

Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann  
National Museum of Ireland

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# Rainbow Trail

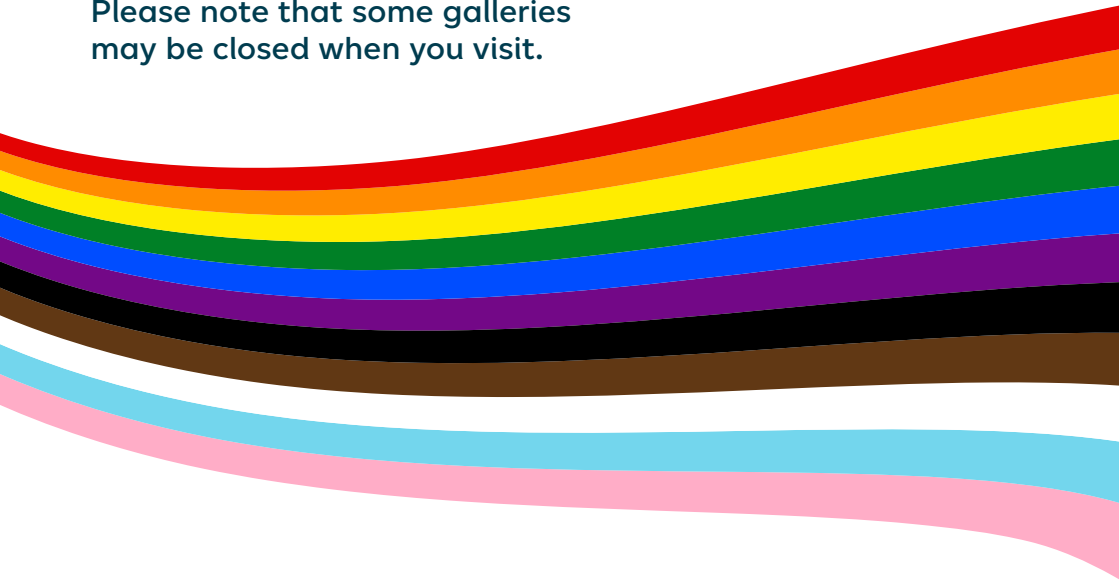
Take the Rainbow Trail through our exhibitions



Explore Museum artefacts with a connection to LGBTQIA+ histories, from those involved in the 1916 Easter Rising to contemporary activists involved in the campaigns for equality in Irish law.

Take the Rainbow Trail on a self-guided journey to discover the stories, people and moments that have shaped Ireland's LGBTQIA+ history. This trail highlights fascinating objects and stories of activism, identity and change.

**Please note that some galleries may be closed when you visit.**



Check out the Museum's regular guided LGBTQIA+ Tour of Collins Barracks. This tour highlights alternative lenses, bringing hidden histories and perspectives to the fore. Focusing on objects and individuals from the 17th to the 21st century, it reveals a wide variety of identities, genders and sexualities, highlighting the rich diversity of lives and experiences on the island of Ireland.



Scan here to check out  
upcoming LGBTQIA+  
Tour dates

### Third floor

# 3

Eileen Gray (Design)	11
Clothing and Jewellery	12
Traditional Furniture	13
Asian Art	13A
Changing Ireland	31

### Second floor

# 2

Furniture	05-06
Temporary Exhibitions	07
Out of Storage	08
Ib Jorgensen (Fashion)	09

### First floor

# 1

Contemporary Craft	01A
Curator's Choice	01
Out of Storage	02
Coins and Currency	03
Silver and Metalwork	04
Military Life	15-20

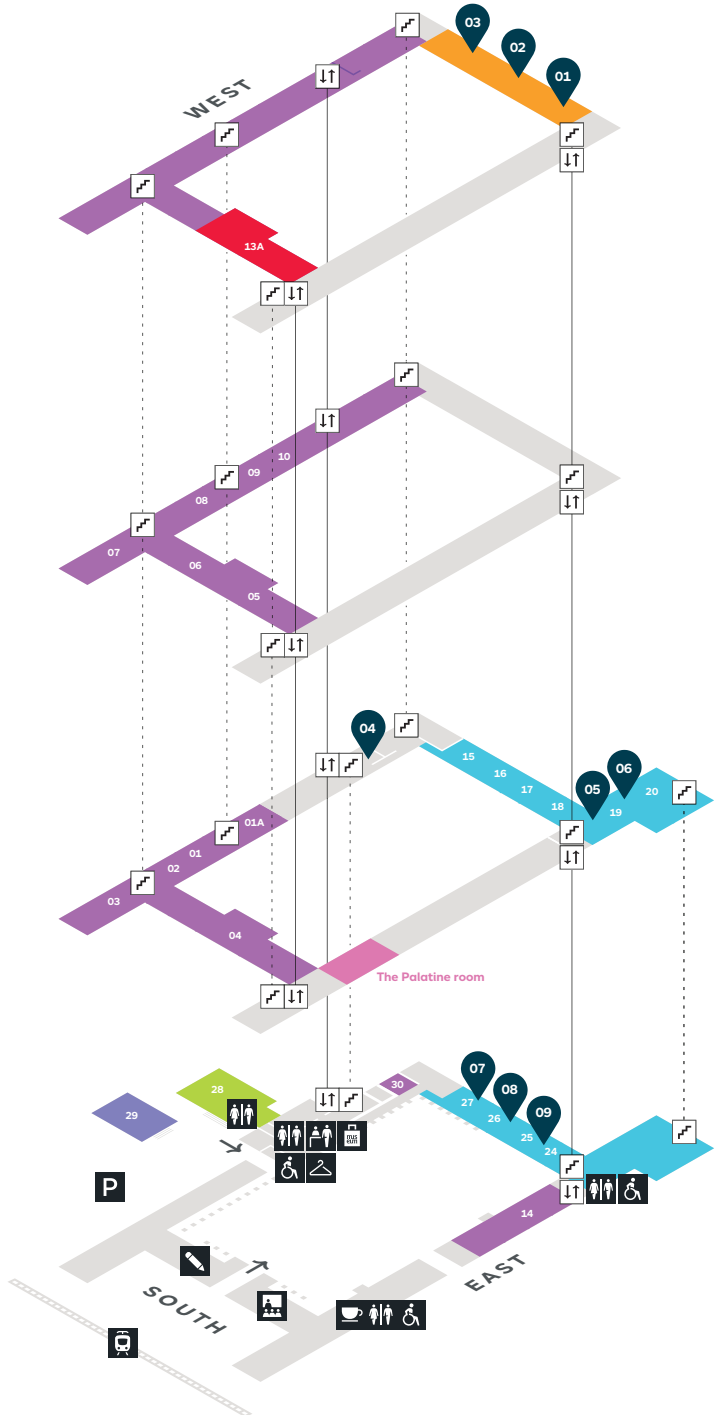
### Ground floor

# 0

Asian Art, Ceramics, Glass and Silver	14
Barracks Life Interactive Space	24
Military Life	21-27
Dead Zoo Lab	28
Asgard—Irish Revolution	29
Harry Clarke (Stained Glass)	30

### Facilities

	Reception/Exit
	Cloakroom
	Museum shop
	Café
	Toilets & baby changing
	Accessible toilets
	Creativity hub
	Lecture theatre
	Parking
	Luas
	Stairs
	Lift



01



### Roger Casement Báinín Jacket

Roger Casement wore this lightweight jacket while working for the British Foreign Office in Africa and South America. As a human rights investigator, he exposed cruel treatment of the Putumayo people in Peru and gained international recognition as a humanitarian. He dedicated the rest of his life to Irish nationalism, and as co-organiser of the Howth gunrunning, was executed in August 1916. The authenticity of his 'Black Diaries' which reported various homosexual encounters is disputed.

**Location:** Changing Ireland, Room 31

**Museum number:** HE:EW.4043.

02



### An Foclóir Aiteach

The second edition of An Foclóir Aiteach was released in 2022, the first official LGBTQIA+ Irish dictionary. It was the outcome of a grassroots project that worked to address the lack of Irish terminology in the LGBTQIA+ domain. The Union of Students in Ireland launched the dictionary alongside the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland (TENI) and the national LGBTQIA+ youth organization, BelongTo, and the authors recognise that it is a working document, that will evolve alongside the language.

**Location:** Changing Ireland, Room 31

**Museum number:** CI:2024.2

03



### Dr. Panti Bliss Cabrera's 'Noble Call' dress

Dr. Panti Bliss-Cabrera is a gay rights activist and drag queen. In 2014, she wore this dress while delivering her 'Noble Call' speech at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. Outlining her experiences of homophobia in Ireland, this helped to start a national, and international conversation about same-sex marriage ahead of the Marriage Equality Referendum in 2015.

**Location:** Changing Ireland, Room 31

**Museum number:** CI:2019.15.

04



### Eileen Gray's Non-Conformist Chair

Born in Enniscorthy in 1878, before moving to Paris, Eileen Gray was one of Ireland's most renowned designers. Gray developed a reputation in France in the 20th century as a designer in lacquer furniture and interiors, before later experimenting with architectural forms. She was openly bisexual and connected to lesbian circles in early 20th century Paris. Her designs, like this chair, celebrate bodily freedom. The Non-Conformist chair has been adopted by some in the LGBTQIA+ community as a symbol of identity.

**Location:** First floor, top of the stairs

**Museum number:** EG:2000.1

05



### Kathleen Lynn's iodine bottles

Dr. Kathleen Lynn was a suffragette and Chief Medical Officer for the Irish Citizen Army during the Easter Rising. In 1919, she co-founded Saint Ultan's Hospital for Infants, which provided support for families living in poverty.

Lynn lived with her partner Madeleine French Mullen in Rathmines, Co. Dublin for more than 30 years, and both were imprisoned for their involvement in the Rising. While French-Mullen was in prison, Lynn wrote in her diary that she would give £10,000 to be with Madeleine.

**Location:** Soldiers and Chiefs –

The Easter Rising, Room 19

**Museum number:** CI:2024.2

06



### 1916 surrender photograph

Nurse Elizabeth O'Farrell served at the GPO during the 1916 Rising with her life-long partner, Julia Grenan. O'Farrell negotiated the surrender of the rebel forces to the British authorities and delivered the instruction to surrender to Dublin garrisons.

The photograph shows the surrender of Pdraig Pearse, but O'Farrell is also in the picture. She took a step behind Pearse when she saw the photographer, but her feet can still be seen. O'Farrell and Grenan lived together after the Rising and are buried in the same plot in Glasnevin Cemetery.

**Location:** Soldiers and Chiefs –

The Easter Rising, Room 19

**Museum number:** HE:EW.1740.

07



## Katherine Zappone's and Ann Louise Gilligan's wedding dresses

Irish politician Katherine Zappone and her late wife Anne Louise Gilligan wore these dresses during their wedding ceremony at Dublin Castle in 2016. Eight months earlier Dublin Castle had been the site of large celebrations following the legalisation of same-sex marriage. Ireland was the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage by popular vote.

**Location:** Exhibiting the Nation  
(North Block, Ground Floor)

**Museum number:** CI:2019.1.1&2.

08



## Mr. Pride's Rainbow Coatee

Eddie McGuinness has been an LGBTQIA+ rights activist since 1993. Founder of The Outing Queer Arts Festival and Winter Pride Festival, he was a choreographer for the Irish boy band 4Guyz. McGuinness also protested the graphic images displayed by pro-life groups during the referendum campaign to repeal the 8th amendment in 2018. McGuinness embellished this coatee with over one thousand coloured diamantes and wore it at every Pride event from 2017 to 2021.

**Location:** Exhibiting the Nation  
(North Block, Ground Floor)

**Museum number:** CI:2022.

09



## Mammies for Trans Rights' badges

The 'Mammies for Trans Rights' group highlight the role of allyship with marginalised communities. What began as two Limerick 'mammies', Karen Sugrue and Claire Flynn, wanting to support their own children, is now a volunteer-led network of mummies and allies of trans kids across Ireland and beyond. The group expresses solidarity and pride for the trans and LGTBQIA+ community, standing in response to the violence and abuse they face. These badges were designed by Ellie Stone and made by In Rainbows—a trans small business in Northern Ireland. These are the first specifically trans ephemera collected by the Museum.

**Location:** Exhibiting the Nation  
(North Block, Ground Floor)

**Opening hours**

Sunday & Monday: 13:00 – 17:00

Tuesday – Saturday: 10:00 – 17:00

Everyone is welcome and admission is free at all of our locations.

Follow us and find out more at [museum.ie](https://www.museum.ie)



**Explore other National Museum of Ireland locations**



**Kildare Street**  
Dublin, D02 FH48

Home to many of Ireland's oldest and most treasured artefacts. Collections include Archaeology, Egyptian, Vikings, and Gold.



**Turlough Park**  
Co. Mayo, F23 HY31

Home to the National Folklife Collection and stories from the remarkable everyday of Irish life.



Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more about LGBTQIA+ history at the Museum