

PRESS RELEASE

“ALBERT, ERNEST & THE TITANIC” EXHIBITION AT CIT WANDESFORD GALLERY

“**Albert, Ernest & the Titanic**”, an exhibition by Jamie Murphy will open in CIT Wandesford Quay Gallery Thursday, October 25th at 6pm and runs until Saturday, November 10th.

The exhibition consists of a collection of original black & white lino-cut prints and a substantial artists' book by Murphy about the fate of the Titanic and her on board printers. Film and photographs documenting the development of the project will also be on display.

The book 'Albert, Ernest & the Titanic' is the product of two years of research conducted by Jamie Murphy while studying for his MA in Design at the National College of Art & Design. It tells the story of the Titanic's ill fated on board printers, Abraham “Albert” Mishellany and Ernest Corbin as they embark on the ship's maiden voyage. They acted as both designers and printers for items produced on board the liner, such as menus, stationery, etc. Today, such items sell for tens of thousands of euro at auction.

Printed at Distiller's Press in NCAD, Murphy has used only the type of equipment and materials available to Mishellany and Corbin to produce this beautiful limited edition book. All the text for the 36 copies was painstakingly set and printed by hand using traditional letterpress methods. Forty hand cut linoleum illustrations portraying the working men and the vast, luxurious liner, were also created to complement the publication. Murphy said: “One special component is the use of coal salvaged from the Titanic's wreck site to make an ink for the book. This means there is a little bit of the Titanic in each copy.”

The book has been letterpress printed at Distillers Press, NCAD, Dublin, Ireland. All the text has been set by hand. The book runs to 176 pages with 40 linocut illustrations. A unique adhesive-less binding has been designed for the book and it has been hand bound in a limited edition of 36 copies.

The exhibition will include a display of print tools including: Original linocuts (mounted & unmounted), antique metal type (1907), newly cast metal type (2011), digitally produced magnesium printing blocks, laser cut wooden type, Titanic coal, pestle and mortar, printed Titanic coal ink, two open 'Albert, Ernest & the Titanic' books.

Author Colm Tóibín writes in his foreword for the book: “As we mark the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic, we are reminded of the amazing gallery of prose and poetry prompted by the events of 1912. However, as well as the passengers, we cannot forget the skilled craftsmen who worked on the ship.”

Jamie Murphy is the winner of the NUI Art & Design Prize 2012 and the RDS Printmaker Award 2012 and has is a practicing graphic designer based in Dublin.

Albert, Ernest & the Titanic will run from 25th October to 10th November and will span Design Week 2012. For further information contact Wandesford Quay Gallery on 021 4335210 /ccad.gallery@cit.ie

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Who are Albert & Ernest? : Background

The year 2012 marks the centenary of the foundering of the R.M.S. Titanic in the Atlantic ocean, a disaster in which over 1500 lives were lost. 'Albert, Ernest & the Titanic' tells the story of the ship's ill-fated on board printers, Abraham 'Albert' Mishellany and Ernest Corbin as they travel on the ship's doomed maiden voyage.

At the time of the disaster most of the surviving ephemera was created by these men, having acted as designers and printers for many items produced on board. They were responsible for the ship's restaurant menus, stationery, note pads, programmes of events, crew and passenger's calling cards, tickets etc. This book celebrates these men and through a series of forty linocut illustrations we are drawn into a deceptively familiar narrative, but this time from the point of view of the printers.

The men had worked together before joining the crew of Titanic as they were both previously employed as the printers on Titanic's sister ship, Olympic.

Albert was born in Lebanon but due to persecution from the Ottoman Turks, his Christian family fled and he eventually made his way to London where he married and was father to twin sons. He was 52 when he signed on to work on Titanic. Ernest was born in London, had recently married and had an infant son when he left to work on the ship. He was 27 years old.

This book allows us to travel alongside the printers as they leave home for the last time and sign on to work on the great liner. Their journey is spent mostly in the their print shop designing and printing all kinds of jobs and we get a great feeling for the craft of letterpress printing. At the same time the Titanic has its own narrative which intermingles with the printers' story and we witness snapshots of life aboard as the ship travels from Belfast to Southampton, Cherbourg and Queenstown before steaming out into the Atlantic Ocean. We catch views to the Irish coastline, to the First Class smoking room and the Third Class breakfast table.