



From Canberra to Carlow A rare chance to see the world famous Woodturner Richard Raffan

Richard Raffan is probably the world's best known woodturner. Famous as a bowl and box maker, he is just as well-known as a teacher, demonstrator and author of classic woodturning books and videos. For nearly 40 years Raffan has been a major technical and artistic influence on woodturners worldwide. English born and Australia based since 1982, he will be on our shores for 10 days of classes and demonstrations, at the invitation of one of Ireland's top woodturners, Glenn Lucas

"On Richard's last visit to Ireland in 1986, I was 12 years old and my most treasured possession was a tool box full of hand-me-downs from my grandfather," says Glenn Lucas. "Four years later when I got involved in the Irish Woodturners Guild, the influence of Raffan's visit was still strong. Then, still in my teens, I often heard his name mentioned by others who inspired me. Ciarán Forbes spent 6 months working with him in Devon. Liam O'Neill acknowledges that Raffan was his greatest influence. Liam Flynn was inspired by his teaching, his skill and his approach to turning. Roger Bennett would consider his book 'Turned Bowl Design' to be his bible!

I now have the facility to run classes and am in touch with the Irish woodturning community on a regular basis. I am fulfilling a long held ambition to meet Richard and see him work. I am delighted that he has accepted my invitation to Ireland. I am sure that he will inspire the next generation of turners and that this visit will be remembered as inspirational for many years."

Richard Raffan began turning wood in England in 1970 at the age of 26, leaving a successful career in the London wine trade. Although largely self-taught he soon established himself as a studio turner and leading figure in the hand-crafts revival at a time when woodturning had almost vanished as a craft. From the early 1970s his work has been purchased for public and private collections worldwide.

Raffan began teaching in 1980 and has taught at around 500 symposiums and workshops worldwide including America, Canada, Europe and Australasia. Now semi-retired, he limits his teaching to just a few weeks annually.

MORE Turners from around the world

Glenn Lucas runs classes from his workshop in Co Carlow on a regular basis. Each year Glenn is inviting turners whose work and techniques he admires. **Mark Baker** (UK) demonstrated in the workshop in 2008. **Richard Raffan** from Australia is the 2009 international turner and in 2010 **Mike Mahoney** from the USA will be the guest turner.

COMING SOON ... Irish Turners

Alongside this line up of international greats, over the next 2 years Glenn has invited many Irish friends to demonstrate at his Co Carlow workshop. They include, **Roger Bennett, David Comerford, Liam Flynn, Ciarán Forbes, Mark Hanvey, Brendan Hogg** and **Liam O'Neill**. Some of these well-known woodturners are rarely seen on the Irish circuit. See www.glennlucas.com for schedule, soon to be updated.

Richard Raffan events

What: 3 all-day demonstrations and 2 three-day masterclasses
When: from 27 May to 6th June 2009
Where: 5 events in Co Carlow
Cost: Demonstration €40, 3-day Masterclass €360 - classes almost full!

[Booking forms attached](#) **Reserve your place, use the form 1 or 2 attached
[Important !](#) **Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis.****

