



ART IN MANU FACTU RING

REMARKABLE ARTIST RESIDENCIES
WITH FACTORIES

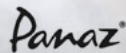
A National Festival of Making
Commissioning Programme



2023



MADE BY
JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS
TEXTILES FACTORY
HERBERT PARKER BLDG
LANCASHIRE, UK



Art in Manufacturing Residencies

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CATHEDRAL SQUARE

We would like to extend thanks to our manufacturing partners **Cardboard Box Company, Cookson & Clegg, Herbert Parkinson, OEP UK, Panaz** and **SWS UK**, for their huge contribution, and whose generosity in sharing their knowledge and creativity has supported artists and workforce co-creators to develop ambitious artistic outcomes together.

artinmanufacturing.co.uk

#artinmanufacturing

Introduction

Art in Manufacturing is the National Festival of Making's headline commissioning programme. The initiative was developed in parallel to the Festival and became our unique proposition to engage the manufacturing sector - integrating art & industry to create original festival content, collaborate with workforces and provide new spaces for artists to make work.

This year's residencies and commission outcomes have evolved to be **collaborative and participatory**. **Ibukun Baldwin's Funufactory** engaged the skills of community members, with the entire project shaped through weekly sewing workshops designed to share the opportunity for creative development. In **North Light**, **Stephanie Jefferies and Sarah Marsh** placed partner memories from 70 years of the Herbert Parkinson and John Lewis Partnership at the heart of their work, gathering sensory memories and building reciprocal relationships with a dedicated project team. Their work, aimed at an early years audience, challenges the perceptions of artistic hierarchy to create a beautifully crafted sculptural installation with the experience of families considered throughout every aesthetic and making decision.

All five projects have **co-design practices** within the makeup of the work, with **Sam Belinfante's, I See a Voice** shaped by the personal relationships built with the factory and **collaborative acts with co-creators** in music composition and exhibition design.

Work brought by **Illuminos** was shaped collaboratively by the artists' family, with a project that explored family archives and facilitated **intergenerational creativity** between the artists, their children, and wider family, in a highly personal project.

Sapien's new work, **Wave Sweeper** was made by artist and factory with distinct roles in both the making facilities of the factory floor and hours spent in the artist's Sheffield sculpture studio.

Layers of co-creation within each commission are there to be activated by the interaction of our festival audiences.

[Elena Jackson, Curator, Art in Manufacturing](#)

I See a Voice

SAM BELINFANTE

+ Panaz

Sam Belinfante's practice incorporates curating, sound and performance as well as filmmaking and photographic work. During his residency with fabric manufacturers Panaz, the artist has investigated Moire patterns and the optical effects induced through the movements of sheer fabrics. These textiles have the capacity to conjure illusion and narrative; to speak through, and from within, the warp and weft.



Well established as an industry leader in the production of innovative, environmentally sustainable fabric, Panaz works with artists and designers who push the boundaries of textile design with out-of-the ordinary ideas. I See a Voice, has been created using *Connect* sheer fabrics from the Panaz range, usually used at windows to create privacy or zoned areas. The manufacturer facilitated visits to textile mill partners, including a night sound recording at DHJ Weisters, capturing the moment each loom was turned off at a shift's end.

Belinfante learnt of 'Mee-mawing' from Panaz - a form of exaggerated speech and mime that allowed weavers to communicate over the cacophony of noise at the mills - and became interested in the tapestry of stories that can be told through the surface of materials. The possibilities of seeing a voice is a fundamental element of the artist's work, and builds on research into Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* while in residence at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. During the play, one of the characters, the weaver Nick Bottom, repeatedly confuses sensory language and experience, claiming, 'I see a voice'.

Belinfante's installation perforates the dividing walls between language and media, without completely disintegrating the necessary separations. An array of draped and recumbent cloth divides and shapes the space in the striking physical environment and performative experience at The Cotton Exchange.

Music by Sam Belinfante and Scott McLaughlin

This exhibition has low level lighting and features lighting effects with moving and flashing lights.

1 THE COTTON EXCHANGE

Funactory

IBUKUN BALDWIN

+ Cookson & Clegg

Ibukun Baldwin is a multidisciplinary artist and social practitioner specialising in print, illustration and embroidery. Centred in the human, social and environmental, her work has grown out of an awareness of the neglected needs of marginalised communities and the potential role that innovative, contemporary, hand-crafted design can play in empowering individuals to develop entrepreneurial outcomes.

A co-commission between National Festival of Making and British Textile Biennial, Funactory immerses audiences in floor-to-ceiling textile sculpture. The installation has been creatively developed in-conversation with the factory, and created from denim deadstock saved for the artist at Cookson & Clegg, a manufacturer reshaping traditional systems with their innovative 10-2 Production Line. Founded in Blackburn in 1860, today Cookson & Clegg makes jeans, chinos, trousers and workwear for some of the UK's finest sustainable clothing brands, including jeans for Patrick Grant's Community Clothing brand.

During her residency, the artist has worked with local partners at Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and The Calico Group to connect with families who have been evacuated from Afghanistan within the last 12 months. Through the process, Palwasha and Razma were hired as Art Assistants and have been supporting Ibukun Baldwin in creating her installation, taking part in weekly sewing workshops with the artist at Blackburn College.

At the Funactory, offcuts from the denim line have come to life, taking the form of beings who embody a manufacturing spirit but with no production quotas to determine their workflow. Their skilled hands make for the joy they find in the act of creating, and they encourage those who enter the Funactory to join them in stitching, fixing and patching the enveloping denim environment.

♿ PRISM CONTEMPORARY ♿ This venue is accessed via a step



Workshop Times Have a go at stitching between 11am-1pm 2-4pm on Saturday and 2-3.30pm on Sunday during drop-in sessions led by the artist.

Funactory is a co-commission by National Festival of Making and British Textile Biennial.

North Light

STEPHANIE JEFFERIES & SARAH MARSH + Herbert Parkinson

Stephanie Jefferies and Sarah Marsh are artists and play specialists working together as a collective. Both artists have established their own individual practice; exploring playful design and sculptural textile objects. Together, they are forming their own sensory-language.

In residence at Herbert Parkinson, the artists have spent time on the factory floor, enjoyed lunchtimes in the canteen and explored the archives held at Odney Hall, gathering sensory memories of sound, touch and smell connected with the manufacturer.

Herbert Parkinson, who has been part of the John Lewis Partnership since 1953 and who shares its 70th Anniversary with the Festival week, is a thriving example of UK design, quality and craftsmanship. Recurring themes have emerged within the stories collected, particularly the Loom Room; the ethereal and ever-present, beating heart of the factory.

Children and families are invited to enter the sensory playscape and explore memories gathered from the factory floor, now woven through the immersive space. The sculptural objects and sensory experiences that form North Light have been beautifully crafted with an early years audience, accessibility and inclusion in mind. The environment encases its audiences in the wonder of play - featuring a soothing, rhythmic soundscape, relaxing projections, and interactive visuals.

The Partners of Herbert Parkinson, the name by which all staff are known, have inspired the playful and reciprocal nature of the space with practical insight, suggestions and an immense creative energy; merging material, machine and the human touch.



Experience the flow of the factory floor, search for the ever present heartbeat of the looms and interact with touchable objects, wearable pieces and soft sculpture.

Sound Installation by Buffalo Sounds
Slide Co-Designed & Fabricated by Three Create

Sensory friendly session times:

10-11am 8th & 9th July. Booking advised for sensory friendly session, walk ups welcome if capacity allows.

4 THE CRYPT, BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Peddie's

ILLUMINOS

+ Cardboard Box Company

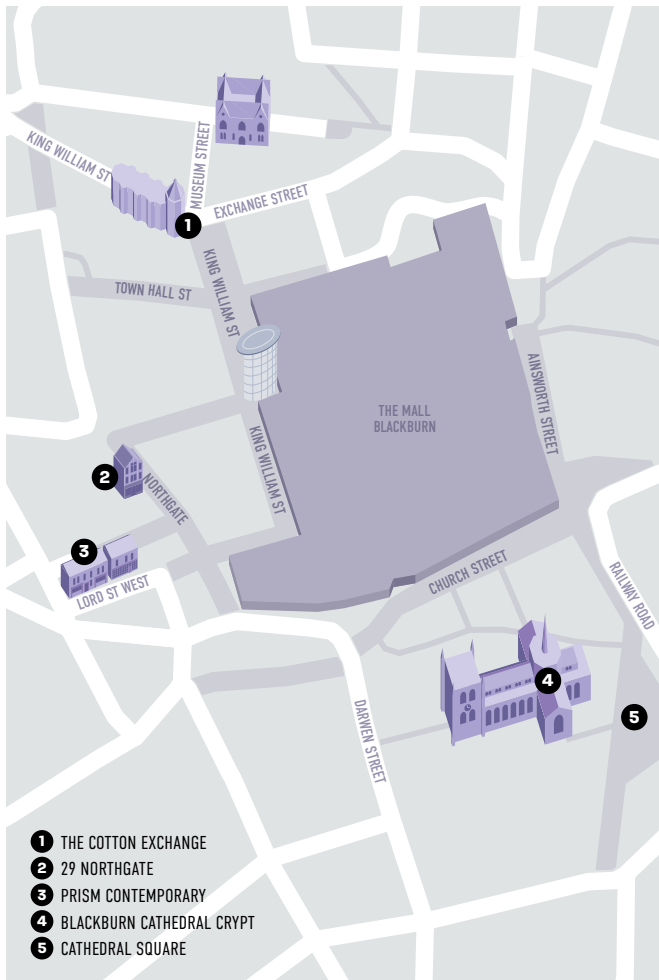
Illuminos are brothers Matt and Rob Vale who, for over 10 years, have been creating visually inventive projection artworks and experiences. During their residency with Cardboard Box Company, Illuminos have developed a highly personal project, delving into their own family history and taking inspiration from their Grandfather, Bob Peddie's confectionery shop window.

Based in Accrington and an established Art in Manufacturing partner, having created ambitious work with resident artists since 2017, Cardboard Box Company designs, prints and manufactures corrugated board for industrial and retail packaging solutions, recently winning the Community Engagement Award at the 2022 Paper Industry Gold Awards. Working with Illuminos, they were committed to authentically honouring designs from the archive, scanning and recreating elements of the original chocolate packaging from the shop at 191 Blackburn Road, Accrington.

Opened in 1950 with secret recipes from Bob Peddie's friend, the Swiss Chocolatier Marius Matti, the shop brought moments of delight and magic to Accrington in a time of rationing and rebuilding - when a box of chocolates represented more and opening it was like opening a doorway to a world of delights and possibilities.



Together, Cardboard Box Company and Illuminos have created an immersive retelling of the chocolate shop. The cardboard installation comes to life through animation and projection mapping, like something from a fairy story. Watch chocolate pour, nuts roll in icing, oranges being chopped and mint growing as flights of fancy erupt through the installation; a confection of wonders waiting to be discovered.



Venue Information

The National Festival of Making and Art in Manufacturing take over public spaces and venues in and around Blackburn Town Centre. We strive to work towards an accessible programme of events but regret that not all venues are fully accessible to our whole audience at present. Please find details below of Art in Manufacturing venues that are not fully accessible at this time, or which have alternative access.

The pedestrianised areas are very accessible for pushchairs and people who use a wheelchair.

The Cotton Exchange has new lift access designed into the building, and is accessible to people who use a wheelchair. **Blackburn Cathedral Crypt** also has lift access.

There is single step access to **Prism Contemporary**, Lord Street West and **29 Northgate**.

If you require any assistance or information please visit the Festival Info Points on King William Street and Cathedral Square during the Festival of Making weekend, or email info@festivalofmaking.co.uk





Wave Sweeper

SAPIEN + SWS UK

Sapien is the alias and studio of artist and sculptor Steve Anwar, a maker of solid steel sculptures inspired by ethereal weightlessness.

During his time at SWS UK - manufacturers of garage doors, roller shutters, and retractable gates in Lancaster - Sapien was drawn to the geometric steel forms and fast moving production of metal slats inside the plant, and the sharp contrast of the slow moving River Lune outside the factory. Alongside periods of making at the artist's Sheffield based studio, SWS UK have been working in conjunction to realise designs informed by their research and development team and expert workforce, using powder coating facilities and design fabrication.

In residence, the artist spent time observing the making process and being part of the daily conversations and rhythms. Time at the factory also involved exploring the local area - walking the River Lune that meanders through the valley all the way to the Irish sea, almost touching the factory on its ancient journey.

The idea of 'repetition' became a central theme. The circular sculpture consists of hundreds of small steel slats characterising the security shutters and never ending production line, with two overlapping waveforms to symbolise binary relationships of the fast paced factory and slow movements of the river.

Inspired by folkloric stories of the warriors of Manx mythology and the tale of Manann - a warrior known to take the form of a 'thundering wheel rolling across the landscape' - Wave Sweeper is an expression of the manufacturer's place in rural Lancashire and its wider geographic ties, as well as the artist's practice, informed by the opposing elements of mind and matter, nature and machinery, steel and spirit.

5 CATHEDRAL SQUARE

Manufactories

TIM DENTON + OEP UK



Returning to the National Festival of Making, Manufactories is a Season Four Art in Manufacturing commission created by Tim Denton in collaboration with OEP UK. Inspired by Blackburn's public realm and architecture, the structure was informed by blueprints created during Festival workshops in 2019.

Tim Denton works from his design and build studio in Manchester, creating and constructing structural works that are both experimental and functional. In 2022, he undertook a residency with OEP UK, Preston-based specialists in the development of prefabricated building systems, designing and manufacturing bathrooms and utility cupboards fabricated off-site in a factory environment and delivered to new build construction projects for the residential sector.

ART IN MANUFACTURING IN-CONVERSATION TALKS PROGRAMME

Meet the Art in Manufacturing commissioned artists and hear a short talk with guest hosts.



SATURDAY 8TH JULY

2pm

Sarah Marsh & Stephanie Jefferies In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director; and **Stuart McDonald**, Partner & Head of Branch at Herbert Parkinson

*This talk will start with an introduction from **Darren Henley** CBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England.*

NORTH LIGHT

4 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CRYPT

4pm

Sapien (Steve Anwar) In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director

WAVE SWEEPER

4 TEMPLE GALLERY,
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CRYPT

SUNDAY 9TH JULY

1pm

Sam Belinfante In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director; and **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair

I SEE A VOICE

1 THE COTTON EXCHANGE

2.30pm

Illuminos (Rob & Matt Vale) in Conversation with **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair

PEDDIE'S

2 29 NORTHGATE

Ⓜ This venue is accessed via a step

3.45pm

Ibukun Baldwin In Conversation with **Patrick Grant** of Cookson & Clegg and The Great British Sewing Bee Judge

FUNUFACTORY

3 PRISM CONTEMPORARY

Ⓜ This venue is accessed via a step

ART IN MANUFACTURING EXHIBITION TIMES

All exhibits will be open across the National Festival of Making Weekend on 8th & 9th July 2023, 11am–5pm.

Between the 13th & 15th July, all exhibits will be open to the public from 12pm–4pm, with the exception of Wave Sweeper which is a temporary outdoor sculpture.

BOOKABLE & DROP IN EVENTS

NORTH LIGHT SENSORY FRIENDLY SESSIONS

The sensory friendly sessions have been designed for families with additional needs who may prefer a quieter, calmer environment. These will take place at the following times:

10–11am

8th & 9th July

12–1pm

15th July

Booking is advised for sensory friendly sessions, but walk ups are welcome if capacity allows.



SCAN TO BOOK

DROP-IN STITCHING AT THE FUNUFACTORY

Join Ibukun Baldwin and the Funufacturers in stitching, fixing and patching the denim walls during drop in sessions at the following times:

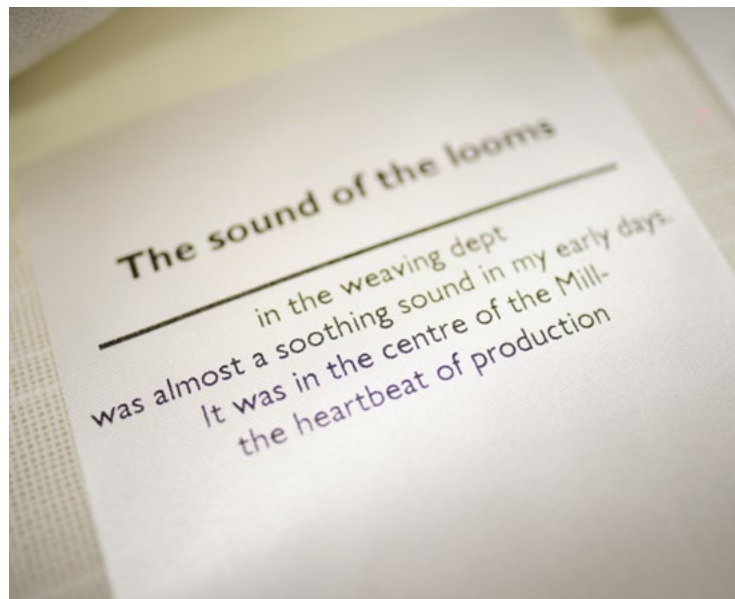
11am–1pm

2–4pm

8th July

2–3.30pm

9th July



About Art in Manufacturing

Art in Manufacturing is the headline commissioning programme of the National Festival of Making, pairing artists with some of the UK's leading manufacturers.

Conceived as a unique platform for artists to develop their practice and an opportunity to create a meaningful dialogue between artists and the industrial workforce, the commissioning programme explores the social and cultural fabric of place.

To date, Art in Manufacturing has commissioned in excess of 30 artists to create exceptional artworks, made collaboratively with workforce communities.

The residency programme facilitates access to cutting edge technologies and unearths hidden heritages - all resulting in remarkable, contemporary artworks, presented as part of the National Festival of Making's weekend programme in venues from repurposed town centre shops, to Blackburn's finest heritage spaces. The Festival and the works created during residencies, make visible the culture made here, and forms an invitation to experience this place through a new lens.

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About National Festival of Making

The National Festival of Making is a unique celebration of making and manufacturing – from the kitchen table to the factory floor.

Presenting a programme of work that combines art, manufacturing, making and communities, the Festival works with artists, makers and communities to curate a programme of making activity including: workshops; makers markets; industry talks; street food; live performance and artistic commissions - expressed in a year round programme and a participatory free festival for all to enjoy.

Since inception, the Festival and its work has been critically important to the expansion of Blackburn's local, cultural ecology. It has delivered in excess of 30 artist residencies and commissions, worked with 1000's of children and young people through the act of making and co-created year round creative opportunities for all to enjoy – all supported by a creative team, diverse partners, stakeholders and committed volunteers.

In 2023 the Festival of Making CIC became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation 2023-2026.

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Scan to view the
Festival Programme



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