

# UCC Staff Profile

**Name:**

Mick Stubbs

**Job title/role:**

Head of School of Visual and Performing Arts

**Subjects taught/administrative responsibilities:**

Mick is responsible for the overall management, planning, curriculum development and artistic direction of the UCC's School of Visual and Performing Arts.

**Qualifications and Membership of Professional bodies:**

BA (Hons) Fine Art  
(Gwent College of Higher Education)

MA Art and Design  
(Leeds Metropolitan University)

Certificate in Education  
(University of Leeds)

**Experience in Education:**

Mick has extensive experience of delivering and heading Art-based programmes in Further and Higher Education settings in the UK.

These include:

1989-90 Wakefield District College; Tutor in Ceramics and Photography

1990-2005 Leeds College of Art; Tutor; Course Leader Access to HE in Art and Design; Head of Department for Adult and Community Learning

2005-2006 Stamford College, Lincolnshire; Course Leader BA Fine Art

2007-09 Burton College, Staffordshire;  
Course Leader Diploma in Art and  
Design

2010-present University Centre  
Colchester; Area Head for Art,  
subsequently Head of School

**Biography and personal interests:**

Mick went off to Art School in 1976 at the age of twenty. It had a powerful and energising influence on how he experienced and thought about the world, and by the time he had graduated, he decided that he not only wanted to make art, but also wanted to be involved in art education in some way.

As well as visual art and education, he has a range of interests that include politics, film, literature, and music. He is the proud owner of an outrageously extravagant hi-fi that includes a Sony direct-drive turntable from 1975 that never misses a beat (unlike its owner).

Mick has a reputation for being an excellent cook, a skill he tries to keep quiet.

**Professional practice / research interests:**

His professional work combines the role of artist and educationalist. A lot of Mick's early work was in film animation and he produced a number of shorts, one of which was selected for the Cambridge Animation Festival. He also worked on the original series of Superted animated cartoons; up to that point at least, the only nonDisney cartoon to make it onto the Disney TV channel. Mick also worked commercially for several years, as a freelance artist, illustrator and sign writer, producing work to decorate everything from nightclubs to roller rinks.

Throughout that time he maintained an independent practice, producing work that reflected on the politics and social concerns at the time, and exhibited work in exhibitions in the north of England. Looking from one project to another, the work he has produced has varied in materials and form, and in later years explored the boundary between figuration and abstraction. Within that variety, there has always been an interest in producing work that engages, in a political sense, with the world at large. How one produces output that is political, but also relates to one's the field of practice, is arguably a tension between what Mick sees as the representation of politics, and the politics of representation.

As a Head of School, Mick is particularly interested in creating what he views as a relational system. In essence this amounts to two things; firstly, ensuring supportive, transparent and collegiate relationships with and between staff, and secondly, making sure that a well-planned and efficient structure for the delivery of our subjects is in place. There are many other factors of course, but Mick believes that good institutional organisation contributes to good outcomes for students.

### **Current Projects:**

The work Mick has produced most recently is concerned with the idea, or perceived need, to have something to occupy one's time, which can result in activities that vary from the mundane to the very profound. This has resulted in a series of process-based drawings combining images of (blank) jigsaws with quotes from literature that reflect on the human condition in some way or another.