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**KILDARE EXHIBITION OF TEXACO CHILDREN’S ART COMPETITION WINNERS TO OPEN AT CROOKSTOWN CRAFT VILLAGE, BALLYTORE**

An exhibition of prizewinning paintings from the Texaco Children’s Art Competition, highlighting works by students from Kildare and surrounding counties, will be officially opened on Thursday, 24th November next at the Crookstown Craft Village in Ballytore, near Athy.

Amongst the many pieces being shown will be a 2009 prize winning work entitled ‘Colours’ by Kildare student Fionn Kelly, then a student at St. Anne’s National School in Ardclough, near Straffan.

Described by adjudicators as ‘a work that revealed the artist’s love of colour and the textures and moods that its use can create’, it will feature alongside works by other young artists, including those from other neighbouring counties.

Crookstown Craft Village is located within the Texaco service station and retail centre, off junction 2 or 3 of the M9 motorway near Ballitore and immediately north of Moone on the road from Kilcullen to Athy.

Hosting the event are service station and centre proprietors, husband and wife team, Seamus and Anne O’Reilly. Herself a keen artist whose works are replicated on greetings cards and other craft items, the exhibition is described by Anne O’Reilly as ‘the fulfilment of an ambition to bring the Texaco Children’s Art exhibition to the area and give prominence to the creativity to be found in many of our talented and successful young artists.’

Commenting, James Twohig, Director of Operations at Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited – the company that markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand – said ‘the decision by Seamus and Anne O’Reilly to host the exhibition is a true sign of their personal interest in art, and of their support for children’s art as a means of providing an outlet for imagination and creativity amongst our young people.’

ENDS

**Editor’s Notes:**

1. **The exhibition is being officially opened by sports personality and broadcaster, Tracy Piggott, on Thursday, 24th November at 7pm which media are invited to attend.**
2. The Texaco Children’s Art Competition celebrates its 62nd anniversary this year. For further information about the Competition, contact Don Hall (mobile 087-2552699), Ashley Hall (mobile 086-3127774) or Maximilien McKenna (mobile 086-7848464) at Hall PR on 01-660 9377 (office) or email pr@hall.ie. For more information on Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, contact Bronagh Carron on (+353) 01 6258208 or email bronagh.carron@valero.com
3. Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited, a subsidiary of Valero Energy Corporation, markets fuel in Ireland under the Texaco brand. There are close to 150 Texaco-branded service stations in Ireland and around 850 in the UK. Valero Energy (Ireland) Limited also provides aviation refueling services at Dublin and Shannon Airports, has an extensive commercial and industrial fuels business and holds an equity stake in one fuel storage facility in the Republic of Ireland. For more information, visit www.texaco.ie
4. Valero Energy Corporation, through its subsidiaries, is an international manufacturer and marketer of transportation fuels, other petrochemical products and power. Valero subsidiaries employ approximately 10,000 people, and assets include 15 petroleum refineries with a combined throughput capacity of approximately 3 million barrels per day, 11 ethanol plants with a combined production capacity of 1.3 billion gallons per year, a 50-megawatt wind farm, and renewable diesel production from a joint venture. Through subsidiaries, Valero owns the general partner of Valero Energy Partners LP (NYSE: VLP), a midstream master limited partnership. Approximately 7,500 outlets carry the Valero, Diamond Shamrock, Shamrock, and Beacon brands in the United States and the Caribbean; Ultramar in Canada; and Texaco in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Valero is a Fortune 500 company based in San Antonio, Texas. Please visit www.valero.com for more information.