

Magical Materials at the Science Gallery

Story by **CHRISHORN** POSTED 3 DAYS AGO

Yesterday evening, the "Magical Materials" exhibition opened at the [Science Gallery](#). The incredible properties of some modern materials are shown - changing shape before your eyes; automatic self-healing materials; and the lightest yet strongest materials on the planet.



The Science Gallery team worked with artist Stephen Byrne to create a band of cartoon superheroes to capture the properties of the magical materials: Morph, with a self-healing suit; Nano-Man, with a super-strong lightweight carbon nanotube suit; HydroGirl, with superhydrophobic water repellent clothing; The Flex, with flexible materials and an array of gadgets; Aero, with air-purifying clothing; and FloroGirl, who can synthesise and produce highly concentrated energy beams.



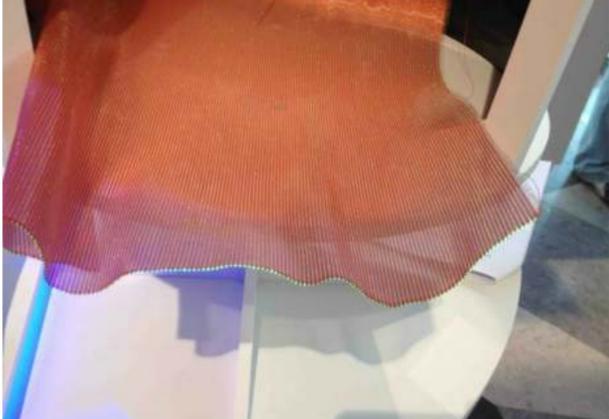
Here's some translucent concrete:



and some Mushroom Leather:



Some nanotube optics:



Some tube art:



There are about 35 different materials to explore in the exhibits:



and everyone had a good time!!



I've had the privilege of being the Chair of the Science Gallery initiative since 2007, when we started fund raising to build and equip the building, and hiring Michael John Gorman (our Director) and our team. I then became Chair of the governing board of the Science Gallery since it opened in February 2008. We recently welcomed our 1,000,000th visitor - not bad when our initial target in 2008 was just 50,000 visitors a year!!

And now we're discussing on opening further Science Galleries around the world, and are in various discussions with a number of other universities about hosting a Science Gallery in their city - thanks to a 1MUS\$ gift from Google to help us build the global network of at least 8 Science Galleries by 2020.

The Science Gallery initiative has been tremendous fun - and some hard work! :-)) - and I am really delighted by how the project has become a part of the scientific and artistic life of Ireland - and hopefully other cities too in due course...

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