



# ART IN MANU FACTU RING

REMARKABLE ARTIST RESIDENCIES  
WITH FACTORIES

A National Festival of Making  
Commissioning Programme



2024



DARWEN  
TERRACOTTA  
AND FAIENCE

SSB  
STANDFAST  
& BARRACKS  
EST. 1924  
FABRIC PRINTING COMPANY

THE  
MAKING  
ROOMS

CARDBOARD  
BOXCOMPANY

BM&AG  
Blackburn Museum  
& Art Gallery

BLACKBURN  
CATHEDRAL

THE  
EXCHANGE  
BLACKBURN

## Art in Manufacturing Residencies

- 6 **Infinite Hands**  
**Nehal Aamir** + Darwen Terracotta and Faience  
BLACKBURN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
- 10 **Breathing Colour**  
**Margo Selby** + Standfast & Barracks  
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, NORTH TRANSEPT
- 14 **We Are Gathered Here Together**  
**Horace Lindezey** + The Making Rooms  
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL ANNEX
- 18 **Fabula un Facto**  
**Sam Williams** + Cardboard Box Company  
THE EXCHANGE

We would like to extend thanks to our manufacturing partners **Cardboard Box Company**, **Darwen Terracotta and Faience**, **The Making Rooms** and **Standfast & Barracks** 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](http://artinmanufacturing.co.uk)

**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 content, collaborate with workforces and provide new spaces for artists to make work.

This year's commissions mark two significant industrial and cultural anniversaries for Lancashire and see new partnerships that have expanded the scope of the programme's artist and industry commissions.

**Nehal Aamir's** residency with **Darwen Terracotta and Faience** marked her first large-scale commission as an emerging artist. Alongside working in the factory setting, the residency invited the artist to take inspiration from the **Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery** collection, in celebration of the Museum's 150th Anniversary Year. The ceramic tapestry, *Infinite Hands*, will be exhibited until September in the Watercolour Gallery.

Celebrating another landmark moment, **Standfast & Barracks** reached its 100th Anniversary of the textile printing factory, founded in Lancaster in 1924. As part of the historic year, they welcomed weaver, **Margo Selby**, who responded with *Breathing Colour*, a celebratory textile installation located at Blackburn Cathedral.

Further establishing the Festival's partnership with **Venture Arts**, an award-winning visual arts organisation who work with learning disabled artists, **Horace Lindezey** took residence with **The Making Rooms**. The work presented as part of *We Are Gathered Here Together*, the artist's first solo show, brings together Lindezey's connection to occasion and ceremony across births, marriages and deaths through witty references and a celebration of cultural icons.

**Sam Williams** and **Cardboard Box Company** have together created a large-scale playful structure in the iconic Exchange. Drawing comparisons between the creativity and innovation found in both the production industry and theme parks, Williams evokes a sense of wonder in *Fabula Un Facto*, reminding us that 'play is in the making'.

Focusing on the playful, the joyful and the beautiful, this year's residencies reveal the often hidden side of the factory floor.

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

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### ART IN MANUFACTURING PRODUCING TEAM

**Adam Long**, Production Manager

**Daisy Williamson**, Producer

**Elena Jackson**, Programme Curator,  
Director National Festival of Making

**Emily Lord**, Producer

**Emma Colbert-Mooring**, Producer

**Helen Kemp**, Producer

**Lauren Zawadzki**, Director National  
Festival of Making

**Leon Farago**, Art Technician

**Philippe Standford**, Art Technician

**Simon Webbon**, Marketing

**Sam Gorman**, Art Technician

## Infinite Hands

### NEHAL AAMIR

+ Darwen Terracotta and Faience



#### 1 BLACKBURN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Nehal Aamir began her residency by documenting the shapes, sounds and textures of Darwen Terracotta and Faience, and the intimate relationship the workforce have with their individual practices.

The care and order with which each task was undertaken resonated with her. Each next step taken on the factory floor revealed the next stage of the process - everything in its place, everything running smoothly.

During this time, Aamir also spent time at Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery, exploring their collection and the site of the Watercolour Gallery, where *Infinite Hands* is exhibited. Pieces which emulated storytelling, already an important aspect of her practice, stood out to her, as well as the relief works of Greek figures from the 1800s running the length of the space.

Using these influences, Aamir conceived a contemporary ceramic tapestry - one which would illustrate the gestures of the workforce and honour them for their skill and expertise. Hand-painted with colour and details in gold, the 11 metre ceramic work tells the story of craftsmanship at Darwen Terracotta and Faience - a place dedicated to preserving traditional techniques, whilst also embracing innovation.

On the opposite wall hang pieces inspired by the factory's work, mimicking fragments of architectural structures from magnificent buildings. Similarly to the manuscripts held in the museum's collection, the pieces evoke a sense of historical and cultural importance. They preserve a skill and expertise that both artist and manufacturer believe should be protected. These pieces are displayed in dialogue with objects from the museum's archives that have inspired the work.

*Infinite Hands* tells a story that interweaves the history of terracotta, a spirit of collaboration, and the vibrant culture of Blackburn.

## **Nehal Aamir**

Born in Pakistan and now living in Manchester, Nehal Aamir's work represents her multicultural background and experiences as a Muslim woman. Holding a fascination for craft and its traditional techniques, Aamir's interests lie in storytelling. Showcased through her tiles, her work illustrates the rituals and realities of contemporary urban life.

## **Darwen Terracotta and Faience**

Darwen Terracotta and Faience have many years of industry experience, having worked on restoration and new build projects for some of the most prestigious buildings in the UK and worldwide.

This is the third Art in Manufacturing residency hosted by the industry leaders, who have also supplied products to international artists including Grayson Perry and Richard Deacon.

## **Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery**

A partner in this residency, Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery celebrates its 150th anniversary this year and was one of the first purpose built, free museums opened outside of London. It houses a rich collection of paintings, icons, mediaeval manuscripts and more, as well as being the custodians of objects and stories that express the local and social history of its hometown.



## Breathing Colour

# MARGO SELBY

## + Standfast & Barracks

A celebratory textile installation, immersive in colour, form and sound, joyful and uplifting.

Occupying the North Transept of Blackburn Cathedral, the site-responsive textile sculpture evokes the movement of cloth throughout the factory, travelling in waves and folds through the machinery. The suspended form initially lies on the cathedral floor, before reaching up to tower 9 metres into the vaulted ceiling, then descending back down.

This rise and fall reflects a respiratory waveform, a deep breath in and out again; *'Breathing Colour'* the very nature of the workforce at Standfast & Barracks which aligns so closely with the work of Margo Selby Studio.

Known for her hand woven artworks, this residency has presented a new challenge for Selby. In weaving, colour is often part of the construction of the cloth itself, created through the intersection of warp and weft threads. In contrast, when printing, colour is applied to the surface of a pre-woven cloth, much like an artist's canvas. Collaborating with a printing factory has opened up a different set of possibilities, and the final artwork combines the meticulous nature of weaving with the printing expertise of the factory. The design directly relates to Selby's weaving practice - building the pattern stripe by stripe to reflect how woven cloth is built thread by thread.

During the residency, 160 employees chose a single tone with a memory or association behind it. The arrangement of colour is initially inspired by the methodical organisation of the colour swatches and colour cards found in the Standfast & Barracks archive.



Construction of the piece is inspired by lenticular printing, with the cloth stitched into concertinaed 'gills'. The finished work comprises 100 metres of printed and pleated fabric, marking 100 years of Standfast & Barracks.

Selby has collaborated with composer-artist Peter Coyte to craft a sound piece. The work captures the rhythms of the machinery and the relationship between river and factory, as well as paying homage to the factory's brass band.

Sound piece by composer Peter Coyte, with recordings from Morecambe Brass Band

## Margo Selby

Margo Selby is a British textile artist and designer of woven textiles working with colour and geometric form. Her practice as a weaver is at the heart of all of the studio projects. Selby has established an expansive approach to working in textiles and, throughout her work, explores the relationship between man and machine, hand and industry, craft and technology.

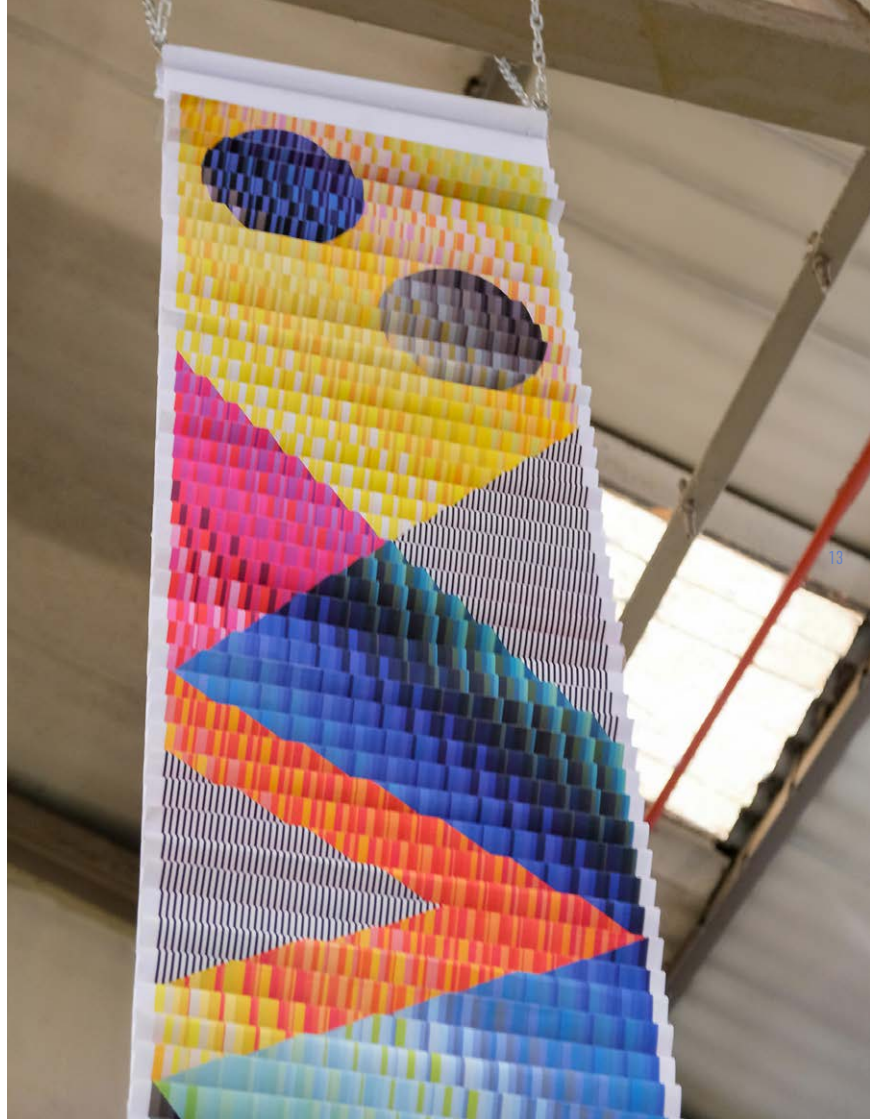
## Standfast & Barracks

Established in 1924 in Lancaster, Standfast & Barracks is renowned for its impressive heritage of textile printing. For 100 years, design, creativity, and innovation have been at the centre of development, with expertise in both conventional printing techniques and ground-breaking digital inkjet technology. Part of the international Sanderson Design Group, Standfast & Barracks hosts this artistic residency as part of its Centenary year.

—BRITISH  
TEXTILE  
BIENNIAL

A co-commission by National Festival  
of Making and British Textile Biennial

[margoselby.com](http://margoselby.com) | [standfast-barracks.com](http://standfast-barracks.com) | [britishtextilebiennial.co.uk](http://britishtextilebiennial.co.uk)



## We Are Gathered Here Together

# HORACE LINDEZEY

## + The Making Rooms

*We Are Gathered Here Together* is rooted in occasion and ceremony; from the dates we were born and the celebration of marriage, to the day we die. The exhibition, which presents brand new work alongside some of the artist's most popular pieces, takes visitors on a journey through these "special occasional days".

Lindezey has explored the use of digital technologies at The Making Rooms, allowing him to create work on a larger scale and at greater speed. Though aided by machinery, the work remains highly personal and hand-making features throughout, with elements also worked by hand at the Venture Arts studio.

14 Conversation forms a central part of Lindezey's practice, and has remained so throughout this residency. From those he's chatted with passing through The Making Rooms, to his journeys from Manchester to Blackburn on the train, the people he's met have shaped the work.

Split into three parts, one area of the exhibition focuses on 'births', with a list of the names of people he has interacted with, the year they were born, and an iconic song released that year - specific knowledge Lindezey holds. In 'marriages', a huge wedding table is set for 24 iconic guests, inspired by Lindezey's fond memories of watching TV. Finally, in a space representing the experience of a funeral ceremony, approximately 60 of the artist's iconic blue plaques can be found in a reflective space - whilst in stark contrast to the rest of the show, the pieces remain witty and engaging.

You are invited to enter Lindezey's world, through music, personal expressions, and his unique perspective on connecting people, time and place.

## 4 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL ANNEX



15 Throughout the residency, Lindezey has been supported by Caroline Tattersall - Venture Arts Ceramics Facilitator and Artist Support, and Kim Stuttard - Creative Alliance Associate at The Making Rooms.





### **Horace Lindezey**

Horace Lindezey has been a practising artist and maker at Venture Arts in Manchester for over 30 years, working predominantly in ceramics and textiles. After exhibiting in the 2023 National Festival of Making in the group show, YESS LAD, Lindezey, was commissioned to return this year with his first solo exhibition.

### **The Making Rooms**

The Making Rooms is a place where creativity, technology and advanced manufacturing come together in a community facility for use by artists, inventors, students, children and just about everyone else to design and make anything from high-tech products and gadgets to toys, artworks, home decorations and accessibility devices.

### **Venture Arts**

Venture Arts is an award-winning visual arts organisation in Manchester, working with learning disabled artists.

Through their studio programmes, exhibitions and collaborative projects, they remove barriers to the arts. They put artists in the lead; they champion neurodiversity and provide pathways for every individual to develop their creative identity.

## Fabula un Facto

# SAM WILLIAMS

## + Cardboard Box Company

*Fabula un Facto* is a playful installation that emulates industrial architecture. Inspired by both the culture and the physical environment of Cardboard Box Company, it invites audiences to experience the wonder of the factory floor, as seen through the eyes of Williams during her residency.

Growing up in a theme park where her family worked, an integral strand of Williams' practice is curiosity - something that is imbued throughout this work. The installation borrows visual language from the creativity and innovation that exists, often unseen, in the production industry, and the staged experience and complex engineering of theme parks. Comparisons are drawn between the unlikely duo

18

inspiring the name 'play is in the making' or *Fabula un Facto*. During her residency, Williams was able to get close to the design process that occurs daily in the factory - understanding the actions of translating the 3D into 2D, and back into 3D again. Collaborating with the innovative designers at Cardboard Box Company, she could observe the communication and exchange of information that goes on between the teams - each person's role integral to the process as a whole.

The installation intends to evoke a sense of wonder; What is it? How does it work? What does it do? Rather than a linear narrative, it offers an explorative experience that invites you to consider the possibility that, even if you don't really understand something, you can still be in awe of it.

A playful structure, with passive interactive elements - it is both factory and machine. An immersive representation of the infinite nature of human innovation and a joyful reminder that play is, indeed, in the making.



19



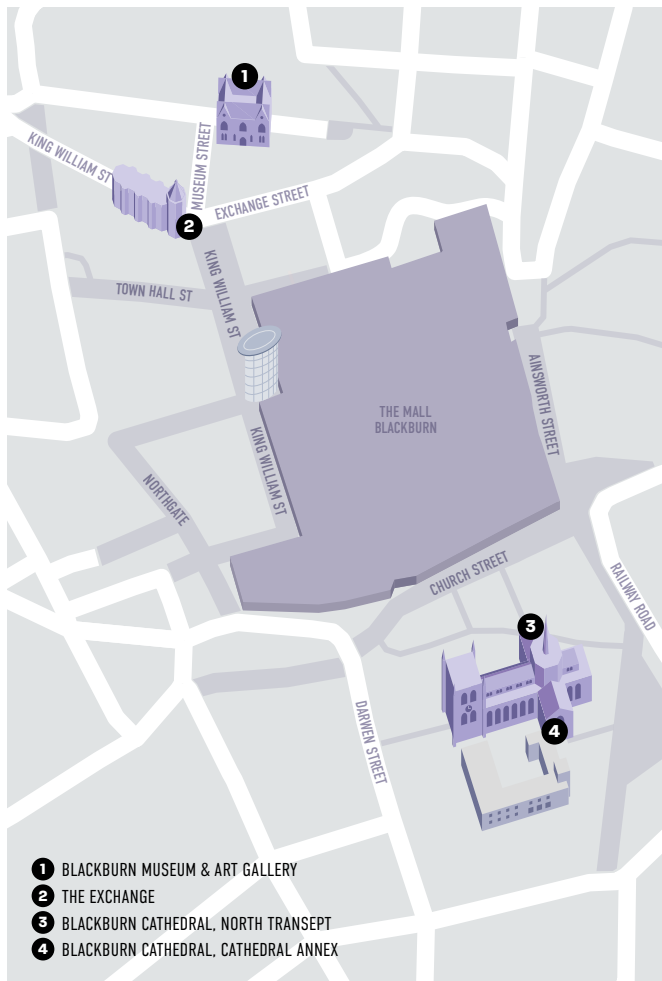
### **Sam Williams**

Sam Williams imagines a world where physical limitations and perceived wisdom operate in flux. Her work draws from her childhood growing up in a theme park, Drayton Manor, where her family (and later she) worked. Using play structures, bold graphics and colourful patterns she dreams up environments that evoke joy and curiosity for audiences old and young.

### **Cardboard Box Company**

Cardboard Box Company is a state-of-the-art corrugated sheet plant that designs and manufactures corrugated board, based in Accrington, East Lancashire.

The fourth Art in Manufacturing residency the company has embarked on, their history dates back to the mid-1970s. Their constant innovation since has led to their products receiving national and international print and design awards.



## Venue Information

The National Festival of Making and Art in Manufacturing take over public spaces and venues in and around Blackburn town centre. Please find access details below for Art in Manufacturing venues:

**The Exchange** has lift access and is accessible to people who use a wheelchair.

There is level access into and around **Blackburn Cathedral** and there is a lift available to all floors.

**Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery** has ramp access at the front of the building, and lift access to all floors.

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](mailto:info@festivalofmaking.co.uk)

# ART IN MANUFACTURING TALKS PROGRAMME



Raisa Kabir, In Conversation, 2022

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

## SATURDAY 6TH JULY

1pm

**Sam Williams** in Conversation with Festival Co Founder, **Wayne Hemingway** MBE.

### FABULA UN FACTO

2 THE EXCHANGE

2:15pm

**Nehal Aamir** in Conversation with **Arnoldas Ritelis**, Sculptor at Darwen Terracotta and Faience, **Elena Jackson**, National Festival of Making Director & Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing, hosted by **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair.

### INFINITE HANDS

1 BLACKBURN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

## SUNDAY 7TH JULY

2pm

**Margo Selby** and **Standfast & Barracks** in Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of the CoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director and **Elena Jackson**, National Festival of Making Director & Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing.

**This talk will be followed by a performance from Leyland Band at 2.30pm.**

### BREATHING COLOUR

3 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, NORTH TRANSEPT

3pm

**Horace Lindezey** and **Venture Arts** in Conversation with **Kim Studdart**, The Making Rooms and **Lauren Zawadzki**, National Festival of Making Director.

### WE ARE GATHERED HERE TOGETHER

4 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL ANNEX

# ART IN MANUFACTURING EXHIBITION TIMES

## INFINITE HANDS

**Nehal Aamir** + Darwen Terracotta and Faience

6th July-14th September

During Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery opening hours

BLACKBURN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

## BREATHING COLOUR

**Margo Selby** + Standfast & Barracks

6th-15th July during Blackburn Cathedral opening hours

*Please note: On Sunday 7th July, this exhibition will be open between 12-4pm only.*

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, NORTH TRANSEPT

## WE ARE GATHERED HERE TOGETHER

**Horace Lindezey** + The Making Rooms

6th & 7th July

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, CATHEDRAL ANNEX

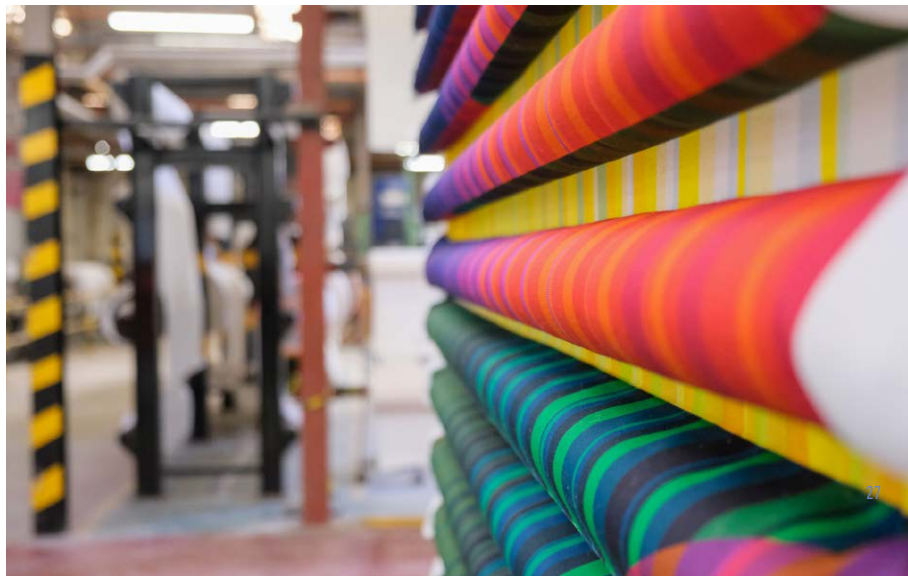
## FABULA UN FACTO

**Sam Williams** + Cardboard Box Company

6th & 7th July

THE EXCHANGE

During the Festival weekend, all exhibitions are open 11am-5pm unless otherwise stated.



## BOOKABLE & DROP IN EVENTS

### RITUALS IN CLAY

A workshop by Nehal Aamir exploring storytelling and tile painting techniques

11am-12.30pm Sunday 7th July

BLACKBURN MUSEUM & ART GALLERY *Booking required, visit [festivalofmaking.co.uk/whats-on](https://festivalofmaking.co.uk/whats-on) for details*

### LEYLAND BAND

A performance by Leyland Band as part of the Breathing Colour exhibition

2.30pm Sunday 7th July

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, NORTH TRANSEPT *Drop-In*

## 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 over 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.



## 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 40 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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