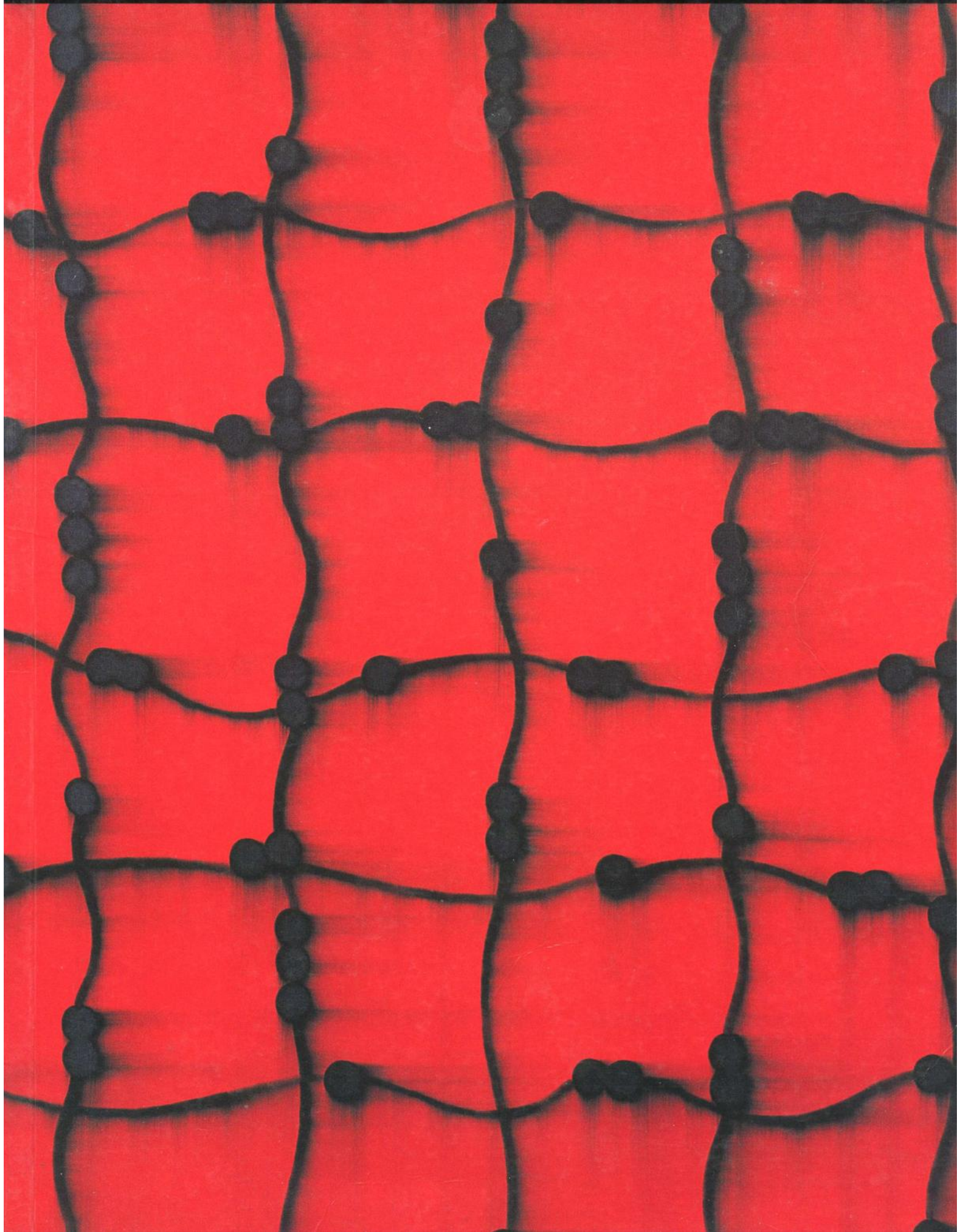


IRISH ARTS REVIEW

YEARBOOK 2001

VOLUME 17





Gillian Freedman
Prize winner 2000 Tapestry Category
Tapestry wallhanging "Disciplined Tulips"
Commission enquiries: 01 676 7782

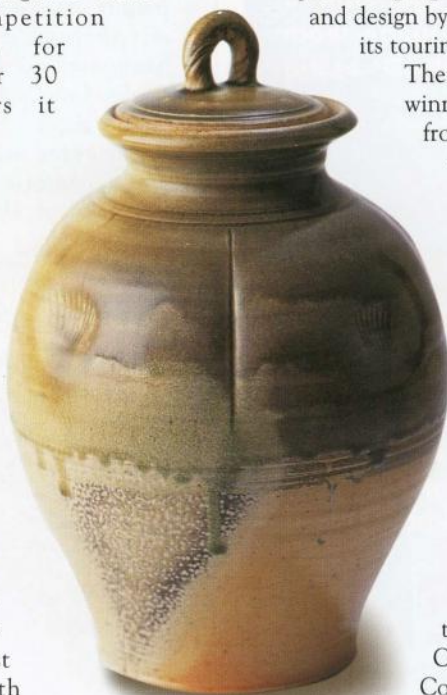
Now the RDS Crafts competition is a major event in the Irish Crafts industry calendar. It allows professional and amateur craft designers to compete together for prestigious awards and gives them an opportunity to display their skill and workmanship, as seen in the illustrations. This is Ireland's most prestigious craft competition and for over 30 years it

has attracted entries from the top craftworkers. The competition now has 19 categories, attracting over 400 entries annually and has a prize fund in excess of £15,000, the largest in Europe for craftwork.

The interest and activity that exists within the craft industry throughout the country is reflected in the broad base from which the entries have come. Last year 29 counties both north and south, were represented with a substantial entry from Irish craft designers abroad. Over 40% of the submissions were from those entering for the first time, with students and apprentices making up almost half of these.

The exhibition of category winners has become an integral part of the annual Kerrygold Horse Show which attracts thousands of national and international visitors

Erika Marks
2nd prize 1999 Jewellery Category
"Sun Gold" necklace and ring 18ct yellow gold
Commission enquiries: 01 671 6263



Jim Behan
Regular prize winner Ceramics Category
Stoneware Lidded Jar, soda-fired with ash glazes. Height 35cm
Commission enquiries: 0503 42693

each year. Recognised as a valuable forum for gaining international recognition and indeed has been the launching pad for many of Ireland's top craft designers.

The Irish crafts industry continues to expand and is receiving greater recognition both nationally and internationally for its quality and design. The growing demand for excellence in craft has boosted the industry. Crafts as an indigenous industry has become a major source of revenue to the state and a significant creator of local employment. Until 1999, the Competition was sponsored by EBS, however, the RDS has reclaimed title sponsor of the Competition and will now sponsor in full the Crafts Competition and Travelling Exhibition.

The RDS also plans to build on its commitment to promoting a greater awareness of contemporary Irish craft and design by expanding and developing its touring exhibition policy.

The top prize winning designs from 2000 competition will travel to four locations outside Dublin. The exhibition will commence at Derry Harbour Museum, Co. Derry in September 2000 and then travel to Cavan County Museum, Co. Cavan in October 2000; The Crawford Gallery, Co. Cork in November 2000 and The Hunt Museum, Co. Limerick in December 2000, thus

allowing the work of Ireland's most promising and established craft designers to be viewed by a larger audience.

Isobel Egan
Prize winner 1999 Ceramics Category
Ceramic wall piece made from crank paper clay, white stoneware slip applied in layers coloured with oxides and stains. Approx. 135cm in length and 35cm wide
Commission enquiries: 045 868487

