

National Festival of Making -

Lancashire Emerging Artists: Open Call for Graduate Micro-Commissions

Essential Information

- National Festival of Making releases open call for Lancashire's Emerging Artists and Creative Practitioners
 - Who is eligible to apply? 2020 graduates of Lancashire-based creative, cultural and art degree programmes
 - Deadline: 10am, Wednesday 9th September
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Featured National Festival of Making 2019 works: *The Optical Mechanical*, Liz Wilson; Pottery workshop with Blackburn College; *Connecting Yarn*, Daksha Patel; *Sketch(y)*, Nu Jazz Arts



About National Festival of Making

The National Festival of Making is an established weekend Festival and year round artistic programme that takes place in Blackburn, Lancashire, attracting a national audience to celebrate making and manufacturing from the kitchen table to the factory floor. The Festival of Making programme combines Making, Art, Science, Manufacturing, Technology and Communities - commissioning artists to create spectacular works and participatory festival events including the Festival's headline commissioning programme, Art in Manufacturing.

Evaluations evidence that the 2019 Festival brought an economic impact of approximately £1.3million to Blackburn and the Festival consistently attracts between 30,000 and 40,000 visitors each year. In terms of artistic quality; the National Festival of Making outperforms both the UK arts average as a whole and arts festivals in general - consistently outperforming in the areas of distinctiveness and strength of concept. In 2018 the Festival won *Best Non Music Festival* at the UK Festival Awards and Visit Lancashire's *Large Event of the Year*.

The Festival, set to take place in June 2020, was cancelled due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Amid the rapid changes, the Festival team established that under the circumstances we would develop a new programme of work that presents opportunities to the creative sector and creates positive and meaningful making experiences within the current conditions.

The Opportunity

The National Festival of Making is looking to commission 3 individual artists or artist collectives who have graduated from Lancashire-based degree programmes to deliver an artistic project / piece of work that responds to the National Festival of Making themes.

These commissions seek to offer supported opportunities to ensure that 2020 graduates have the opportunity to make new and exciting work during this period of significant global change.

The Open Call is an invitation for 2020 graduates of creative, cultural industry and art degree programmes based in Lancashire, to consider what they would like to create as part of the new Festival of Making programme delivered in the autumn of 2020 & Spring 2021 - **we are seeking imaginative and distinctive ideas that engage our multi generational and diverse audiences and which align with our work.**



Festival of Making Themes:

MAKING HISTORY / MAKING DIGITAL / MAKING THINGS / MAKING PLACE / MAKING COMMUNITY / MAKING NOISE / MAKING TASTE / MAKING A LIVING

We are open to projects that are deliverable as part of our 2020 Autumn and Winter/Spring 2021 programme - these may have face to face or installation elements subject to health & safety, or be solely digital. Some projects may lead to outcomes that are presented at next year's National Festival of Making in June 2021, to be discussed in more detail with the commissioners.

Applicants should make the project timescales clear in their submissions.

We're open to all ideas, that may include:

- Visual art of any form
- Creative concepts that demonstrate diverse cultural influences
- Artistic multimedia projects
- Experiential artforms
- Writing
- Digital work that forms an online experience, or is an online presentation of an artistic work - digital work can be developed to utilise the National Festival of Making website and social media platforms and may engage particular audiences. Digital work, for example, may be sound or film based or involve live online experiences
- Making workshops
- Performance and music experiences
- STEAM based activities - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths making experiences

Mentoring:

Through the supported commissions, graduate artists will receive mentoring from a team of National Festival of Making experts. Depending on the nature of your proposal, mentoring may include proposal critiques, budget support, marketing expertise, social media guidance, presenting work to audiences, exhibition styling.

Each graduate artist will receive four x one hour mentoring sessions plus ongoing support.

Responses from 2020 creative, cultural industry and art graduate's working in any art form are welcome.



Health & Safety Essential Considerations:

At present, large public gatherings are currently discouraged and therefore no festival experiences of scale will take place until at least 2021. Any project proposed will need to meet current and evolving health and safety standards during the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread restrictions and measures in place.

Commissioned graduates will need to work closely with the Festival commissioners to create Risk Assessments for each project, however graduates will be supported by the festival team to achieve this.

Budget

The budget for each micro-commission is £2000.

Your budget should cover your artist fees, materials, travel and any other associated costs.

You will be required to develop a budget as part of the project and will be supported to achieve this.

Key Dates

A **Q&A session** for interested applicants will be held on **Tuesday 1st September** via zoom. During this session graduates will have the opportunity to meet with the Festival Directors and ask questions about their proposal.

The format of the zoom will be confirmed, please direct your interest in this session with any other questions to daisy@decopublique.co.uk

Deadline for submissions: 10am, Wednesday 9th September

Each commission is to be delivered within the timescale - **October 2020 to Spring 2021**. Your work may include an outcome shown at the National Festival of Making dates in 2021, to be agreed with the commissioners - the timescale for projects should be proposed by the applicant and will be confirmed and agreed with the commissioner.

How to Apply

To apply for the commission please supply the following:

- A short project proposal no longer than 500 words, that details the main idea and any background information; how the project aligns with the National Festival of Making; what type of audience or participant the work is aimed at; how the project supports you to develop your practice as a new graduate
- Your biography, of no more than 150 words
- One reference - this could be a tutor or someone you have worked with in a professional capacity
- Online portfolio - this could be in the form of a website, Instagram profile or a PDF of selected images - no more than two pages

Please ensure to submit *only* the maximum words and images as requested - this is to ensure that the evaluating team has the capacity to read all applications fairly.

We encourage a diverse range of applicants to apply - in this commissioning cycle we are interested in hearing from candidates from all diversity groups, particularly candidates from Black, Asian and Diverse Ethnic heritage groups.

Please send applications to daisy@decopublique.co.uk with the email subject title: Graduate Micro Commissions Application

Find out more about the National Festival of Making on our website and social channels:

Festivalofmaking.co.uk

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[Facebook](#)

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