

**Crafts Council  
Recruitment**

**Maker Open Call - Summer Studio  
October 2022**





## About us

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The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft.

We inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses at a time when the public's interest in making has never been greater.

We believe that craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals and in doing so will change our world for the better.

The Crafts Council Collection was formed in 1972 to document trends and innovation in the materials, processes, skills and technologies of contemporary craft. It is now the UK's foremost collection of contemporary craft and comprises a primary collection, a handling collection, library and archive.

Read more about the collection here:

[craftscouncil.org.uk/collections/about-collections](https://craftscouncil.org.uk/collections/about-collections)

# Overview

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## **Job Title**

Maker

## **Salary**

£9,000 - Maker Fee (£300 per day for approx 30 days of work over a 9-month period, starting in October 2022 - inclusive of any travel and accommodation)

£6,000 – Production Fee (inclusive of all materials, equipment and transport relating to the development of the installation and managed by the Crafts Council team. Production costs relating to the public programme of events will be covered separately.

## **Contract type**

Freelance Commission

## **Reporting to**

Sumitra Upham, Head of Public Programmes  
Hannah Ford, Programmes Producer

## **Location**

We are based in Islington, London.

## Job Outline

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Summer Studio invites an LGBTQIA+ maker, or collective of makers, to transform the Crafts Council Gallery into an open studio, inviting visitors to learn more about their practice and participate in the development of a new collaborative work.

Working closely with the Crafts Council team, the maker/s will create a new installation for the Crafts Council Gallery alongside the public and support the development of a programme of activities for different types of audiences that engage with themes connected to their practice.

The studio is a platform for craft that is socially engaged. It's aim is to support makers whose work is collaborative, participatory and developed in dialogue with the public. Rather than a traditional exhibition, the Summer Studio is an active space brought to life through programming and collaboration.

Responding to ideas of queerness in relation to making, this year's Summer Studio programme aims to create a supportive environment for LGBTQIA+ makers and communities and to offer activities and wider engagement opportunities for those interested in learning about queer craft.

## Background and context

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The Crafts Council Gallery opened in Islington, London in 2021, with a mission to build public awareness of craft and promote its value in society.

Designed as a space to support craft innovation, public engagement and community development, the Crafts Council Gallery runs a hybrid programme of exhibitions, discussions and learning and participation activities for all audiences from different lived experiences. It is a space for collaboration and critical debate, where visitors come together to explore the meaning of craft in the world today and develop work that challenges and expands traditional forms of making.

Through our programmes, we aim to develop long-term relationships with makers and communities who will become partners, critical friends of the Crafts Council, co-creating work with us.

The Summer Studio forms part of Crafts Council's wider work with LGBTQIA+ audiences. It is a new strand of work that represents a long-term commitment to supporting LGBTQIA+ makers and communities. Early steps in this journey have included an internal consultation process exploring how the organisation can better serve LGBTQIA+ audiences and support LGBTQIA+ staff; the development of key partnerships with LGBTQIA+ community groups and organisations; closed workshops for LGBTQIA+ and queer families to come together and make, supported by an artist; and a maker-led project working with older LGBTQIA+ people.

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Summer Studio represents the next stage of this process and is an opportunity to deepen our organisational knowledge and strengthen relationships with LGBTQIA+ audiences, makers and organisations.

Summer Studio aims to invite a wider audience to explore queer craft and create a supportive environment for conversations that can inform our long-term planning in this area.



# Deliverables

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- **Research and Development:** From October 2022, to begin developing a proposal for a new work designed to be made in collaboration with the public, responding to ideas of queerness in relation to making. The proposal will be developed in dialogue with the Crafts Council's Programmes Producer and Head of Public Programmes. They will support the artist in gaining access to materials and resources to develop their thinking. The Crafts Council's Primary and Handling collection and archives are an available resource for the artist in this research.
- **Residency / Commission:** To be available to take up residency at the Crafts Council Gallery for at least 4 weeks between 7 June – 8 July 2023 (4 days a week, Wednesday- Saturday) where the artist will work with the public to develop the commission through a series of focused workshops.
- **Exhibition:** Once the work has been made, it will be displayed in the gallery for the public to view and interact with. The work should be designed to withstand public interaction – thought should be given to its materiality and durability.
- **Events:** To work with the Crafts Council team to help shape an accompanying public programme of 15+ events in the Crafts Council Gallery that expand on the themes of the commission through suggesting artists, thinkers and facilitators to run these sessions. The costs for this will be covered separately by the Crafts Council.





Image credit: Iona Wolff

# Objectives & Person Specification

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## Objectives

- To provide a platform for bridging relationships between makers and the public.
- To demonstrate the value of collaborative making in tackling critical social issues.
- To support LGBTQIA+ makers to develop new work.

## Person Specification

We'd like to work with a maker or group of makers who:

- Are based in the UK
- Has a socially-engaged practice and experience of collaborating with the public / communities to develop work
- Has experience in organising and running public activities
- Is able to demonstrate how this opportunity will benefit their practice
- Identifies as being LGBTQIA+. We would welcome applications from makers who also identify as being disabled and/or Black, Asian or people of colour.

# Guaranteed Interview Assessment

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We operate a Guaranteed Interview scheme. This means that we guarantee to interview any applicant who identifies as from African or Caribbean heritage; Arabic heritage; Latin American heritage; East Asian, South Asian and South East Asian heritage; people from traveller communities; disabled people, whose application meets the essential criteria for the role.

The previous pages detail the essential and desirable requirements for the post. For scoring purposes, Crafts Council will use the following ratings:

1. No evidence
2. Little/some evidence
3. Good evidence
4. Excellent evidence

To be invited to interview under our Guaranteed Interview Scheme, applications must meet the minimum criteria for the role. This is 65% of the shortlisting score across all essential criteria.

A minimum of two individuals will assess all applications, they will separately score all answers 1-4. The results are then converted into an overall percentage score and if this is equal to or more than 65% the candidate applying under Guaranteed Interview Scheme is invited to interview. However candidates scoring 1 in any of the essential criteria will not be invited to interview.

# How to Apply

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To apply to this opportunity, send a document (in a PDF format) answering the questions below. Please also provide an accompanying visual portfolio of work (as a separate PDF):

- Tell us about yourself and your work (max 500 words).
- What interests you about this commission and how would this opportunity enable you to develop your practice in new ways? (max 500 words).
- How would you work with the public to develop this work? (max 500 words).

We also accept video or audio applications (max 10 minutes in length). You can send a link to a video or send a voice note answering the above questions, along with your portfolio to:  
[exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk)

If you have access requirements and would like support with your application, or if you would like to arrange a call to discuss the opportunity or your eligibility, please email:  
[exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk)

All applications should be addressed to Hannah Ford, Programmes Producer and submitted to:  
[exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk](mailto:exhibitions@craftscouncil.org.uk)

Applications close:

**Monday 7th November 2022, 9am**

Interviews (in the style of an informal workshop):

**Wednesday 23rd November 2022 (time TBC)**

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We aspire to remove barriers and be open to all and strongly encourage applications from individuals currently underrepresented in the Creative and Cultural Sectors. This includes but is not limited to people of African or Caribbean heritage; Arabic heritage; Latin American heritage; East Asian, South Asian and South East Asian heritage; people from traveller communities; disabled people; LGBTQIA+ people and people from a low-income background. We fully support Access to Work applications.

To apply for the role, you must be eligible to work in the UK - Crafts Council is not a sponsoring Organisation.

### **Access**

We welcome applications in written, audio or video formats. To submit applications in an alternative format, or to request information in an alternative format please email:  
recruitment@craftscouncil.org.uk

If you would like more information about accessibility before applying, please see the guide we have [here](#).

