1st Annual Big Chisellers Wood Sculpting Festival 11-13th October 2019

Presented by the Schoolhouse for Art, Enniskerry

FESTIVAL CREATIVE BRIEF

The theme of our first festival is **#REWILDING** which is an ideal concept for this timely event hosted in the Historic Village of Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. This dynamic theme connects our Artists with the enchanting and precious nature of the wild and encourages them to inspire their audience with not only the final artwork, but by sharing the *method & context* of their work.

The Big Chiseller Festival will showcase various ways Artists work with wood and natural resources, making them cultural ambassadors connecting communities with the land, flora and fauna - in an authentic way. **#REWILDING** acknowledges the pressing need we face to engage in creative and collective efforts to conserve and regenerate Mother Earth.

Artists, art and craft can all be central to encouraging a love and appreciation for nature. Artists can be agents of change, emphasizing the importance of rebuilding and celebrating nature but also the significance of ecosystems, habitats, natural products, heritage and ecological entrepreneurship.

#REWILDING invites people to make a collective decision to explore alternatives for our future while revisiting our heritage and traditional ways which worked better for our planet. Our events will include demonstrations, exhibitions, lectures, walking tours, and workshops for diverse audiences.

While current climate change challenges put humans in a negative role, **#REWILDING** invites artists to inspire people to reinvest in the value of nature and the wild world in a progressive and positive way. **#REWILDING** offers alternatives to plastic, man-made and convenience products which are polluting and poisoning our natural resources around the world.

#REWILDING seeks to complement nature and use natural resources in *responsible* ways to repurpose materials and express their singular beauty. **#REWILDING** can draw much needed attention to endangered and threatened species of animals but also plants which are at even greater risk of extinction.

Not only the Artist, but the audience and the community will benefit from our **#REWILDING** theme. It recharges people in their wonderment and engagement with nature and the wild. Exposure to the elements of the wild can also help improve people's physical and mental wellbeing and delivers a wide range of benefits socially, especially for young people and children.

#REWILDING brings communities together again, a walking trail of unique sculptures will remain after the festival is over. **#REWILDING** encourages an essential collaboration between various stakeholders to take productive steps towards improving our ecosystems and climate - from local business people as sponsors to local children learning a new or ancient skill. The beauty of **#REWILDING** is that the course of nature is vast and interesting. We do not control where it takes us but get to go along on the journey of enchantment as we explore and celebrate the beauty of nature!