



Crafts Council
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CRAFT SCHOOL: A SUMMER OF PLAYFUL MAKING AT THE CRAFTS COUNCIL GALLERY, 9 JULY – 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

June 2022

Craft School: A summer of playful making, is a chance for children and young people to get making and be inspired by the Crafts Council Collection and brilliant creations made by school students from across the UK.

This summer the Crafts Council Gallery will become a hive of activity where visitors can create, play, and experiment with clays, textiles, paper, and card at a 'making table' and meet others who also love craft. There will be a free weekly workshop held every Wednesday in August, led by our friendly staff and skilled craft educators.

Craft School will display six winning entries from our national school's competition Craft School: Yinka's Challenge, developed in collaboration with multi-disciplinary British-Nigerian artist Yinka Ilori. Learners from across KS1 – KS4 were invited to explore themes of play, storytelling, and empowerment through making.

Out of the 100 entries that were submitted, the judging panel selected six winners of the challenge including: the students of the lower primary class at Richard Cloudesley Special School in Islington who were inspired by upcycling projects by Yinka Ilori to create a mobile using decorated old CDs for their classroom: and Diane Mwamikazi, a key stage 4 student at Bury College who created a colourful and richly patterned miniature pavilion inspired by the clothing of her Congolese and Rwandan family members. Collectively, these works celebrate making by young people and explore how craft can be a place for young makers to develop and reflect on their histories, cultures, and identities.

Alongside these schools' projects, visitors will be able to handle and experience craft by leading professional makers from our Collections. Each of these objects explore ideas of materiality and play and include Colour Breeze#1 by mischer'traxler studio, a 3-metre-long installation of paper-like circles which light up in a vibrant display of colours once visitors interact with them: leather bottles moulded on to found objects by Simon Hasan: and wooden objects by Howard Raybould who was the head prop maker on the iconic film 2001: A Space Odyssey.

The Crafts Council believe that every child and young person has the right to explore their own creativity through making. Making with their hands helps young people to develop problem-solving and communication skills alongside practical

skills of creating, mending, and repairing. Craft de-stresses, empowers, and contributes to wellbeing and happiness.

As craft education is in steep decline in UK schools, we have developed a teaching and learning framework 'Make First' which is driven by learners' own interests. Make First encourages getting craft materials into students' hands allowing for open-ended and instinctive making through material exploration and development. Craft School is an opportunity for parents, caregivers, and teachers to connect with the Crafts Council.

Craft School is the perfect place for families, children, and young people to discover more about craft, have a go themselves and start their own journey to becoming a maker in a friendly and inclusive space.

Craft School is part of the Crafts Council's Make! Craft! Live! programme. A season of nationwide exhibitions, learning events, fairs, and digital activities that celebrates the value of craft to empower, enrich and connect our society.

Crafts Council Gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 11am – 5pm. Drop-in or book tickets in advance at <https://crafts-council.arttickets.org.uk/>

Graphic design for Craft School is by Daly & Lyon.

Quotes

“I am trying to really encourage young people in schools to tell their own personal stories within design, whether it's about family or friends or experiences. I think anyone trying to develop their voice in their making, my first tip would be to be proud of your story and don't be afraid to be vulnerable in your work”

Yinka Ilori, Crafts Council Trustee, and co-creator of the national school competition Craft School: Yinka's Challenge.

“We hope Craft School will inspire more people to experience varied materials, learn new skills, produce pieces full of pride and find ways to express themselves. But most importantly, we want more people to benefit from the magic and joy making brings.” **Nicky Dewar, Director of Learning and Skills**

- Ends -

For more press information, including images, contact Jenny Houghton PR, jenny@jhoughtonpr.co.uk

For more information on the Crafts Council visit www.craftscouncil.org.uk and follow @CraftsCouncilUK on Twitter and Facebook

#craftschool

Notes to Editors

Craft School workshop programme

- 3 August, 1-2.30pm, FREE family session with Drew Richards, outside in the Council Gallery forecourt [RESERVE A PLACE](#)
- 10 August, 1-2.30pm, FREE family session with Amy Leung, outside in the Council Gallery forecourt [RESERVE A PLACE](#)
- 17 August, 1-2.30pm, FREE family session with Katherine Smith, outside in the Council Gallery forecourt [RESERVE A PLACE](#)
- 24 August, 1-2.30pm, FREE family session with Liaqat Rasul, outside in the Council Gallery forecourt [RESERVE A PLACE](#)

About Craft School supporters

Cox London are the Crafts Council's Learning & Business Skills Supporters, reflecting their ongoing commitment to helping support the future generations of craft. Cox London and the Crafts Council work closely to help ignite a passion for craft amongst school children and young people as well as supporting teachers, craft makers and craft businesses. Cox London designed and made the Craft School awards.

About the Crafts Council

The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals and can change our world for the better. Through our activities we inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses.

We do this by:

- championing craft and its positive impact on society by showing diverse examples of craft and making, and by reaching new communities who have previously felt excluded from our activity
- increasing levels of craft education and participation by equipping and connecting craft educators, and by campaigning for craft on the curriculum
- growing the market for craft by supporting craft businesses and providing leadership to the craft sector
- building a sustainable and inclusive craft sector by providing support, and by listening to new and existing stakeholders in order to co-create relevant and impactful activity

We want to share our power, work with others, and increase the agency of our communities in order to create an inclusive and thriving craft sector.



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