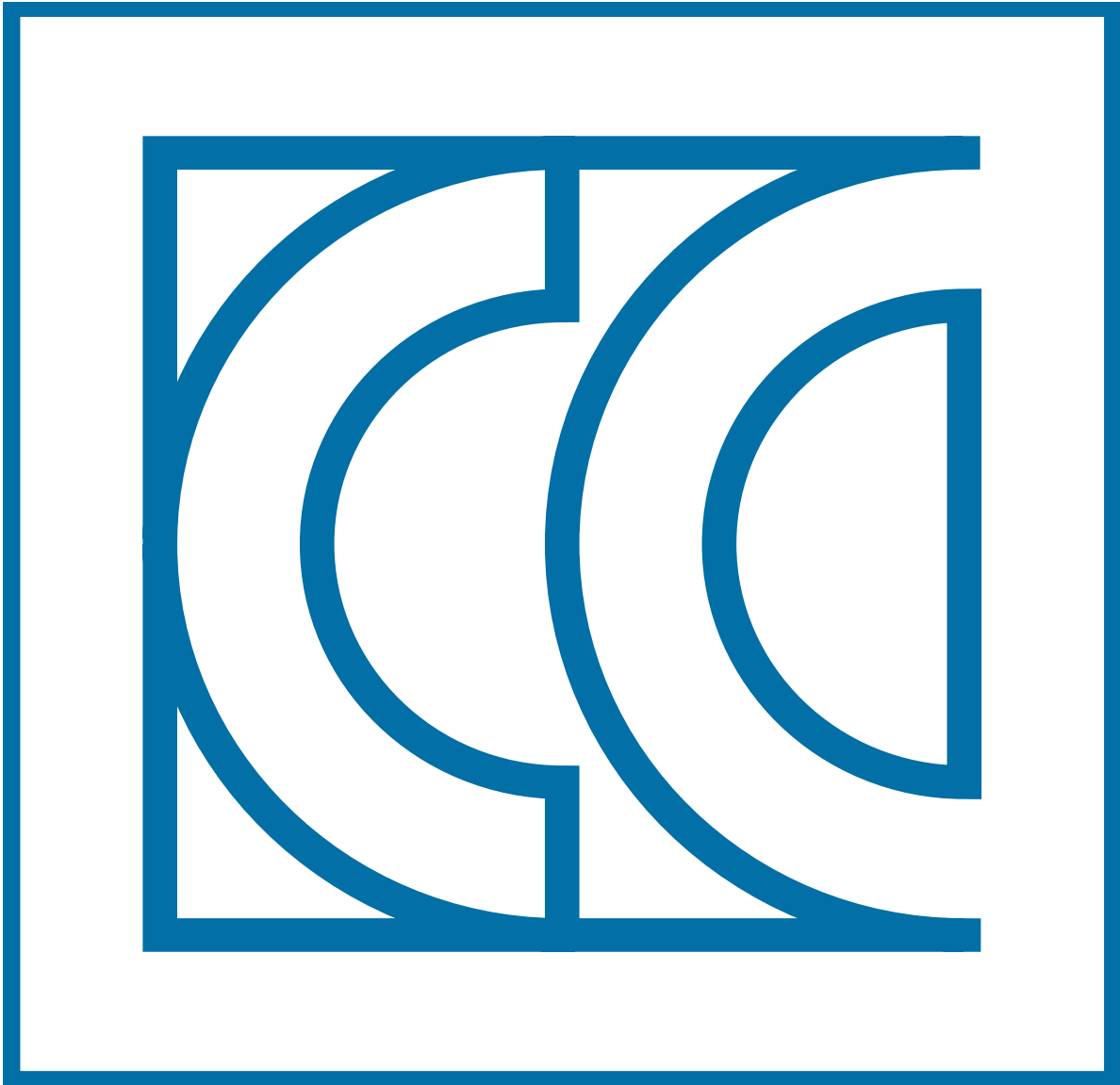


# Craft School: Yinka's Challenge

## Learners Workbook





Hello! I am designer and craft maker Yinka Ilori and I'm really happy to welcome you to Craft School: Yinka's Challenge. This year I am really excited to get you thinking about storytelling, play and empowerment in craft.

This booklet should help you along on your journey to becoming a young crafts person. I hope you really enjoy the tasks and remember to have fun!



# Hello, Lets get crafting!

## Welcome

### **Hello and welcome to Craft School: Yinka's Challenge!**

This year the Crafts Council is working with design and craft superstar Yinka Ilori to get learner of all ages making! Yinka's work celebrates storytelling, play and empowerment, often taking inspiration from his British-Nigerian heritage and reclaiming and reworking old furniture. His colourful murals use bright and bold patterns, in beautiful colours to help spread messages of hope.

As part of this challenge we are asking learners to be inspired by their worlds, like Yinka, and explore craft materials and practices to respond to one of the following craft briefs. You can work on your own or in a group of up to four. Remember to have fun, take risks and get creative!

## **Craft Briefs**

### **Brief 1: Storytelling**

Taking inspiration from Yinka Ilori and Pricegore's Colour Palace, craft a model of a pavilion that celebrates your background or culture.

### **Brief 2: Play**

Using Yinka Ilori's Playland as inspiration create a model using craft materials of an amazing new space that encourages children to play together.

### **Brief 3: Empowerment**

Taking inspiration from Yinka Ilori's Restoration Station choose an everyday item and repair and redecorate it to represent who you are. The re-animated object should tell your story without the need for words

## Key words and definitions:

**Natural:** something growing or occurring in nature

**Manmade:** something made by people

**Restoration:** repairing something and making it new

**Reanimated:** bring something back to life

**Craft:** making things, with skill, by hand

**Pavilion:** a decorative building used as a shelter in a public place

**Culture:** ideas, art, history and beliefs of communities of people

**Model:** a 3D representation of an idea - normally smaller

**Repair:** to fix an object

**Reuse:** use something more than once

**Empowerment:** becoming stronger and more confident about who you are

## Craft Materials and Processes

Craft making includes; basketry, ceramics, furniture, glass, jewellery, metalwork, paper, mosaics, textiles and wood.

You can use the following materials to make the model when responding to your craft brief:

- Natural or man-made woods, including flexi-ply
- Clays and other mouldable or pourable polymers including polyester resins.
- Metals, including easy to manipulate metals such as thin copper sheet and pewter
- Paper, card and board, this could include origami
- Natural, man-made or regenerated textiles, this could include embroidery, knitting, weaving or making from constructed textiles.

You could create a 3D model that uses one or more of the above materials, building from textiles, paper, board and card, wood or clays. However we would like you to play and craft with at least two materials and use a variety of different craft practices.

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse

We would like you to be mindful of not wasting materials and reclaiming materials where you can. Craft can spark the imagination but we do not want to damage the environment! So if you can, reuse materials or recycle any scrap you produce.

## Celebrating everyone

Craft, art and design gives us an opportunity to remake our worlds, we want you to consider your wider community and the wider global experiences. Remember to be kind, include others and consider how to make things that can be used equally by everyone.

# 1

## Understanding your brief!

**In your group, as an individual or class, brainstorm your chosen craft brief:**

- What is the craft brief asking me to do?
- What materials could I use?
- What craft skills would I like to build or experience?
- Who would use this product and/or what is its job?
- How can we make sure it is usable and accessible for lots of different people?
- What can you do to make sure this reflect you as makers, and your communities and histories?
- What would I like to make?



Ylnka Ilori and Pricegore  
Colour Palace  
Image by Andy Stagg



# 2

## Risky Business!

**Develop your ideas through making, instead of sketching or writing your first thoughts about your craft brief we are inviting you to make first!**

Using reusable easily mouldable craft material, such as clay or plasticine, model the first thing you can think of that explores the craft brief of your choice. Give yourself 10 minutes

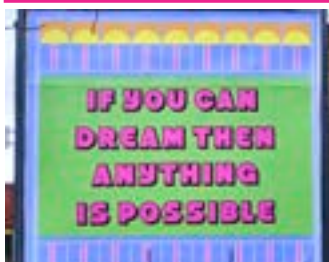


YInka Ilori  
In Plants We Trust

Use the space below to attach a picture of your image and write three things you could change that would make the model fit the craft brief better. **OR** write a description of what you have made and three things you could change that would make the model fit the brief better.

Reusing the same materials, **create a second model** of your design adding in your three changes. Give yourself 15 minutes.

Use the space below to attach a picture of your image and write three things you could change that would make the model suitable for all users\*. **OR** write a description of what you have made and three things you could change that would make the model suitable for all users.



YInka Ilori  
If You Can Dream Then  
Anything Is Possible

\*You could consider:

- disabled users
- elderly users
- neurodiverse users



Claire Curneen  
Guardian  
Crafts Council Collection

Re-using the same materials, **creat a third model** of your design adding in your three changes. Give yourself 15 minutes.

Use the space below to attach a picture of your image OR write a description of what you have made and reflect on how you felt about using making to explore and develop your ideas.

### Annotation Guide:

When you annotate you should be reflecting on how your work meets your brief, you can include details about:

- How your model would work
- What size it would be if it was full size
- What materials you could use
- Who would use your design
- Which colours you could use
- What you might like to change
- What you definitely want to keep



# 3

## Finding out!

It is really important to explore what and why other craft makers make, it helps inspire our own work and develop our practice. For this task we would like you to;

Research Yinka Ilori's work and look at the work that is part of your craft brief and answer the following questions.

Who is Yinka Ilori?

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Please describe Yinka Ilori's work

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What inspires Yinka Ilori's work?

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How are shapes and colours used in Yinka Ilori's Work?

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Pick one of Yinka Ilori's pieces and write a detailed description of it

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You can include images of Yinka's work that inspires you here:

A Willow For Ai Weiwei,  
Wen Tao, Liu Zhenggang,  
Zhang Jinsong, Hu  
Mingfen, Paul Scott

# 4

## Reflection into creation!

What inspires your craft work?

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What story would you like to tell?

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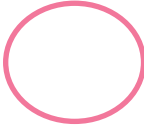




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Label the following shapes as key themes to help you create a pattern:

	Family _____		_____		_____
	_____		_____		_____

# Make it!

Can you make a pattern into a 2D relief or collage from reclaimed materials using your symbols to tell your story. You can use thread and needles, card, paper and board, textiles, or reclaimed plastics.



Yinka Ilori  
Get Up, Stand Up  
Image by Andy Stagg

# 5

## Learning to read objects!

Our world is filled with things we interact with everyday. They could be useful (functional) objects such as a pair of trainers or decorative objects such as painting or a vase.

### Option 1:

For this task we would like you to find an object that tells a story about yourself. It could be a pair of earrings your grandmother wore, a souvenir you picked up on a holiday, a favourite chair or anything else that means something to you.

Can you describe the object?

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What can you tell us about about your object?

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Why is this object important to you?

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Can you describe how it feels to use it or hold it?

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What materials is it made from? Can you describe the materials?

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Where was it was made? Do you know who made it?

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## Option 2:

In a museum or gallery collection can you find an object that you feel a connection to? It could be an object that, you like, or that is linked to your cultural heritage, or that you would like to know more about.

Can you describe the object?

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What do you like about the object?

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Can you imagine what it feels like to hold?

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What materials is it made from? Can you describe the materials?

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Where was it made? Do you know how made it?

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Can you guess how it was made?

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YInka Ilori  
Playland



Rosie Mitchell  
Sisters Support Each Other  
Crafts Council Collection



YInka Ilori  
A Large Chair Does Not  
Make a King  
Image by Andrew Meredith



Polyphony, Studio Weave,  
Crafts Council Collection  
Photo by Sophie  
Mutevelian.

# 6

## Developing your idea!

Using your ideas from earlier in the activity and your research, create three 2D design ideas from card, board or paper, or reclaimed fabric or plastic that explore colour, shape and function.



Ylnka Ilori  
Block Cubes X Unique  
Design

Can you use your pattern from the earlier task in your design work?

All three of the craft designs should be different and reflect your personal craft journey, your research and the needs of your local communities.



### **Annotation guide:**

When you annotate you should be reflecting on how your work meets your brief, you can include details about:

- How your model would work
- How your work has changes since your research
- What size it would be if it was full size
- What materials you could use
- Who would use your design
- What colours you could use
- What you might like to change
- What you definitely want to keep

# 7

## Getting Feedback!



Thinking Earrings  
Zoe Arnold, C.  
Photo by Todd-White

As a craft maker it is really important to get feedback to help make sure your work is at its best for lots of different audiences. Your next task is to ask at least 10 people's opinions on your craft design ideas.

You can use the following questions or come up with your own. Which idea do you like the best:

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Do you think it represents our community's history and needs well?

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Can you identify one thing that you like about the work?

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Can you suggest one thing they could like to change to improve our work?

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Write your own question here:

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**Can you use this feedback to re-sketch your idea, including suggestions for change?**

# 8

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## Planning your final idea!

Now you should have a lot of research, making and ideas to help you, so can you draw and annotate a detailed sketch of your final design. Your final design should be linked to your craft brief, but should reflect who you are as a craft person, your personal histories and local histories.

# 9

## Modeling your final idea!

**It's now time to make a model of your final idea. You can use the following materials to make the model when responding to your craft brief**

- Natural or man-made woods, including flexi-ply
- Clays and other mouldable or pourable polymers including polyester resins.
- Metals, including easy to manipulate metals such as thin copper sheet and pewter
- Paper, card and board, this could include origami
- Natural, man-made or regenerated textiles, this could include embroidery, weaving or making from textiles.



YInka Ilori  
Homecoming, Browns  
Image by Andy Stagg

Take lots of pictures as you are making and stick them here, or draw sketches of your work:





# 10

## Final Reflection!

**Can you reflect on your practice?**

Describe your final craft piece and how you made it, including what materials you have used and why:

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