

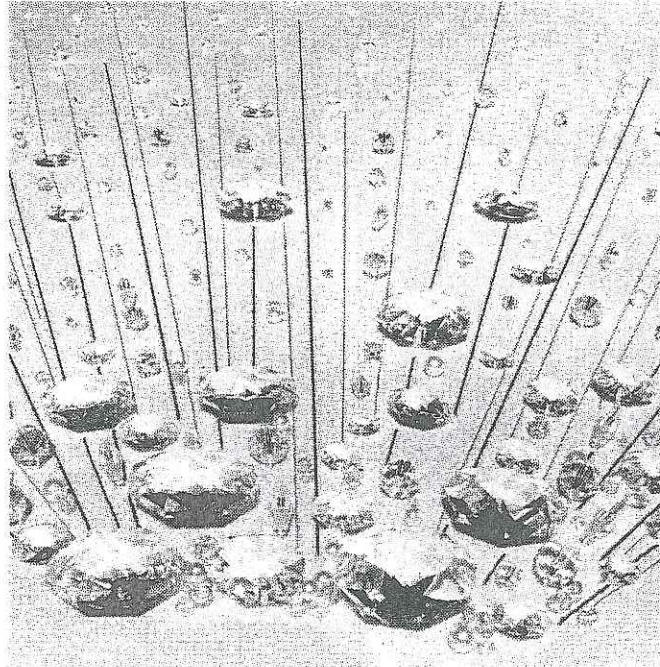
The Washington Post

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2012

Roisin Fitzpatrick

Whether rendered in oils or lasers, the quality of light is a long-standing artists' preoccupation. Few painters or sculptors approach luminance with the same mind-set as Roisin Fitzpatrick, however. The Dublin artist arrays Swarovski crystals in patterns to evoke the visual sensation of almost dying.

Fitzpatrick, who had a career in international finance and diplomacy, suffered a brain aneurysm several years ago. (She was "lucky enough" to have one, is how she puts it.) Since then, the artist has worked with the cut-glass crystals, stitching them to backdrops of silk (usually white) to evoke shells, webs, vortexes, galaxies and other spiraling natural forms.



ROISIN FITZPATRICK

CLARITY: Since having a near-death experience, Roisin Fitzpatrick, creator of "Meteors," has worked with crystals.

Some of her work is on display in "Artist of the Light" at La Luna Gallery,

The artist says her near-death experience made her realize the oneness of things, and her outlook encompasses Asian mysticism

Her pieces seem most rooted when they draw on Celtic motifs and places, such as Newgrange, the prehistoric Irish landmark that floods with light every winter solstice. Newgrange is flanked by rocks that were decorated, some five millennia ago, with whorls much like Fitzpatrick's. Compared with such monuments, Fitzpatrick's coils might appear merely decorative. But when the light hits them just right, these garlands of glass suggest larger, and more primal, things.

style@washpost.com

ROISIN FITZPATRICK: ARTIST OF THE LIGHT

on view through April 30 at La Luna
Gallery, 5171 MacArthur Blvd. NW;
202-316-4481;
www.lalunagallerydc.com.