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Open Call for an Artist Residency with Darwen Terracotta & Faience

Art in Manufacturing is the National Festival of Making's headline commissioning programme providing artists with an incomparable platform to make new work in and alongside manufacturing and making industries.

Essential Info

The National Festival of Making is releasing a new Art in Manufacturing opportunity for an Artist Residency with Darwen Terracotta & Faience, industry leaders in designing and manufacturing architectural terracotta, faience and sculpture.

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Who is Eligible to Apply?

We welcome responses from all types of creatives - artists / makers / designers. This commission is open to both individuals and collectives working in any art form.

Budget

£8000 to cover artist fees, expenses, materials and any other associated costs.

Deadline for Applications

Monday 25th November 2024, 10.00am.

Interviews will take place on **Monday 2nd December** at **Darwen Terracotta & Faience**, Blackburn. Where necessary, we may also be able to accommodate online interviews.

You will be notified if you have been selected for an interview no later than Wednesday 27th November, 5pm.

Timeline

Please see more in the 'Residency Dates' section below, however due to the nature of the manufacturing process, we would expect the artist to be available to make **at least one visit to the factory by the 17th December** in order to begin becoming familiar with Darwen Terracotta's making processes and the factory space. The factory then closes for approximately two weeks, reopening in January when the residency dates will continue.

An exhibition of the residency's final outcome will be shown at the National Festival of Making on the 4 - 6 July 2025.

Overview

Art in Manufacturing is a residency and commissioning programme that places artists and makers in residence with manufacturers and spaces of making, creating collaborations with their workforces in Lancashire and beyond.

This commission is for one artist practitioner or collective to undertake a residency with the Blackburn based manufacturer, Darwen Terracotta & Faience as part of the Art in Manufacturing commissioning programme, between the period of December 2024 and June 2025. The residency dates during this period are flexible and will be determined in conversation with the National Festival of Making and Darwen Terracotta, however we expect the **residency to begin in December 2024** with exact dates to be agreed.

The residency at Darwen Terracotta will invite the artist / collective to work alongside, and draw inspiration from, the manufacturer. A National Festival of Making partner since 2016, Darwen Terracotta has previously been host to three Art in Manufacturing residencies with established and emerging practitioners.

This commission includes access to certain materials and/or production hours provided by the manufacturer - the exact details of this arrangement are to be agreed between the manufacturer, producing team and artist during the residency period.

After an initial R&D period, the resident artist is invited to develop a proposal for a new piece of work to be made in response to / in collaboration with Darwen Terracotta.

As an outcome of this residency, you will make a new piece of work/body of work that will be exhibited at the National Festival of Making 2025 (4th - 6th July) in a venue to be determined, dependent on the work developed.

Unfortunately, we cannot consider proposals from artists who are unavailable from 30th June - 7th July 2025.



About Darwen Terracotta & Faience

Darwen Terracotta & 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.

The manufacturer produces elements of traditional terracotta restoration, bespoke architectural facades, abstract ceramic glazes and handcrafted faience tiles. Their incredible work can be seen in Grayson Perry's 'A House for Essex', and locations as prestigious as The Royal Albert Hall, The London Coliseum, Battersea Power Station and internationally, with significant markets developing in New York and the wider US.

This will be the fourth Art in Manufacturing residency with the industry leaders, partners of the National Festival of Making since its formation in 2016.

Previous Art in Manufacturing residencies located at Darwen Terracotta include:

James Bloomfield, Of Heart & Hand, 2017

Hannah Leighton-Boyce, Articulations, 2022

Nehal Aamir, Infinite Hands, 2024

About Art in Manufacturing

Art in Manufacturing is the National Festival of Making's headline commissioning programme providing artists with an incomparable platform to make new work in and alongside some of the UK's major manufacturers and making industries.

Each season of Art in Manufacturing sees artists paired with leading manufacturers and unique spaces of making, from artisan producers to industry giants. The residency programme creates collaborations with highly skilled workforces, facilitates access to cutting edge technologies and unearths hidden heritages - all resulting in remarkable contemporary artworks that form an integral part of the National Festival of Making programme.

Art in Manufacturing has previously included artistic residences with manufacturers working in food, textile, paper, plastic, cardboard, ceramics, wallpaper, textile and metal. Commissioned artists co-create with factory workforces who share skills, craftsmanship and personal histories that often directly inform artistic outcomes that interlace traditional techniques and materials to create astonishing, collaborative work across sculpture, film, dance, sound, print and installation.

The National Festival of Making is a unique celebration of UK making, from the kitchen table to the factory floor. Presenting a programme of work that combines art, manufacturing, making and communities, we commission artists to create world class works, a year round programme and a participatory free family festival for all to enjoy. During the Festival weekend, we fill the streets of Blackburn with free participatory making opportunities, workshops, performances, talks, exhibitions, makers markets and more.



“The festival is an important component in the cultural landscape of Blackburn, Lancashire and the North of England and acts as a key advocate for meaningful cultural regeneration... totally joyful, free, gorgeous creativity...even we have been left awe-struck by Blackburn last weekend.”

– Mag North

“Blackburn, the northern town boasts a population that works in making and manufacturing at a rate twice the national average. It makes Blackburn the perfect place to host the National Festival of Making.”

– BBC Radio 4 Front Row

Residency Outline

This commission is for one artist practitioner or collective to undertake a residency with the manufacturer Darwen Terracotta & Faience, between the period of **December 2024** and **June 2025** (exact dates to be agreed) as part of Art in Manufacturing Season Seven. As an outcome of this residency, the artist will make a new piece of work/body of work to present as part of the National Festival of Making 2025 programme.

As well as taking direct inspiration from the factory floor, there is opportunity to study the history of manufacturing in Lancashire and the wider UK; its associated communities and making practices; impact and connection to global making; contemporary making practices, products and position in the contemporary making landscape - economically, culturally, environmentally and socially.

As part of the residency, you will have the possibility of access to certain materials and/or production hours provided by the manufacturer - the exact full details of this arrangement are to be agreed between the manufacturer, producing team and artist during the residency period.

Darwen Terracotta has been resident to three Art in Manufacturing residencies since the commissioning programme began. Whilst past outcomes have always been based in ceramics, for this residency **there is no expectation** that the artist must have a ceramics-based practice, or that the material outcome must be terracotta based. You can explore all previous artistic outcomes from across the Art in Manufacturing programme [here](#).



Residency Dates

We expect the artist to **begin their residency in December 2024**, with at least one visit to the factory by 17th December when the company closes for approx 2 weeks.

In **December and January**, the artist will engage in an R&D carrying out research, development and testing - exploring the factory floor, making connections with the workforce, testing material/medium based outcomes and developing their ideas.

At the end of **January 2025**, the artist will present a proposal to the manufacturing team so that a making timeline can be agreed. This is particularly important for any artist whose work aims to use the materials or technology of the factory to create the basis of the work, **due to the factory's current manufacturing timeline**.

The residency will continue through to **June 2025**, with the further development and realisation of the final artwork. Throughout this process, the artist will be supported by regular in-person and online meetings with the Programme Curator and Producing Team.

Each residency is unique and is designed in response to the partnership between individual artists and their residency partner. Each programme of work is agreed with the Curator and manufacturer depending on the artist's availability and location, and the specific industry preference.

An exhibition of the residency's final outcome will be shown at the National Festival of Making (**4 - 6 July 2025**) alongside other Art in Manufacturing commissioned artists from Season Seven and as part of the wider Festival programme.

The shape of this work, venue and audience will be developed with the support of the Programme Curator and Producing team.



Image: Hannah Leighton-Boyce + Darwen Terracotta, 2022. Photo by Danny Allison.

We'd like to hear from artists and makers with a practice which may reflect the following:

- An interest in making in a heritage context - craftsmanship and traditional making
- An interest in the future of making, advanced technologies and new digital works
- Artists / makers who are interested in engaging with unique, often industrial processes, products and making methods
- Artists who make work in the public realm
- Work that engages audiences within a festival setting

We are looking to create exceptional cross-disciplinary collaborations and residencies so welcome responses from artists / makers working in any art form. We are interested in hearing imaginative ideas and approaches for this artistic residency that should connect with the diversity of people who engage with our programme.

Further Background Information:

[Art in Manufacturing Website](#)

[Art in Manufacturing Films](#)

[National Festival of Making Website](#)

[Darwen Terracotta & Faience Website](#)

Key Information:

The project budget for this commission is £8000 to cover your artist fees, expenses, materials and any other associated costs.

You will receive an additional £500 towards the cost of your travel if needed.

You will be required to provide a risk assessment and have your own Public Liability Insurance for £5m.

You will be provided with the National Festival of Making's Environmental Policy. We ask you to refer to this, and when developing your concept, to give consideration to the environmental impact the work will have.

Unfortunately we will not consider proposals from artists who are unavailable between 30 June - 7 July 2025.

How to Apply

We aim to avoid the necessity for artists and makers to provide extensive information. To apply, please send the following three pieces of information by email to info@festivalofmaking.co.uk with Art in Manufacturing Application as the subject title.

1. A 500 word expression of interest with reference to:

- What attracts you to this commission
- Outline of what form your final work might take (we understand and encourage that, due to the residency nature of this opportunity, these are preliminary ideas that will change once influenced by the factory setting - we are not expecting complete proposals)
- Outline of your interest in working within the making setting, manufacturing technologies, processes, materials and /or the manufacturer's workforce
- Any experience and interest in engaging with communities in a participatory setting
- Any experience or interest in presenting artwork within the public realm and/or festival settings
- Where you are based geographically

2. Links to your work online or a PDF (max file size 10mb), referring to projects, commissions or elements of your practice that have the most relevance to Art in Manufacturing.

3. A simple budget outline including details of your artist fee/daily rates/outline costs. If you reside outside of the North West, please also give an indication of any additional travel costs necessary to realise the commission.



Deadline for Applications:

Monday 25th November 2024, 10.00am.

Interviews will take place on Monday 2nd December.

You will be notified if you have been selected for an interview no later than **Wednesday 27th November, 5pm**. We may be able to accommodate online interviews - please notify us if you may require this in your application.

We welcome applications in alternative formats, please email info@festivalofmaking.co.uk if you would like to discuss this further.

The National Festival of Making CIC's aim is that our workforce, contributors and partners are representative of the diverse society we live in and that each individual feels respected, supported and able to give their best. We encourage applications from all backgrounds and communities and welcome discussions about specific individual requirements. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact us by emailing info@festivalofmaking.co.uk.

Interviews

Interviews will take place on Monday 2nd December at Darwen Terracotta & Faience, Blackburn.

You will be interviewed by members of the National Festival of Making team - Programme Curator, Elena Jackson and Producer, Daisy Williamson along with members of the Darwen Terracotta team.

Interviews are expected to last approx 30 mins. It is anticipated that Interviewees will be notified of the outcome no later than Wednesday 4th December.





www.artinmanufacturing.co.uk