

## ART IN MANUFACTURING COMMISSIONS AT THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING:

## OPEN CALL FOR ARTIST RESIDENCIES WITH CARDBOARD BOX COMPANY AND SWS UK

### ESSENTIAL INFO:

National Festival of Making releases two new Art in Manufacturing opportunities for artists/makers to become Artist in Residence at one of two partner manufacturers: Cardboard Box Company and SWS UK.

New work made during the residency will be shown at the National Festival of Making Weekend in July 2023.

#### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

All Creatives including but not limited to Artists, Makers and Designers.

#### **BUDGET:**

Project budget for each commission in the region of £5000.

#### **DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:**

Noon on Wednesday 29th March.

Interviews will take place on Wednesday 5th April. You will be notified if you have been selected for interview by no later than 31st March.

#### **PROJECT PRESENTATION:**

7th, 8th & 9th July at the National Festival of Making 2023. Unfortunately, we will not consider proposals from artists who are unavailable on these dates.

## ABOUT

**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. The National Festival of Making weekend returns to Lancashire on the 8th and 9th of July 2023 filling the streets of Blackburn with free participatory making opportunities, workshops, performances, talks, exhibitions, markets and more.

**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.

Each season of Art in Manufacturing sees artists paired with leading manufacturers, 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 residency outcomes: Cardboard Cinema by Hannah Fox + Cardboard Box Company; Traysway by Ruth Jones + Cherry Tree Bakery; Chemistry and Magic Down the Line by Nicola Ellis + Ritherdon; Chromatogram by Lazerian + Cardboard Box Company. Photography by Richard Tymon, Gunner Gu & Robin Zahler.

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.

**To learn more about our work, visit:**

[www.artinmanufacturing.co.uk](http://www.artinmanufacturing.co.uk)

[www.festivalofmaking.co.uk](http://www.festivalofmaking.co.uk)

## THE OPPORTUNITIES

**There are two commission opportunities available as follows:**

- One artist practitioner or collective will undertake a residency with **Cardboard Box Company based in Accrington**
- One artist practitioner or collective will undertake a residency with **SWS UK based in Lancaster**

**During the residencies, commissioned artists will make new work to present as part of the National Festival of Making weekend in July 2023.**

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 residencies you will have access to materials made by the manufacturer - full details to be agreed between each manufacturer, producing team and artist.

Work created will be presented in its final form alongside other Season Five commissioned artists at the National Festival of Making in July 2023. The shape of the work, venue and audience will be developed with the support of the curator and producing team.

### ABOUT THE CARDBOARD BOX COMPANY RESIDENCY

**This commission is for one artist practitioner or collective to undertake a residency with the manufacturer, Cardboard Box Company, between the period of April and July 2023 with exact dates to be agreed, as part of Art in Manufacturing Season Five.**

Cardboard Box Company is an award winning manufacturer in Accrington that designs, prints and manufactures corrugated cardboard into just about every conceivable application for industrial and retail packaging solutions. Their state-of-the-art plant has seen fast growth in recent years through an incredible story of investment and innovation. Whilst creating more

than 25,000 solutions for customers, the firm remains an inventive, creative and people-centric company, committed to the local area.

**Read more about Cardboard Box Company here:**

[www.thecardboardbox.co.uk](http://www.thecardboardbox.co.uk)

National Festival of Making and its Art in Manufacturing programme has worked in partnership with the team at Cardboard Box Company since 2017, **developing a unique partnership between artistic organisation and industrial maker**. Previous projects have included the co-creation of new work within artistic residencies and the wider festival programme:

- **Chromatogram** - Lazerian + Cardboard Box Company:  
<https://artinmanufacturing.co.uk/artists/lazerian-cardboard-box-company/>  
Watch the film documenting the residency here: [https://youtu.be/tUiMH\\_6CCNw](https://youtu.be/tUiMH_6CCNw)
- **The Cardboard Cinema** - Hannah Fox + Cardboard Box Company:  
<https://artinmanufacturing.co.uk/artists/hannah-fox-cardboard-box-company/>
- **Zimoun exhibition:**  
<https://artinmanufacturing.co.uk/zimoun/>
- **Festival in a Box:**  
<https://festivalofmaking.co.uk/projects/lets-make-activity-boxes/>



Inside the factory: Images of Cardboard Box Factory from past Art in Manufacturing residencies. Photography by Richard Tymon.

## ABOUT THE SWS UK RESIDENCY

**This commission is for one artist practitioner or collective to undertake a residency with the manufacturer, SWS UK, between the period of April and July 2023 with exact dates to be agreed, as part of Art in Manufacturing Season Five.**

To date, Art in Manufacturing has worked with 21 artisan and mass manufacturing partners. In Season 5, we are delighted to launch an opportunity to work with a new partner, SWS UK.

SWS UK is a leading manufacturer of physical security products including security shutters, retractable gates, window bars and garage doors. The company, which was founded nearly 40 years ago is based just outside Lancaster, in Cloughton, Lancashire. In 2019 it became part of the European Industrial StellaGroup bringing knowledge, experience and technical knowhow from its European sister companies.

SWS UK, with its workforce of just over 100 are proud to be a British manufacturer with all manufacturing processes taking place under one roof. The in-house research and development team ensures they are always at the forefront of technology and continuous product developments.

Read more about SWS UK here:

[www.sws.co.uk](http://www.sws.co.uk)



A Subjective Mix by Liz West + Graham & Brown; Behind the scenes photo of Liz Wilson's residency with CNC Robotics; Factory textures at Darwen Terracotta during Hannah Leighton Boyce's residency; Of Heart and Hand by James Bloomfield + Darwen Terracotta. Photography by Lee Smillie, Guner Gu and Danny Allison.

## MAKING AN APPLICATION

We are interested in hearing imaginative ideas and approaches for the artistic residencies that should connect with the diversity of people who engage with our programme.

**For both residency opportunities, 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

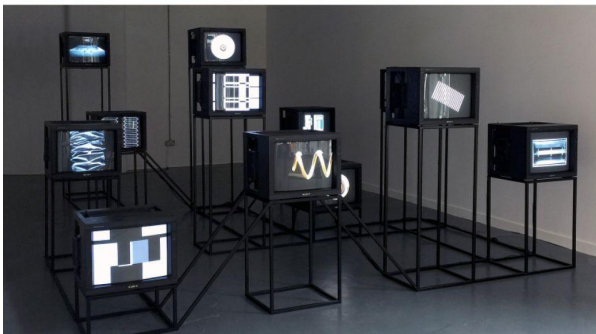
We are looking to create exceptional cross-disciplinary collaborations and residencies so welcome responses from artists / makers working in any art form.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION AND BUDGET

The project budget for each commission is **£5000**. The project budget should cover your artist fees, expenses and materials plus any other associated costs.

A risk assessment and proof of Public Liability Insurance of £5m will be required.

When developing your concept, please give consideration to the environmental impact the work will have.



Manufactories by Tim Denton + OEP UK; Nicola Ellis during her residency with Ritherdon; The Optical Mechanical by Liz Wilson + Spiroflow; Art in Manufacturing Panel during the National Festival of Making talks programme co-created with Creative Lancashire. Photography by Simon Bray, Lee Smillie, Robin Zahler and Danny Allison

## KEY DATES FOR 2023 COMMISSION

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Noon on 29th March 2023

Interviews will take place on Wednesday 5th April. You will be notified if you have been selected for interview by no later than 31st March.

### RESIDENCY DATES:

Projects have seen artists work in-situ with manufacturers for more intense periods over a number of weeks or work within an agreed residency schedule of one to two days per week over a longer timeline. Each programme of work is agreed with the Curator and manufacturer depending on the artist's availability and location, and the specific industry preference.

### EXHIBITION OF FINAL OUTCOME AT THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING:

7th, 8th & 9th July 2023. Unfortunately we will not consider proposals from artists who are unavailable on these dates.

## HOW TO APPLY

We aim to avoid the necessity for artists and makers to provide extensive information. As part of the open call we request a 500 word **expression of interest** with reference to:

- Which residency opportunity interests you and why
- Outline of your interest in working with manufacturing technologies and / or materials
- Experience and interest in engaging with communities in a participatory setting
- Experience or interest in presenting artwork within the public realm and festival setting
- Links to your work online or a PDF no more than 10mb, with reference where possible to projects, commissions or elements of your practice that have the most relevance to Art in Manufacturing.

At this point we also ask that you provide us with 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.

**Send Expressions of Interest to [helen@festivalofmaking.co.uk](mailto:helen@festivalofmaking.co.uk) with Art in Manufacturing Application as the subject title.**

**We will be in touch regarding your application no later than 3 weeks after the deadline.**

Get in touch with us if you have any questions regarding this opportunity. If you would like the application information in a different format or to discuss alternative ways to submit an application, please email [helen@festivalofmaking.co.uk](mailto:helen@festivalofmaking.co.uk). We are open to many alternative ways to submit including video/audio recordings of commission proposals.

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. Please contact us by emailing Helen on the details above, or email [info@festivalofmaking.co.uk](mailto:info@festivalofmaking.co.uk)

## FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Artinmanufacturing.co.uk](http://Artinmanufacturing.co.uk)

[Artinmanufacturing.co.uk/artists](http://Artinmanufacturing.co.uk/artists)

[Festivalofmaking.co.uk](http://Festivalofmaking.co.uk)

[Thecardboardbox.co.uk](http://Thecardboardbox.co.uk)

[SWS.co.uk](http://SWS.co.uk)



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