

## Úna Curley | A suitcase full of curiosities and the mark of a maker's hand ...

**August 4<sup>th</sup> 2016:** I am very privileged to have in my possession a suitcase full of equipment and manuals relating to Leatherwork. A past-time that had once been the lifeline for an aunt of a friend of a friend of mine. The word is out that I have a huge interest in all things heritage, culture and our legacy or memories associated with it. What makes this even more serendipitous is that I had just mentally thought how I would go about getting some leather for a project I am working on. As I unpacked the various tins, newspapers and plastic bags – there was a flood of nostalgia and emotions. Memories of my first purse from returned holidaymakers, Dick Macks Dingle watching Oliver make the belts and keyrings and other events the smell of leather brings to mind. Even the suitcase and how the stuff was stored reminds me of my dad and how he stored his television repair gadgets. It makes me curious about hobbyists, crafters and makers – and how they store their 'stuff'. Or other hobbies, crafts or skills that are no longer popular or needed. I'm also curious about the leatherwork and what the various tools are for and how they are used. I want to finish the bag project that this lady had started. I would love to hear from anyone who might be able to shed light or help me with any of these curiosities.



Above: Some leatherwork and contents of the suitcase and below my belt from Dick Macks circa 1980



Úna Curley is An Táin Arts Centre's visual artist in residence. Úna will be in residence in the Basement Gallery studio during July, August and September 2016. Follow her progress on Twitter @una\_curley #antainartists