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**THE IRISH IMMIGRATION CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA
PRESENTS THE “STRAIGHT OUT OF IRELAND” ART EXHIBIT**

Contemporary exhibit will showcase the work of 26 Irish artists and 12 American artists

PHILADELPHIA (October 1, 2019) – The Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia will host the inaugural “Straight Out of Ireland” exhibit from November 15-17, 2019. Inspired by the contemporary offerings of the Irish arts and crafts industry, the exhibit will welcome 25 artists from across Ireland to the United States to join 12 local artists for an international showcase at Sacred Heart Academy in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

“As the Greater Philadelphia area has one of the highest concentrations of Irish Americans in the country, the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia looks for opportunities to bring people together to get a first-hand experience of Ireland’s contemporary culture,” said President of the Board of the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia, Kathleen Kenneally. “We feel it is important to help people look beyond Ireland as the land of shamrocks and Guinness and see it as a globally trendsetting hub for business, art, fashion and more. What better way to showcase modern Ireland’s vibrant soul and highlight its ever-growing relationship with America than by bringing together some of the finest talents from both nations to exhibit their art and crafts at our Straight Out of Ireland exhibit.”

Straight Out of Ireland will bring the evolution of traditional Irish art to life by exhibiting a range of aesthetics that highlight the modern style and soul of Ireland including ceramics, drawings, glass, jewelry, lace, paintings, photography, fashion and more. During the event, attendees will also be invited to join a variety of cultural, educational, and family-friendly programming. For example, art lovers can explore the galleries and connect with the artists during a series of public discussions surrounding fashion, art in Ireland today, inspiration and more. The event will also feature a Family Day on Sunday, November 17, hosting fun-filled activities for people of all ages including a puppet show, Irish step dancing clinic, Gaelic football and hurling skills presentation, crafts, and more. The exhibit will premier during a lavish, private soiree on Friday, November 15 with the theme: “Standing Out from the Crowd.”

Funds from Straight Out of Ireland will benefit the Irish Immigration Center of Philadelphia, enabling the organization to continue carrying out its mission to support the Irish immigrant community in Philadelphia and strengthen the heritage on a local, national and international level. For tickets and more information about Straight Out of Ireland, please visit www.straightoutofireland.com.

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About Irish Immigration Center

The Irish Immigration Center (IIC), with the support of the Irish government and the local community, is a professional organization strengthening our heritage by providing the Irish Diaspora in the Greater Philadelphia area with consular, immigration and community building social services. The IIC program's focus on advocacy, community, and discovery for the Irish Diaspora and other immigrant populations through legal clinics, genealogy workshops, senior services, and youth programs.