

Craft School: Jasleen's Challenge

People and Place CPD Building Community with Fidelia Schlegl



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Welcome

Welcome to Crafts Council Learning!

Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses. We believe craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals, and, in so doing will change our world for the better.

We work to ensure craft is a key part of everyone's education and work closely with our network of schools, teachers and maker educators to secure the future of craft in the classroom.

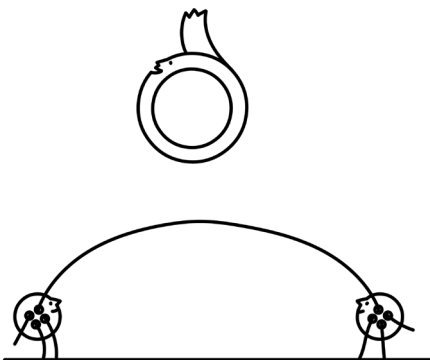
Our education work is underpinned by Make First, our craft education pedagogy.

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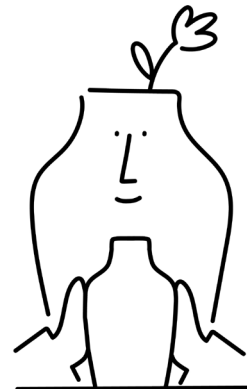
Make First

Make First is the Crafts Council's craft education pedagogy. We've examined our work with learners, teachers and maker educators to pinpoint what's special about craft learning and packed it all into the Make First approach. Make First is an open ended, non linear, playful way of teaching craft in the classroom.

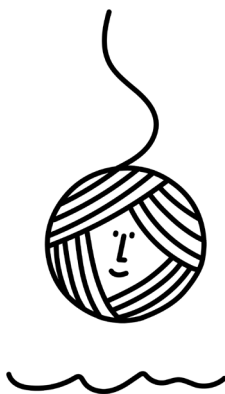
Make First makes use of open ended briefs, extended making time and learner led projects. By asking learners to start with materials and develop their ideas through making we encourage the development of creativity, problem solving and critical thinking. Below are key principles of Make First:



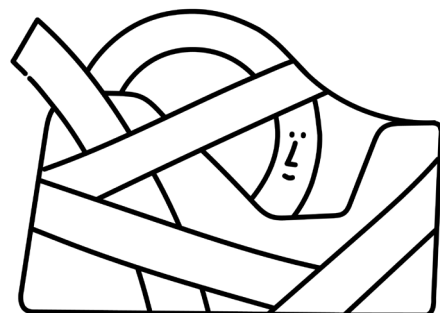
Make First is playful and open-ended; enjoy the making and don't focus on the final outcome.



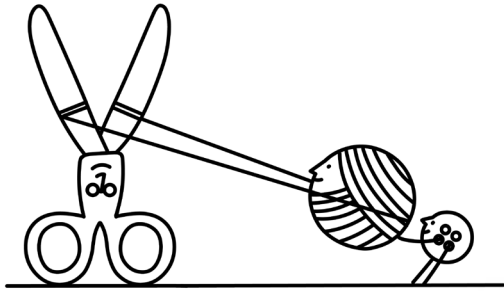
Explore your interests and develop your voice as a maker.



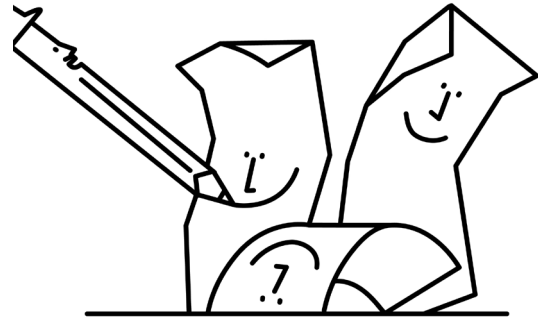
Dive straight into making!
Pick your materials and have a go.



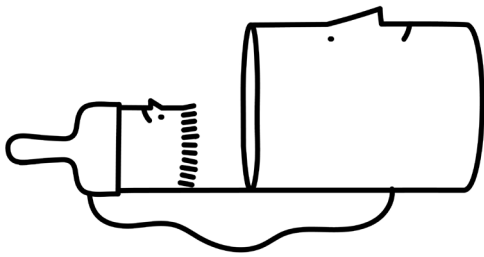
Start again, work on several things at once or repeat the same thing with different materials.



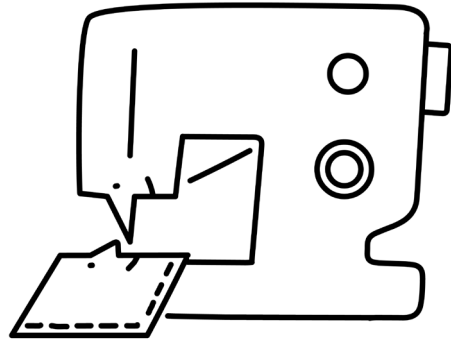
Experiment with materials to develop your ideas.



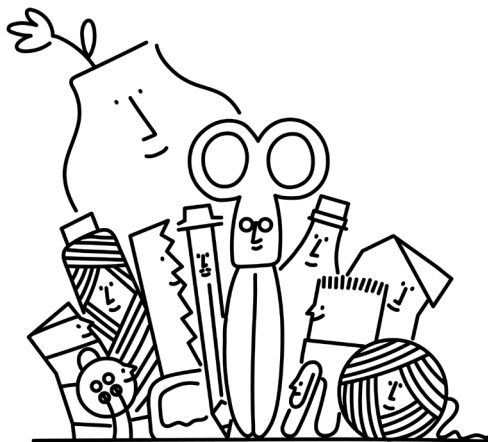
Make First is about the joyfulness and pleasure that comes from making.



Fail and try again to become a braver maker.



Build skills and knowledge from your interactions with materials and the physical world.

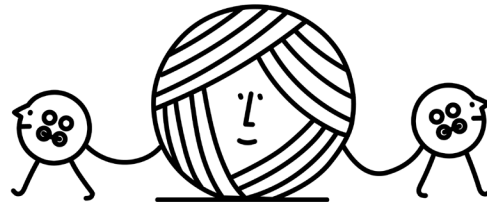


Learn together as a community.

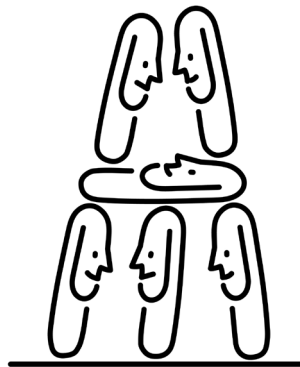
Make First can be flexibly applied to different learning outcomes, it's not a rigid framework and can be adapted to suit the needs of learners and learning outcomes.

Its foundation in exploration, creativity and collaboration allows for Make First to be used in a variety of different contexts and support cross curricular making aims.

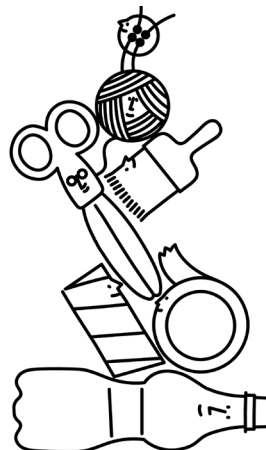
These is how Make First can look in your classrooms:



Make First is supported through a classroom environment that encourages collaboration and supports learners to make their own choices.



Make First can be scaffolded by discovery resources, challenges or technical drawings.



Make First can support a range of learning outcomes across the curriculum.

Maker Champion, Jasleen Kaur's *Tools for Living* series, in Crafts Council Handling Collection
Photo: Elijah Serumaga



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Craft School: Jasleen's Challenge

Craft School is the nationwide craft challenge, open to all learners from Early Years Foundation Stage to Key Stage 4 (ages 3-16). Each year, we invite learners to create their own 3D work in response to a creative brief.

Craft School also invests in teachers and educators. It offers a package of resources including practical CPD sessions and online teacher support sessions to help build their craft skills, confidence and networks.

This resource accompanies our CPD session held on 21st January 2026. [You can find the recording here.](#)

For this year's Craft School challenge, Jasleen Kaur invites learners to use craft and making to explore the theme of **Community**.

Educators and learners will be working together to reflect on the communities they are part of, whether personal, local, global, or digital, and express their ideas through craft.

This is because we recognise that exploring identity, culture and the world around us is pivotal for young people. Craft provides a unique space for exploration, meaningful making and collaborative learning. Making together can help us imagine new possibilities, providing the perfect opportunity to think differently about what we see around us.

4

Building Community with Fidelia Schlegl

Fidelia Schlegl is a German visual artist, based in London. She graduated from MA Illustration at Camberwell College of Arts in London, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Fidelia's interested in the intersection between experimental comics and contemporary drawing. In this context, she plays with readability and abstraction, leaving room for different interpretations.

Her practice mainly consists of wordless comics and experimental drawing. Thematically she explores things that are hard to put into words: human relationships and emotions, connections between people and places, and the meaning of feeling home and like you belong.

Alongside her artistic practice, she's passionate about community organising, realising artist residencies, print publications, socially engaged workshops, and audience participation focused exhibitions.

@fideliaschlegl



Portrait of Fidelia Schlegl
Photo courtesy of the artist

4.2

Make-Along Activity

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Scissors or a craft knife (if you're using a craft knife, you will also need a cutting mat)
- Primer: gesso or white acrylic paint
- 1 large paintbrush for applying primer and at least 1 small or medium-sized paintbrush for painting
- Paints: preferably acrylic paint (alternatively, you can use whatever materials you already have: pastels, crayons, watercolours, gouache, felt-tip pens, markers, etc.)
- Tape (any kind you have available)

Process:

1. Preparation: Priming the Cardboard

Cardboard as a material is great because it's strong and sturdy, yet easy to find for free.

To make it easier to paint on and to make the colours appear more vibrant later, we will start by priming the cardboard with white paint or gesso. Then we will allow it to dry for about 45 minutes.

2. Creating Room Shapes

Cut or tear a variety of shapes that will later represent the rooms. I recommend creating a wide range of different forms. They can be large or small, have roofs or windows, be rectangular, circular, or unusual made-up shapes. At this point we can begin to think of modular systems. This means that individual units come together to form something larger. In the case of a family (the larger unit), it consists of many smaller parts, like parents, children, aunts, uncles, grandparents, family friends, and so on. In the same way, our collection of room shapes will eventually come together to form a whole house.

3. **Planning the Contents of the Rooms**

You can now decide what or who will go inside each room. Will you make a room for your parents, siblings, or a favourite aunt? Maybe one for each friend? You can fill some rooms now and leave space to expand your modular system later as your house grows.

4. **Painting**

Now it's time to paint or draw on your room-shaped cardboard. Look at the shapes and think about which room might suit each person best. You can simply depict the people themselves, but you can also add objects and details that tell stories about them, for example: *My sister always wears black, so I'll paint her in black shirt and trousers.*

She likes chocolate so I will add her favourite kind.

Repeat this process to create multiple rooms for the different members of your community.

5. **Letting the Paint dry**

Once you've finished painting, take a break and let the artwork dry.

6. **Assembling the Rooms into a House**

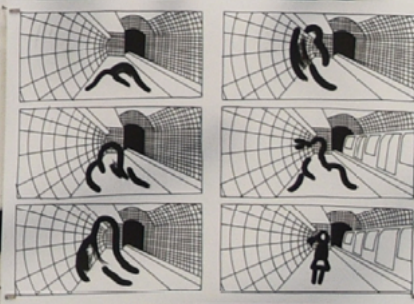
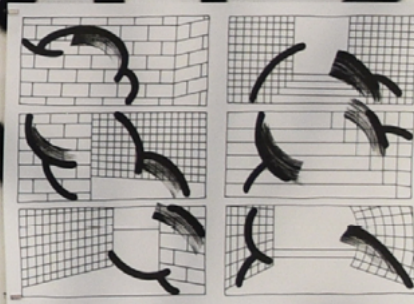
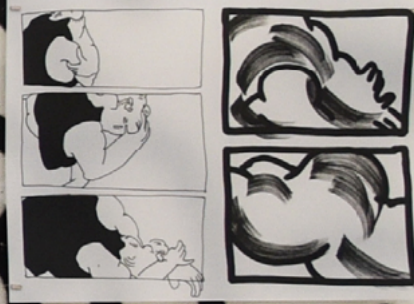
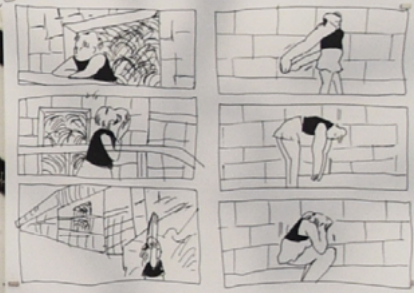
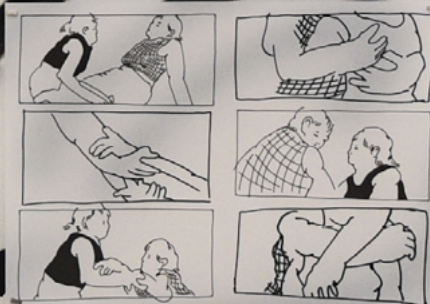
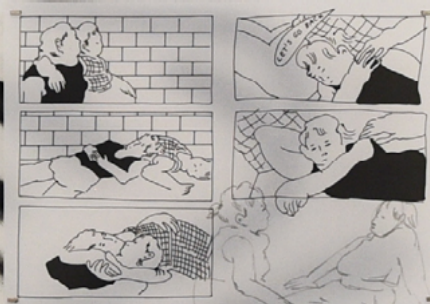
You now have a variety of rooms (in different shapes, sizes, and designs) that you can assemble into a house.

Will the house be really tall or wide? Will it have one or multiple roofs? Does it have a basement? It can also be a round house! It can be anything you want it to be.

Once you are happy with the layout, you can flip the pieces and tape them together on the back to hold your house in place.

7. **Building a City/ Neighbourhood (Optional)**

Once everyone's finished their houses or buildings, you can start arranging them together to form a neighbourhood or small city. Just as real cities are made up of many homes, and each home is made up of different living arrangements like families, friends, and house shares, your community of houses will reflect all the people and stories within it.



4.3

Resources

Artists working with themes of houses and people/ community:

[Bill Traylor](#)

[Sandra Vásquez de la Horra](#)

[Timothy Hyman](#)

[Noah Davis](#)

[Norimitsu Kokubo](#)

[Douglas MacPherson](#)

Artists working with found material (scrap paper/ cardboard/packaging):

[Yoshitomo Nara](#)

[James Castle](#)

Artists working with collage/modular systems:

[Sam Keogh](#)

[Marie Watt](#)

[Do Ho Suh](#)

[Henry McDonald](#)

Artists working within the medium of comics:

[Ivo Puiupo](#)

[Nygel Panasco](#)

[Louka Butzbach](#)





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www.craftscouncil.org.uk

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