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## Irish artist's work creates a sensation – Roisin Fitzpatrick's 'Artist of the Light'

By CAHIR O'DOHERTY, *Irish Voice Reporter*

Published Monday, October 31, 2011, 12:42 PM Updated Monday, October 31, 2011, 1:02 PM

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Roisin Fitzpatrick understands that an artist's job is sometimes to make the near miraculous look easy. By taking risks and branching out both personally and artistically, the artist can bring us to a deeper understanding of what it means to be alive in the world too.

A County Wicklow native, Fitzpatrick's rise in the art world here in New York has been nothing short of meteoric. This month her latest exhibition is on public display at the Consulate General of Ireland in New York on Park Avenue (just call ahead to make a viewing appointment, but know that all are welcome to do so).

"I work with crystal and silk on artworks that bring the viewer into closer contact with their deeper selves or a deeper level of knowing," Fitzpatrick tells the Irish

Voice. "I believe my work, some of which in this exhibition have been inspired by spiral patterns of Newgrange (the prehistoric monument located in County Meath) and the legends of the Tautha de Dannan help to restore us, bring us back to ourselves, in the way that only art can."

Fitzpatrick's own story is an inspiring in its way as her artwork. In 2004 she suffered a brain hemorrhage that led to a near-death experience. As she fought for her life in a hospital bed it was meditation that helped her move beyond the fear, and the lesson of that trauma – to exist in the now, to stay fully conscious and connected – has remained with her and inspired her work.

Before concentrating on her art, which she calls her passion, Fitzpatrick was already an accomplished academic with degrees in business and international relations. She's as comfortable discussing international economic relations as she is discussing what makes us most fully ourselves, a rare ability in an artist.

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Portrait of Roisin Fitzpatrick

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## FITZPATRICK EXHIBITION OPENING

IRISH CONSULATE, NEW YORK • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19



Irish artist Roisin Fitzpatrick opened her new art exhibition at the Irish Consulate in New York last week. The contemporary art exhibition will be on display until November 30. Pictured at the opening reception are Jeff Cleary (Irish American Heritage Museum), Hanora O'Dea Kilkenny, Fitzpatrick and Irish Consul General Noel Kilkenny



Roisin Fitzpatrick and Ronan Downs.



Martin Dunne, Roisin Fitzpatrick, Maura Kelly.



Loretta Brennan Glucksman who opened the exhibition.



Ann Murtagh, Roisin Fitzpatrick.



Artist Roisin Fitzpatrick with Bill Whelan, composer of *Riverdance* and Jean Kennedy Smith, former ambassador to Ireland.



Don O'Neill, Catherine and John Condon.



Marie Reilly, Peter Ryan and Anne Condon all with the Irish Consulate.