

Sue Nelson

Sue Nelson Designs



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A realisation that she needed to create a more artistic life for herself led Sue Nelson, who had worked as an engineer in supply chain management for over 20 years, to leave her job and become an artist.

The native of Glanmire in Cork, who now lives in Ballygarvan, set up her business, Sue Nelson Designs in November 2022.

Sue, who had always loved art and all things creative, had her first exhibition – a significant success – in 2019, and it ultimately led her to leaving her corporate role behind.

There are two sides to Sue's business – fine art paintings of landscapes and abstract art inspired by nature; and photographs she takes of well-loved locations in Cork which she then digitally illustrates to transform them into works of art in their own right.

Sue created an exclusive collection of her photographs for Adare Manor earlier this year, comprising of digitally illustrated photographs of their resort, and she hopes to grow that collection as the hotel builds momentum towards hosting the Ryder Cup in 2027.

The photography can be adapted and personalised, and Sue plans to grow that side of the business within the corporate gifting market.

She also sees opportunities in creating art to enhance workspaces – and thereby encourage people to return to the workplace – and has partnered with a company that builds and outfits offices called Interiors at Work.

Her clients include PWC Cork, University College Cork, Dell Technologies, Hopkins Communications, Network Cork, Avenues Consulting, Sinead Cassidy Designs, McCarthy & Co Solicitors and Mortgage Navigators.

She says that one of the biggest drawbacks of starting your own business is that you are on your own and having the support and encouragement of everyone on the ACORNS programme was a great benefit.

Her plans for the year ahead are to grow both sides of the business and to help companies create better cultures by making work environments that people want to be in.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
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Food and the Marine