Mieke Bal, a cultural theorist and critic, is based at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA), University of Amsterdam. Her interests range from biblical and classical antiquity to seventeenth-century and contemporary art and modern literature, feminism and migratory culture, and madness. Her many books include Of What One Cannot Speak: Doris Salcedo’s Political Art (2010), Loving Yusuf (2008), A Mieke Bal Reader (2006), Travelling Concepts in the Humanities (2002) and Narratology (3rd edition 2009). She is also a video-artist, making experimental documentaries on migration. Occasionally she acts as an independent curator.

Dr Teresa Breathnach has taught the history of visual and material culture at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology and the Dublin Institute of Technology. Her work on the representation and reception of the past through visual communications grew out of a doctoral study of the production and consumption of Irish heritage attractions. She has a specific interest in the visual and material culture of leisure and tourism and has recently been awarded funding by the Printing Historical Society to pursue a study of the role of ships’ printers in the production of ocean liner ephemera. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including Victorian Literature and Culture (Cambridge University Press) and The Journal of Heritage Tourism (Taylor and Francis). She co-authored New Retro: Classic Graphics, Today’s Designs (Thames and Hudson, 2009) with her colleague Brenda Dermody.

Brenda Dermody is a graphic designer and educator based in Dublin. She teaches design and typography on the BA Design Visual Communication at the Dublin Institute of Technology. She has published a number of peer reviewed papers on design education. As a designer she has worked for a range of national and international clients including, ATypI, The Office of Public Works (OPW), Salmon Poetry, NCAD, Trinity College Dublin and Thames and Hudson. She has also designed several series of books for visual arts publisher RotoVision. Her work has been included in Women in Graphic Design, Breuer and Meer (Jovis, 2012). Her book New Retro: Classic Graphics, Today’s Designs (Thames and Hudson, 2009) was co-authored with Teresa Breathnach.
Breathnach. She has served on the council of the Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI) and represents Ireland on the education team of the International Society of Typographic Designers (ISTD). In 2011 she became a member of the An Post Stamp Design Advisory Committee.


Naomi Sex is a Dublin-based visual artist and lecturer in fine art at The Dublin Institute of Technology. She has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally and has been allocated various funding awards and international residencies. Most recently, she has completed a PhD through practice, which studied the ideological space between professional and amateur art practice, the activity of artistic ‘opportunity seeking’ and how artists present themselves and their practices within various professionalized contexts. Based on this research, she was awarded the summer residency at TAKT-Contemporary, Berlin and “The Visual Art Project Award” for 2013 by The Irish Arts Council. The project award will fund a forthcoming event entitled “The Synchronized Lecture series.” This event will culminate in a performative lecture scheduled to occur at the same time on the same day featuring a different actor in ten Irish third level institutions. The following colleges are confirmed to feature the event: The Dublin Institute of Technology, The National College of Art and Design, Dun Laoghaire Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Crawford College of Art and Design, Wexford Campus IT Carlow School of Art and Design, GMIT’s Centre for Creative Arts and Media, Sligo IT, The Burren College of Art.