

## **PRESS RELEASE – (Honor Hales)**

Ireland has a long history of influential glass workers, and among the new generation of specialists is Dublin born artist Honor Hales. A graduate of Waterford Institute of Technology, Hales produces strong contemporary designs in both canvas and glass.

“The glass pieces are created with enamel paints and varnishes on clear or hand-made glass, with a wide variety of backings that range from hand-made paper to crushed velvet,” said Hales, whose pieces have been presented to various members of government, including former An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and former Tainiste Mary Harney, as well as to the former president of the European Parliament, Pat Cox.

Almost all her work is textured and, as the materials she uses are quite robust, Hales encourages the viewer to reach out and touch each of her designs.

“Try closing your eyes with some of the more detailed pieces – they feel like Braille,” said Hales, who enjoys making a connection with the viewer through her work.

Those familiar with Hales’ work will have noticed a steady evolution and progression in her style of work, but her bold use of vivid colour has remained constant. Her fascination with colour and the way it affects us began in earnest in college where she wrote her thesis on colour psychology.

While the luxury of total freedom while working on her own designs is wonderful, Hales is equally at home working on bespoke pieces and commissions.

Recent commissions include everything from glass pieces for windows and room dividers to a wedding present for Ozzy Osborne’s son Louis.

The cost of bespoke work varies according to the materials used and time required, although they tend to be in the same bracket as her own creations. “Many artists only take commissions for large pieces but I have no problem