

ART IN MANU FACTU RING



THE NATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF MAKING

SUPER SLOWWAY

A National Festival of Making and
Super Slow Way Commissioning Programme



Welcome



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ART IN MANUFACTURING

Art in Manufacturing, a collaboration between the National Festival of Making and Super Slow Way, is a commissioning programme at the heart of this festival that places artists in residence with industry. To date we've commissioned 22 artists whose work has gained international press coverage and created unforgettable moments that tens of thousands of people have enjoyed.

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In Season Three, five artists have been paired with five brand new manufacturers whose work in textiles, paper and engineering have links to international making industries.

During our visits to factories, we've been astounded by the connections created by artists working in industry - the residencies provide a platform not just for the making of new work, but for sharing experiences and connecting across boundaries. The programme offers an incomparable space for artists to make new work, having access to industrial making practices, machinery and techniques with the scope to investigate outcomes that would often be impossible in the confines of an artist studio.

Art in Manufacturing allows collaboration with 100s of members of the workforce who share their time, knowledge and creativity to make artworks from sound pieces to sculptures. Manufacturers reflect that the learning is shared - that working with an artist may influence thinking and 'new ways of doing things' - in an already innovative space the opportunity for experiment and inquiry between artist and industry is limitless.

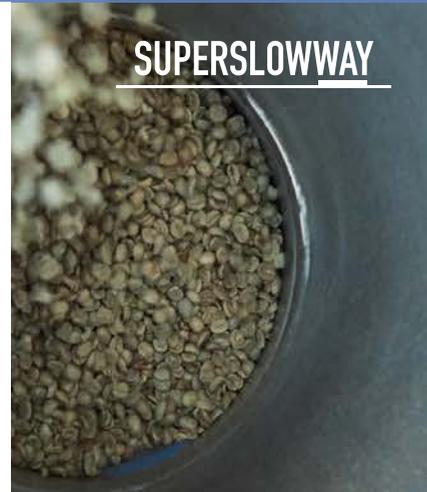
For Season Three - Liz Wilson has created a multi channel video installation that transforms animations and sounds found in the factory and in the artists voice, into a digital crescendo; Daksha Patel's collaborative residency led her

to explore the colour mixing lab and Blackburn's global textile links; Dan Edwards suggests we can do more, and encourages everyday of acts of activism; Anna Ray is inspired by offcuts from an industrial tufting process and Amy Pennington's work takes the mass produced from macro to micro, towards a series of sensitive and humorous human interactions.

Nicola Ellis' 2018 Art in Manufacturing commission with Darwen's steel fabricators Ritherdon, has led to an extended, two year residency where the sculptor will explore collaborative making and creative thinking in industry - a demonstration of the impact of the commissioning programmes intervention with the regions industry. Hear from Nicola Ellis and other AiM commissioned artists at the Festival's Talks programme - running through the weekend at Blackburn Cathedral and check the listings for in-situ talks with all artists at their exhibitions.

Returning from Season One and Two - catch James Bloomfield and Hannah Fox with a new ceramic workshop and the return of The Cardboard Cinema - and don't miss Industrialised: Art in Manufacturing in the Gallery, curated by Alex Zawadzki at Blackburn Museum.

As part of your Festival of Making experience - hear from the artists, meet the manufactures and enjoy the imaginative outcomes of 5 remarkable Art in Manufacturing residencies.



SUPER SLOWWAY

Art in Manufacturing is made possible with funding from Arts Council England, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Brian Mercer Charitable Trust. The programme is commissioned in partnership with Super Slow Way with film documentation supported by Creative Lancashire.

With thanks to our industry partners and the ever collaborative manufacturing workforces for their commitment and ambition - and for so warmly welcoming resident artists to make brand new work from their factory floors.

ELENA GIFFORD,
Artistic Director



The Optical Mechanical

Artist
LIZ WILSON

Manufacturer
SPIROFLOW

Location
29 NORTHGATE
BB2 1JU

Days/Times
SAT 14TH &
SUN 15TH JUN
11AM-6PM

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"ART FINDS THE BEAUTY IN ANYTHING, AND THERE IS PLENTY OF BEAUTY IN MANUFACTURING."

LIZ WILSON

The Project

Exploring the relationship between human and machine, the roles of both 'conductor' and 'orchestra' create iterative structures within Liz Wilson's new multi-channel video installation.

The opportunity to work with Spiroflow was seized by Liz Wilson whose interest in the beating drum of a conveyor in an industrial setting, created an immediate creative partnership between factory and artist. The resulting piece, **The Optical Mechanical** is an ensemble of animation, sound and factory transformations, exploring the temporal aspects of production.

Using modulated voices and animation to explore the tempo and energy of each apparatus, the work recapitulates and evolves, simulating the synchronised spectacle of automation; the repetition of such, working as a catalyst and drawing parallels to the stretch of time between the industrial and post-industrial - pounding with the pulse of time itself.

"I THINK WE ARE DRAWN TO THE UNKNOWN. WE AND THE ARTIST HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THIS RELATIONSHIP IS GOING TO BRING AND I THINK THAT IS REALLY EXCITING."

ELEANOR SPENSLEY, SPIROFLOW

Manufacturer

Spiroflow is a global leader in the field of powder handling and industry leaders in the field of bulk materials handling. A manufacturer of equipment such as mechanical conveyors, bulk bag fillers, bulk bag unloaders and other process equipment and an early inventor of the flexible screw conveyor - Spiroflow has multiple active patents, with innovative teams in Clitheroe and a US base in North Carolina.

spiroflow.com

Artist

Liz Wilson's multimedia work encompasses visuals, whether static or moving, as well as explorations into sound. A graduate from the Royal College of Art, her practice explores the relationships between industrialisation, technologies and print. Her most recent exhibitions include Taoxichuan Museum of Art, China and Parc de la Villette, Paris.

lizwilson.work

PHOTOGRAPHY — DANIEL ALLISON

Find out more FestivalofMaking.co.uk + superslowway.org.uk

Connecting Yarn

“I’M INTERESTED IN THE HIDDEN GEOGRAPHIES THAT LINK BLACKBURN’S TEXTILES INDUSTRIES TO DIFFERENT PLACES: CHEMICAL DYE MANUFACTURING TO YARN DYING; GARMENT DESIGN TO GARMENT PRODUCTION.”

DAKSHA PATEL

The Project

Reacting to the intricacies of Blackburn Yarn Dyers’ colour mixing lab, Manchester-based artist Daksha Patel has responded to her intense residency where she worked side by side with the expert skills of yarn dyers. **Connecting Yarn** is a beautiful interpretation of the protein molecule found in wool - keratin. This new work turns the complex and highly mathematical science of yarn dyeing into a visual spectacle. Using wool, light manipulation and found objects from the factory floor, the series of sculptural structures explore the relationship between the fibres and chemical process, whilst exploring the long history of women’s work inside the factory and craft work at home.

Artist
DAKSHA PATEL

Manufacturer
BLACKBURN
YARN DYERS

Location
PRISM CONTEMPORARY
20 LORD ST WEST,
BB2 1JX

Days/Times
SAT & SUN 11AM–6PM
+ UNTIL 29TH JUN
OPENING WED–SAT 10AM–4PM

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PHOTOGRAPHY – DANIEL ALLISON

Manufacturer

Blackburn Yarn Dyers was founded in 1915, providing yarn dyeing to clients worldwide from the heart of Lancashire. Working with leading fashion and interiors brands in the UK and internationally, the company offers a range of products and services in support of the textile industry as well as hand-knitting and craft brands, with dyeing and bleaching remaining at the core of its trade.

bydltd.co.uk

Artist

Daksha Patel is an artist who works at the crossroads of data and drawing with a practice that extends to printmaking, animation and installation. Colour, light and mapping are emerging themes in Patel’s work, which has also been influenced by a series of residencies in scientific environments, including LifeScience at the University of Dundee and The Christie Hospital in Manchester. Her work makes visible what is immeasurable, illusive and unseen.

dakshapatel.co.uk



“IN THE TEXTILE WORLD ART AND CREATIVITY WORK TOGETHER WITH MANUFACTURING ALL OF THE TIME. IT IS THE DESIGNER’S CREATIVITY THAT IMAGINES AND DEVELOPS PRODUCTS THAT REQUIRE US TO MAKE ‘REALITY’ IN PRODUCT. I BELIEVE THAT ART AND CREATIVITY IS IMPORTANT IN ANY MANUFACTURING, ESPECIALLY TEXTILES.”

ANTHONY GREEN, BLACKBURN YARN DYERS

we can do more

“I’M EXCITED BY WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE TOGETHER AS MAKERS, THINKERS AND DISRUPTORS. I THINK THAT TOGETHER, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOMETHING EXCEPTIONAL.”

DAN EDWARDS

The Project

Inspired by employee handbooks at The Senator Group, and their ethos ‘we can do more,’ artist Dan Edwards subverts the direct language of traffic signs that inform our everyday journeys into a vibrant call to action.

Using the factories aspiration to disrupt the accepted narrative of how a manufacturer would normally behave as a springboard, Edwards has created bold, mono-coloured signs and slogans that encourage small everyday acts of individual

activism. Once you’ve seen the signs - artworks that utilise the typeface ‘Transport’ designed by Margaret Calvert for British road signs in 1957 - collect your own free limited edition print at the Festival’s Art in Manufacturing Church Street gallery (limited numbers).

Edwards’ work is a provocation - we can make more, speak more, share more, sing more, dance more, smile more and play more. We can always do more. The artist invites you to reflect on this and enjoy the Senator crafted festival furniture that you’ll find at Cathedral Square.

Artist
DAN EDWARDS

Manufacturer
THE SENATOR GROUP

Locations
1. OUTDOOR LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT BLACKBURN TOWN CENTRE 2. CATHEDRAL SQUARE, 3. 50-54 CHURCH STREET

Days/Times
SAT & SUN
11AM-6PM



PHOTOGRAPHY – DANIEL ALLISON

Manufacturer

The Senator Group is a design-led furniture manufacturer established in 1976 by present day chairman Colin Mustoe MBE to create places to meet, dine and work with a difference. Outside the marquee showroom in Clerkenwell, London and sites in Chicago, New York and Madrid - the group’s principle manufacturing site is in Accrington, where £10 million has been invested in its state-of-the-art desk factory alone, from which over 300,000 desks, tables, storage systems and screens are exported every year.

thesenatorgroup.com

Artist

A graduate of the Chelsea College of Art and Design, London-based Dan Edwards has worked at the heart of the British art world as a renowned picture framer, a career which has fed into his own practice with a naturally developing interest in the preservation, presentation and perception of contemporary artworks. Edwards works across different mediums as a way of interrogating personal and cultural anxieties.

daniel-j-edwards.com



“ARTISTS CAN OFTEN GIVE A NEW PERSPECTIVE, OR APPROACH TO A PROBLEM THAT IS USEFUL FOR INDUSTRY. THIS IS WHEN COLLABORATION IS AT ITS BEST.”

GEMMA VAUGHAN, THE SENATOR GROUP



“I AM CURIOUS TO SEE WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IN THE SPACE BETWEEN MAKING BY HAND IN THE STUDIO AND WORKING WITH A MANUFACTURER.”

ANNA RAY

“I AM SURE THAT THERE WILL BE MANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR WORLDS, BUT PERHAPS AS MANY CONNECTIONS IN OUR EXPERIENCES OF MAKING AND OUR MODES OF PRESENTING WORK IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.”

JANET LOWE, FORBO FLOORING



The Project

Inspired by the offcuts from the meticulously precise tufting process at Forbo Flooring, Anna Ray's **Offcut** series is a visual documentation of the ambitious factory floor's processes, offering a unique view of global manufacturing. Dancing threads wriggle free from their cones in preparation for tufting and needles march uniformly in seemingly endless rows; punching through cloth at unimaginable speed. Directly referencing the materials, forms and machinery found within the factory, and referencing her Huguenot ancestors who were silk weavers and fancy trimmings manufacturers in the 1700s, Ray's deeply textured and vibrant wall pieces transcend the everyday factory occurrences found on her residency.

Manufacturer

Forbo Flooring Systems produces commercial flooring in materials including linoleum, vinyl and carpet tiles for a wide range of organisations worldwide as well as a range of advanced home flooring products. Dedicated to progressive manufacturing processes and products, Forbo drives innovation to ensure their flooring has a positive impact on indoor and outdoor environment.

forbo-flooring.co.uk

Artist

Straddling craft and conceptual art without being defined by either category, Ray has developed and shown work with organisations including the Turner Contemporary in Margate and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, each time drawing from her subconscious the textures and structures that she has observed around her to develop new forms.

annaray.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY — DANIEL ALLISON

Return to Sender



The Project

Creating a direct mail artwork posted through 10,000 doors in Blackburn - artist Amy Pennington invited the general public to explore the manufacturing journey of an unassuming everyday object - the envelope.

Asking the general public to look out for the makers initials printed on the envelopes Amy encouraged a dialogue between strangers, from the 'return'er to the sender'. Usually a one sided conversation, questions posed to the factory workers explored the theme of 'work' and revealed the perspectives of the machinists. **Return to Sender** is a sensitive look at how to subvert a mass produced object to create an intimate exchange.

"I'M ABSOLUTELY AMAZED BY WHAT GOES INTO MAKING ENVELOPES ON THIS SCALE - THE ENGINEERING IS SOMETHING ELSE."

AMY PENNINGTON

Artist
AMY PENNINGTON

Manufacturer
HERITAGE ENVELOPES

Location
50-54 CHURCH STREET,
BB1 5AL

Days/Times
SAT & SUN
11AM-6PM

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PHOTOGRAPHY - DANIEL ALLISON

Manufacturer

Producing 50 million envelopes a week from their Blackburn factory, Heritage Envelopes is part of a global brand operating across 50 sites in 23 countries. Specialists in printed envelopes for business as well as retail stock for high street stores and people's personal letters, the company is an undetectable presence in many households every day and offers rich vein of inspiration to their artist collaborator.

heritage-envelopes.co.uk

Artist

Artist Amy Pennington makes people the core part of her practice. Often using such mediums as performance, drawing, film, events and conversations, she works with accessible materials such as cardboard to bridge high and low art, while also having turned walls, shops and arcade machines into socially-engaged artworks.

amypennington.co.uk

"WE ARE A SLEEPING GIANT THAT NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT. IT WILL HOPEFULLY HIGHLIGHT MANUFACTURING AS A CAREER OPPORTUNITY, LETTING PEOPLE KNOW IT'S NOT A DYING INDUSTRY."

MARK SEARS, HERITAGE ENVELOPE



