

THE WESTBURY

DOYLE COLLECTION • DUBLIN

The Westbury and the Council of Irish Fashion Designers come together to create a limited-edition Afternoon Tea to celebrate

‘The Art of Millinery’



- *Supporter of Irish Design, The Westbury launches ‘The Art of Millinery’ Afternoon Tea on August 31st*
- *Cakes and pastries inspired by five Irish Milliners bespoke head pieces*

The Westbury are taking their support for Irish Design a step further by partnering with the Council of Irish Fashion Designers (CIFD) and some of the country’s top milliners to create ‘The Art of Millinery’ Afternoon Tea, a limited-edition Afternoon Tea served in the stylish surroundings of The Gallery from August 31st. Established Irish milliners Aoife Kirwan, Davina Lynch, Leonora Ferguson, Margaret O’Connor and Wendy Louise Knight have created bespoke head pieces exclusively for The Westbury. Executive pastry chef Ray Encarnacion skilfully created ‘The Art of Millinery’ Afternoon Tea taking inspiration from the style and intricate detail of each head piece to craft a delicious selection of desserts and sweet treats.

The Art of Millinery Afternoon Tea’s sweet delights include a blueberry cheesecake and sable Breton base in the form of Wendy Louise’s Wedgewood blue, peach bloom felt handblocked headpiece with structured thermoplastic swirls.

Leonora Ferguson’s sculpted wire lace head piece made from two layers of yellow silk covered and silver plated wire, with silver tone bead detail inspired a coconut clotted cream dressed with lime and Bacardi gel and pineapple.

A caramel whipped ganache with poached apples takes the form of Margaret O’Connor’s demure cloaked headpiece featuring heavy beading, lace, chiffon and wire depicting a magpie caught in a nest full of jewels.

A very moreish baked chocolate tart made from single origin Madifloro organic chocolate takes inspiration from Davina Lynch’s chocolate brown handknit Irish Aran ‘Lynch Mob Hat’ with hand dyed hackle and natural partridge feathers while a beautifully plump chocolate coated profiterole filled with pear crème patisserie and garnished with a cocoa sprinkled almond echoes the style of Aoife Kirwan’s feather covered teardrop percher with curled feather spines and feather flowers with freshwater pearl centres.

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‘The Art of Millinery Afternoon Tea’ will also coincide with the Council of Irish Fashion Designers Designer Carousel, ‘pop-up’ featuring collections by CIFD Members in Unit 5 at The Westbury Mall from the 7th to the 10th of September. Having supported the National College of Art and Design in 2017 and 2016, and Irish Design 2015, this collaboration with the CIFD is a continuation of The Westbury’s ongoing support of Irish designers and makers.

Speaking about the partnership, Eddie Shanahan, Chairperson of the Council of Irish Fashion Designers commented; “We are delighted to be collaborating with The Doyle Collection and The Westbury in showcasing the work of Irish Designers. We are particularly enthused by the way the pastry team at The Westbury have been inspired by our milliners incorporating the shapes, textures and colours of the headpieces into their afternoon tea- it is a wonderful representation of artistic achievements in both food and fashion.”

Rey Encarnacion described how he enjoyed working on this project; “It was an incredible experience which I thoroughly enjoyed and it was a pleasure to work with the CIFD milliners, who have each created truly exceptional head pieces. As a pastry chef, it is particularly important to pay attention to the finer details, as it is necessary to have a balance between both how the cakes and pastries resemble the milliners’ creations and how they will be interpreted by our guests. It was an exciting challenge which involved gaining an insight into the milliner’s inspiration behind each headpiece before then taking my artistic vision in bringing each one to life through our afternoon tea.”

The Art of Millinery Afternoon Tea, will be available for €47 per person, €59 per person with Perrier Jouet or Perrier Jouet Rosé and €80 for Dom Pérignon Champagne Afternoon Tea. Guests can enjoy The Art of Millinery Afternoon Tea from the 31st of August until October 1st. Advance Afternoon Tea bookings are advised and can be made through the hotel on 01 646 3311.

For those looking for a truly stylish, Irish Design break in the Capital, ‘The Art of Millinery’ Overnight Experience *at The Westbury* is available from €438 and is subject to availability. For reservations and further details, please contact The Westbury on to 01 6463333 or visit <http://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-westbury-hotel>

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The Westbury

An icon in a city of greats, The Westbury not only surrounds its guests in luxury and style, it places them at the very centre of the city's social and cultural riches.

A member of the prestigious Leading Hotels of The World and the exclusive Virtuoso luxury travel network, The Westbury occupies a prime position between Trinity College and St Stephen's Green; perfectly located for exploring the most exciting sides of Dublin. At its front doorstep lies Grafton Street, renowned for its colour, street artists and luxury shopping; whilst Dublin's 'Creative Quarter', a vibrant network of streets filled with lively bars, restaurants and quirky stores run behind the hotel, with the city's top theatres, museums and art galleries all situated within a short walking distance.

The Westbury is sure to charm. It's magnificent Gallery, with its captivating privately-owned art collection and sumptuous Afternoon Tea is a Dublin institution. Modern, edgy and sophisticated, the hotel's restaurants, bars and meeting spaces present a unique Dublin business and social hub. For more details please visit www.doylecollection.com/westburyhotel

The Doyle Collection:

The Doyle Collection is an Irish, family-owned international luxury hotel group that comprises eight hotels in five cities around the world. These design-led properties provide modern havens for modern day travellers, as well as stylish bars and restaurants for local consumers. The Doyle Collection are members of the Global Hotel Alliance GHA, the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands. For more details please visit www.doylecollection.com

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MILLINERS' BIOGRAPHIES

Leonora Ferguson is an award-winning milliner and print designer from Co. Tyrone. She creates unique handmade hats and headpieces. Her techniques include traditional hat blocking, lace making with wire, beading and more. She graduated from the National College of Art and Design, Dublin in 2005, specialising in Embroidered Textiles. She went on to work in costume for productions such as HBO's *Game of Thrones*. Alongside her fashion range, she works with attractions such as Madame Tussauds to create hand crafted historically accurate pieces for their wax figures. The influence of her costume work can be seen in her diverse research, close attention to detail, construction techniques and use of unusual materials. Leonora's Heads and Tails headpiece was selected for show at the V&A Museum in their Conservation Couture exhibition, 2016, alongside 40 high profile international fashion houses.

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Aoife Kirwan studied fashion design in Dublin before attending the London College of Fashion to study millinery. She also took private tuition with couturier and milliner Tomas von Nordheim before returning to Ireland to set up her own studio. All of her pieces are handcrafted using traditional millinery techniques and the highest quality luxury materials. She works with fur, wool felt, straws and sinamay with foundations blocked in buckram and covered with silk, velvet or cashmere. She also uses a vast range of trimmings including hand cut and curled feathers, vintage silk veiling, handcrafted flowers, sequins and beads. Aoife is a Board Member of the Council of Irish Fashion Designers

Davina Lynch studied fashion design at Limerick School of Art & Design before moving to London to study millinery design at Central St. Martins and Kensington & Chelsea College. She has collaborated, designed and created hats for Pfizer and Bloom in the Park as well as other special commissions. In 2015 she was selected to take part in the Brown Thomas 'Create' project with her #LynchMob Collection of hand knit Irish Aran hats with feather trims. She won Milliner of the Year at the Irish Fashion Innovation Awards in 2017.

Margaret O'Connor studied fine art at the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology before moving to London to develop her skills as a milliner. She interned with Philp Treacy before establishing her own label. Margaret's quickly drew a following with both fashion media and A List celebrity clients including Lady Gaga. She won the Milliner of the Year Award at the Irish Fashion Innovation Awards in 2014. In that same year, she was selected to participate in the CREATE project at Brown Thomas. Margaret has just recently completed a series of successful shows in China in collaboration with the fashion designer Derek Lawlor.

Wendy Louise Knight comes from a family with a long tradition and passion for hat making. Originally from Oxford, she moved to Ireland in 1999 and established her company, Wendy Louise Designs, in rural Longford. Wendy specialises in hand crafted millinery ranging from 'theatrical showstoppers' to cloches, trilbies, pillboxes and fedoras. She has exhibited at Showcase Ireland where she has been awarded a Special Commendation for her craftsmanship. She is a Member of the Design & Crafts Council of Ireland.