

**ATHLONE STUDENTS WALK AWAY WITH TOP PRIZE AT THE BANK OF IRELAND JUNK KOUTURE GRAND FINAL IN 3ARENA**

The overall **Bank of Ireland Junk Kouture** winner for 2016 was announced as Our Ladys Bower Students took the coveted prize. *Jewel of the Nylon,* designed by Eleanor Dwyer, Jennifer Siak and Emma Clarke was constructed entirely from old crocheted tights. The fortunate trio made it through to the grand final held in the 3Arena, after contesting in the western regional final in early in march. Over 1,100 students entered the competition this year with only 80 designs making it through to the final. The school received €2,500 and the students and their teacher Oonagh Kelly, each won an iPad mini and a €500 cash prize.

Eleanor appeared on last week’s Late, Late Show hosted by Ryan Tubridy, along with the other regional winners; Mariusz Mallon with his design *Anthropocene* (North); Ellen McDonald with *You’re Not My Type* (south); and Rebecca McNally with *A Tribute to Ziggy Stardust* (East).

Bank of Ireland Junk Kouture enlisted the help of an outstanding judging panel for 2016. Model and TV presenter Vogue Williams took pride of place beside gifted stylist and TV presenter Rob Condon, art and design educator Dr Tracey Fahey and Vogue India Stylist Lorna McGee were joined by a very special guest judge who is used to sitting at the firing desk of the X-Factor, Louis Walsh! Louis joined the line up to judge the category of Best Performance.  The panel had the challenging task of selecting the winners of several different categories.

See other prize winners below:

**Overall and Western Winner**

Name: Jewel of the Nylon

School: Our Lady’s Bower, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

Made from: Crocheted tights

Designers: Eleanor Dwyer, Jennifer Siak, Emma Clarke

Teacher: Oonagh Kelly

**Northern Winner**

Name: Anthropocene

School: Scoil Mhuire, Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Model and designer: Mariusz Malon

Made from: Anti slip plastic, scrap metals, plastics and glass

Teacher: Ms Boyce

**Southern Winner**

Name: You’re Not My Type

School: Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown, Carlow

Designers: Ellen McDonald, Ciara Carew, Paul Roche.

Made from: A year’s diabetic Type 1 supplies

Teacher: Conor O’Brien

**Eastern Winner**

Name: A Tribute to Ziggy Stardust

School: St Kevins Community College, Dunlavin, Wicklow.

Designers: Rebecca McNally, Stephanie Hood, Saoirse Mullen

Made from: Paper shopping bags, Old scraps of material, Broken CDs, netting, and magazines

Teacher: Breda Heaney

**Bank of Ireland Glamour Prize x 1:**

Name: Going Nuts

School: Our Lady’s Bower, Athlone

Designers: Rachel Barrington, Kathleen Flynn, Ashley Cuffe

Made from: Raisins, pistachios and pumpkin seeds

Teacher: Oonagh Kelly

**Bank of Ireland Glamour Prize x 2:**

Name: Stop Rewind Play

School: Moate Community School, Athlone, Co. Westmeath

Designers: Lauren Allen, Niamh O'Connor, Aoife King

Made from: Film from video tapes, floppy discs

Teacher: Pamela Keogh

**LSAD Scholarship Prize:**

Name: Anthropocene

School: Scoil Mhuire Buncrana, Co. Donegal

Model and Designer: Mariusz Malon

Made from: Anti slip plastic, scrap metals, plastics and glass

Teacher: Ms Boyce

**Best Hair & Make-Up Prize:**

Name: Ethereal Dreams

School: Loreto Balbriggan Secondary School

Model & Designer: Dagmara Dobkowska,

Made from: Toilet rolls, silver plastic bags, crushed glass and recycled jewellery

Teacher: Ms Bailey

**Best Performance Prize:**

Name: Smash It!

School: Colaiste Bríd, Carnew, Co. Wicklow

Model & Designer: Orla Bass

Made from: Shuttlecocks and mosque tiles

**Bank of Ireland Enterprise Award:**

Name: Amberle

School: Dunshaughlin Community College, Co. Meath

Designers: Olivia Flanagan, Tom Watte

Made from: Titanium cans, glitter

Teacher: Ms Brophy

**Most Unusual Material Award:**

Name: #NotLikeTheUdders

School: Scoil Mhuire Community School, Clane, Co. Kildare

Designers: Megan Colville, Anna O'Flaherty, Molly Nason

Made from: Cow tags, wellies and a ball & chain

Teacher: Ms Cullen & Ms Kelly

**CoderDojo Award:**

Name: Aztechnology

School: Moate Community School, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Model name: Fiona Kelly, Aine Healy, Jor-El McLoughlin

Made from: Geometric stamps, lego and computer keys

Teacher: Pamela Keogh

Elizabeth Curran co-founder of the Bank of Ireland Junk Kouture described the level of creativity at this year’s competition as “amazing” she continued “*every year the students astonish us with the calibre of their work and this year is no exception. The judges had a very hard decision in choosing just one overall winner* *but I’m really looking forward to seeing what she goes on to do in the future*” she said.

Students have been working tirelessly since the beginning of the school year putting together and creating their concept pieces. They faced the challenge of transforming recycled materials into haute couture outfits suitable for a foray down the catwalk. All finalists put on an impressive show in the country’s largest indoor venue before thousands of screaming fans.

Laura Lynch, Head of Youth Banking, Bank of Ireland; *“We were blown away by the exceptional talent of all of our young student designers in last week’s Grand Final. The creations were simply awe-inspiring, and the performances exceeded all expectations. The entire audience were on their feet for most of the night which is a real tribute to every one of our finalists.*

For further information, please log on to the website: [www.junkkouture.com](http://www.junkkouture.com) or visit us over on Facebook [www.facebook.com/junkkouture](http://www.facebook.com/junkkouture) or Twitter: <https://twitter.com/junkkouture>

**ENDS**

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**Notes to the editor:**

Competition prizes:

**Overall Winner** – The winners’ school receives €2,500, each member of the team will receive a cash prize of €500 and a mini iPad.

**Bank of Ireland Glamour Prize** – 2 models will be flown to London to attend the Royal Film Premiere.

**LSAD Scholarship Prize** – The winner will get a place on the prestigious Limerick School of Art and Design and get their fees paid for a year

Other prizes:

**Best Hair and Makeup Prize** – Trophy and Blank Canvas Vouchers

**Best Performance Prize** – Trophy and Ticketmaster Vouchers

**Bank of Ireland Enterprise Award** – An Enterprise award trophy and one4all Vouchers

**Most Unusual Material Award** – Trophy and ASOS Voucher

**CoderDojo Prize** (technology in design) – A CoderDojo trophy and an iPad for each member of the winning team