

Tonya Clifford

Crafts
54 Salmon Weir
Annacotty
Limerick
Ireland

View the full portfolio at <http://www.thecreativefinder.com/lecheile>

Professional Experience and Curriculum Vitae

Hi - My name is Tonya and my business is called Tir na nOg.

Tir na nOg is the mythical irish land of the young - where nobody grows old. At Tir na nOg, I make unique, hand-made puppets - each one totally individual.

Tir na nOg started, for me, with a Eureka moment. After about a year of trying to figure out what I wanted to do since losing my job, I suddenly imagined these puppets. I have always been creative and artistic and I knew I wanted to use this now. I have also always been a bit of a magpie throughout my life and had boxes of beautiful fabrics and jewelry. I knew that, one day, I would know what to do with them. In the top picture on this page is a photograph of 3 old puppets - puppets which were given to my mother when she was a little girl and which, along with about 6 more which did not survive my sisters and I , my mother gave to us when we were small. They are my inspiration - they were the starting point for my Tir na nOg.

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When I began, about 6 months ago, I started with a basic idea, a basic design, in mind. All my first puppets were gifts to people I love. Each one was made with them in mind and made with love and care. Every one of my puppets is made like this. I get my inspiration from the fabrics. While I call these "puppets", they are not, in the true sense, puppets. They are really to be hung - in a little girl's boom - or a not-so-little girl's bedroom !

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?The puppets are made by hand, from start to finish. Will, my wonderful partner, loves working with wood and he makes the actual puppets - every part is hand cut and sanded and shaped. Then, I take over and hand-sew the dresses, paint the faces, sew in the hair and style it, add the jewels and the finishing touches. Because everything is hand-made, no two puppets are ever the same. Each puppet is approximately 40cm from head to toe.

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Every puppet is signed and numbered and comes with their own certificate. Your puppet will be yours alone - nobody else will ever have a duplicate.

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Previous Clientele

Please kindly get in touch for more information.

Awards and Accolades

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