**Clare Bell**

Clare Bell is a practicing designer, researcher, and lecturer on the MA and BA Visual Communication degree course. A graduate of Central Saint Martins (BA Hons Graphic Design), she worked for a number of years as an editorial designer at The Guardian newspaper, working on design across the daily broadsheet, G2 features supplement, and Weekend magazine. Prior to this she was a senior designer at Radio Teilifís Éireann (RTÉ).

She is co-coordinator and founder member of Typography Ireland monthly seminar group (and practice-based meeting group TypeClub) at GradCAM, and now represents Ireland as country delegate after a decade as a board member of Association Typographique Internationale (ATypI). Currently she is Governance co-lead of the organisation. She was co-organiser and co-programmer of ‘The Word 2010’, ATypI’s annual conference hosted by DIT in Dublin, and co-founder, co-organiser and co-programmer of Face Forward International Typography Conference 2015, also hosted by TU Dublin. She is an assessor on the annual Assessment Scheme of the International Society of Typographic Designers.

She is currently undertaking PhD research entitled ‘Typography, culture and society: the visual representation of the Irish language in Northern Ireland’ at DIT. As a practicing designer recent clients include Face Forward International Typography Conference, The Joinery, IMRAM Irish Language Literature Festival, In Print journal, Typography Ireland, NCAD/GradCAM (Object Matters: Making 1916), and ATypI (The Word 2010).  
100 Archive: <https://www.100archive.com/designers/clare-bell>  
TUDublin Arrow: [http://bit.ly/2d7YqaZ](https://arrow.tudublin.ie/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1023&context=aaschadpart)  
[http://typography.ie](http://typography.ie/)  
[@TypographyIRL](https://www.twitter.com/TypographyIRL)

**Education**

[**Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design**](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/alumni?name=Central+Saint+Martins+College+of+Art+%26+Design&trk=prof-edu-school-name)

BA (Hons), [Graphic Design](https://www.linkedin.com/edu/fos?id=101121&trk=prof-edu-field_of_study): 1st Class Honours

1996–1999

**Dublin Institute of Technology (TUDublin):**

Award: MPhil scholarship seed funding (DIT) 2003–2006

Currently completing PhD, ‘Typography, Culture & Society: An analysis of the visual representation of the Irish language in Northern Ireland from 1967–present day

**Professional Practice:**

[**Dublin School of Creative Arts, TUDublin**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=School+of+Art%2C+Design+and+Printing%2C+DIT&trk=prof-exp-company-name)

[Lecturer](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Lecturer&trk=prof-exp-title) 2004–Present:

MA Visual Communication: Studio practice and critical theory

BA (Hons) Visual Communication: Studio practice

BA (Hons) Visual and Critical Studies: Typography and Cultural Theory

**External Examinership and Assessment:**

Waterford institute of Technology: BA (Hons) Visual Communication

Cork Institute of Technology: Visual Communications BA (Honours) Jan 2010–2013

[**The Guardian Newspaper**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=The+Guardian+Newspaper&trk=prof-exp-company-name) **(Guardian News and Media)**

[Designer (editorial): Member of design team that worked across all sections of the newspaper including the daily news broadsheet, daily G2 features section, weekly Weekend magazine, weekly Review arts and news features section, and weekly Space magazine](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Designer+%28editorial%29+%28Broadsheet%2C+G2%2C+Weekend+magazine%29&trk=prof-exp-title) on architectural and interior design.

May 1997–October 2001

[**Central Saint Martins**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=Central+Saint+Martins&trk=prof-exp-company-name)

[Visiting Lecturer](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Visiting+Lecturer&trk=prof-exp-title): BA (Hons) Graphic Design: Contextual and Research Studies

2001–2001

**Radio Telefís Éireann (RTÉ)**

[Senior Designer](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Senior+Designer&trk=prof-exp-title): Editorial designer RTÉ Guide and Eurovision Programme 1994

1991–1996

**Professional and Academic Associations:**

[**Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=Graduate+School+of+Creative+Arts+and+Media&trk=prof-exp-company-name) **(GradCAM)**

[Associate Fellow](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Associate+Fellow&trk=prof-exp-title)

2010–present

**[Association Typographique Internationale (](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Board+member+Association+Typographique+Internationale%2C+country+delegate+for+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-title)**[**[ATypI](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Board+member+Association+Typographique+Internationale%2C+country+delegate+for+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-title)**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=ATypI&trk=prof-exp-company-name)**[):](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Board+member+Association+Typographique+Internationale%2C+country+delegate+for+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-title)**

[Board Member: ATypI: 2009–2022](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Board+member+Association+Typographique+Internationale%2C+country+delegate+for+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-title)

[ATypI country delegate for Ireland](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Board+member+Association+Typographique+Internationale%2C+country+delegate+for+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-title): 2006–14

Conference co-organiser (with Mary Ann Bolger) for ATypI: 2010 The Word. Hosted by Dublin Institute of Technology at Dublin Castle, Ireland

**Governance Lead:** Head of Governance from June 2021—present (Lead on research and compilation of Association’s Code of Conduct) Currently Co-Lead with Dr Rathna Ramanathan, Head of School, Central St Martins. (Also active on Internationalisation Committee and Sustainability Committee)

[**Typography Ireland**](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?company=Typography+Ireland&trk=prof-exp-company-name)**:**

[Co-founder, Co-programmer, Co-organiser (with Mary Ann Bolger)](https://www.linkedin.com/vsearch/p?title=Co-founder%2C+Programme+Co-organiser%2C&trk=prof-exp-title)

Research, Practice and Seminar group, run in association with the Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media and the Dublin Institute of Technology

March 2005–Present

**International Society of Typographic Designers:**

Assessor on annual assessment scheme: 2005–present)

**Association Typographique Internationale Conference:**

Member of panel of reviewers for abstract submissions to the association’s annual international conference. 2014–present.

**Selected Current Design Practice and Research:**

**Who do you think you are?** <https://peace.builtbycapsule.com/>;

Research project conceptually informed by, and materially embedded in, the latest technological developments and innovation in typeface design, this project, takes the form of a ‘variable font’ that, via the visual representation of language, aims to capture and engage with current public discourses around linguistic diversity and national, cultural and social identities active in the jurisdiction of Northern Ireland. It also aims to demonstrate how language and identity can, within particular contexts, become inextricably bound together, often being absorbed into, or constitutive of, the process of community and identity construction. (With Declan Behan). For exhibitions see below.

Exhibited at Build Peace, Ulster University, 2018 & Design Research Society Annual Conference Exhibition, University of Limerick, 2018.

**This Being Where We Live; This Being Where We Play** with editor Nathan O’Donnell (2019): Art Direction, Editorial Design and Design editing.

Funded by: Education and Learning Commission by Dublin City Arts Office with support from the Arts Council of Ireland; South Dublin County Council as part of the public art programme, In Context 4 - In Our Time, 2016-2019.

**Figure/Ground, Numbered Editions 1** with Nathan O’Donnell and Marysia Wieckiewicz-Carroll:Art Direction, Editorial Design and Design editing. Funded by Cow House Studios.

**In Print: Academic Journal** (DIT/TUDublin): editorial design and co-art direction

**The Joinery Gallery, Dublin:** Design consultant and co-designer of gallery branding and CD publication

**Soundsdoable Radio Productions:** (independent radio producer for RTÉ and RTÉ Lyric FM): art direction and design consultant

**GradCAM/NCAD:** Conference designer: Making 1916: The Material and Visual Culture of the Easter Rising

**Association Typographique Internationale:** Art Direction of ATypI: 2010 The Word conference branding, materials, and programme

**Publications:**

**‘A Critical Conversation’** (with Heather Griffin), Dialogues, 100 Archive, (October 2020): https://www.100archive.com/articles/a-critical-conversation

**‘Criticality in Graphic Design’** in *Campaign: the Journal of the Institute of Creative Advertising and Design* No. 12 (May 2016): https://arrow.tudublin.ie/aaschadpart/19/

**Design History Journal (August 2014):** Review of ‘Ireland, Design and Visual Culture: Negotiating Modernity 1922–1992’, Edited by Linda King and Elaine Sisson, Designed by David Smith, Atelier

**Design Factory, 2014:** ‘Thirty(ish)’: Letterpress interpretation of number ‘30’ included

**Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design:** ‘Divided by A Common Language’, excerpt of undergraduate dissertation published in ‘CARS 1999’ London, (1999)

**Association Typographique Internationale:** ‘The Irish Typographic Scene’ Annual *Report,* 2006

**Conferences and Conference Papers (selection):**

**‘Let Everyone In, Let Everyone Play’:** Working Class Academics Annual Conference, 19/07/2021

**‘ReTyping Europe’**, ATypI Annual Conference, Antwerp (13/09/2018)

**‘The Researcher’s Challenge:Entertainment or Epistemology?’** ATypI Annual Conference, University of Art and Design, Sao Paola, Brazil (14/10/2015).

**‘Divided by a common practice?’** The Book: history and practice, IHRCSS/UCD/Typography Ireland Symposium (12/3/2012)

**‘What’s so national about a national typeface?’** ATypI Annual Conference, Reykjavík, Iceland (16/09/11)

**‘Divided by a common typeface? The mediation of Irish identity through typographic styles’** Writing Design, Design History Society Annual Conference, University of Hertfordshire. (5-7/9/2009).

**‘Visible words: letters, language and identity in Ireland.’** Seeing Things: Irish Studies and Visual Culture. University of Limerick (22/6/2007).

**‘Divided by a common typeface? The mediation of Irish identity through typographic styles’** Imagine IT: celebration of cultural differences. Accademia di Belle Arti, Bologna (22/3/2007).

**‘Typographic Tales from the Edge of Empire’**. ATypI Annual Conference, University of Art and Design, Helsinki (15/9/2005).

**Exhibitions:**

**Athraitheach: Who do You Think You Are?** Design Research Society Annual Conference 2018: University of Limerick (with Declan Behan)

**Athraitheach: Who do You Think You Are?** Build Peace Annual Conference 2018: Ulster University (with Declan Behan)

**Invited Lectures and presentations (selection):**

**National Gallery of Ireland:** Shaping Ireland: Borders Symposium (in association with Paper Visual Art) May 2019: ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ Clare Bell and Mary Ann Bolger

‘Let everyone in’: This Being Where We Play Seminar: **The Lab, Dublin**, December 14, 2019. Event held by The Lab, Dublin City Arts Office, Dublin City Council.

‘Visual Voices’ conference, **Waterford Institute of Technology** (10/3/06)

**NCAD: GradCAM:** Oral History Seminar Group: Screening of film of PhD research, ‘Typography Culture & Society’ October 2009

**‘Divided by a common typeface? The mediation of Irish identity through typographic styles’** Western Regional Section of the **Library’s Association of Ireland Annual Seminar**, Castlebar (08/06/2009)

**‘Divided by a common typeface? The mediation of Irish identity through typographic styles’** **National Print Museum**, Dublin (20/11/2008)

**Conference organisation:**

**Co-organiser** (with Mary Ann Bolger), Typography Ireland/National Print Museum symposium Green Sleeves: Irish record sleeve design, National Print Museum (5/05/2017)

**Co-organiser/convener** (DIT/TUDublin) with Mary Ann Bolger and Rathna Ramanathan [Head of Programme, Visual Communications, Royal College of Art]) Face Forward Dublin, an international conference on research in typography, 11/12 December, 77 speakers in seven tracks. Funded by ID2015 <http://faceforward.typography.ie/> Editor of programme, member of peer review panel, member of programme committee.

**Co-convenor** Typography Ireland seminar series, The Graduate School of Creative Arts and Media (April 2011 to date) https://typography.ie/

**Co-organiser** IHRCSS/UCD/Typography Ireland symposium ‘The Book: history and practice’ Humanities Institute, University College Dublin (12/3/2012)

**Co-organiser** Typography Ireland/Design Week symposium ‘Michael Biggs’, School of Art, Design & Printing, DIT (4/11/11)

**Co-organiser** Association Typographique International Annual Conference, Dublin (9-12/11/10)

**Awards and Achievements:**

**Institute of Designers in Ireland (IDI)**

IDI award nomination 2021: ‘Figure | Ground, Numbered Editions 1’ Printed Book Design

IDI award nomination 2020: ‘This Being Where We Live’, ‘This Being Where We Play’ Printed Book Design

**100 Archive:**

100 Archive Selection 2020: ‘Figure | Ground, Numbered Editions 1’ 2021

100 Archive Selection 2019: ‘This Being Where We Live’,

100 Archive Selection 2019: ‘This Being Where We Play’

100 Archive Selection 2017: ‘Cló Draíochta’

100 Archive Selection: 2016 ‘Cló Draíochta’

100 Archive Selection: 2015: In Print: The History of the Present

100 Archive Selection: 2015: Face Forward International Typography Conference: Book of Abstracts

**Design & Art Direction Gold (D&AD)** (student)

Award: Outstanding Typography 1999

Publication: **Creative Review**, June 1999: Publication of D&AD winning entry

**Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) London (1999):**

Exhibitions and screenings: Screening of short three-minute film, ‘Nugent’ an audiovisual interpretation of Micheal O'Siadhail’s poem ‘Nugent’ November 1999. Selected for the ICA young film-maker’s Uncut screening programme.

**Areas of interest:**

The areas that I am interested in exploring in relation to this project (but not necessarily restricted to it prior to a group conversation) are how the Constitution affects the freedom of access to a personal identity, in particular but again not restricted to adopted people and corresponding issues and constituencies. Also of interest would be the impact and effect of the denial of the right to a knowledge of one’s identity alongside how, historically, adoption (and other forms of family separation) will be viewed in the future from a human rights perspective.

On a secondary level, the typographic history of the Constitution may be interesting from a contextual and perhaps technical point of view.