



ART IN  
MANUFACTURING



SUPERSLOWWAY

A NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MAKING  
AND SUPER SLOW WAY PROJECT



ART IN MANUFACTURING IS THE HEADLINE PROJECT OF THE FESTIVAL OF MAKING - A FREE TWO-DAY FESTIVAL HELD IN BLACKBURN, THE HEARTLAND OF MAKING.

The Festival of Making features an extraordinarily diverse programme, reflecting the vibrancy and ambition of making in the UK today. Expect film, performance, food, markets, exhibitions, tours, workshops, dance and much, much more – a lineup to delight, inspire and surprise residents and visitors alike and, we hope, to leave a mark on the hearts and minds of everyone who participates.

We want the festival to celebrate all tenses of making – past, present and future – and what better place to do that than in Blackburn with its incredible industrial heritage and its continuing excellence in manufacturing, and where 25% of the population still work in making.

We're proud to have connected with so many making communities around Blackburn and it is testament to their diversity, skill and love that this is a festival of such flavour, zest and national reach.

There are so many paths through the festival, but every one will leave you excited and inspired about the future of making: you could go behind-the-scenes at the factory, take on the welding simulator, make some noise on the Illumaphonium, cook up a storm with a celebrity chef, get your first taste of coding or contribute to the community quilt.

**We're so glad you MADE IT!**

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# ART IN MANUFACTURING

A collaboration between the National Festival of Making and Super Slow Way, **Art in Manufacturing** is a groundbreaking set of new commissions pairing 10 exceptional artists with Pennine Lancashire's leading manufacturers. Discover the incredible outcomes of their residencies in Blackburn town centre's most historic and contemporary venues.



**There is art at play in Lancashire's countless, largely invisible factories: hundreds of people embark each day on creative tasks, working with remarkable attention to detail to produce the beautiful, the delicious and the complex, from the most delicate to the most durable products on earth.**

These manufacturers have opened their doors to our artists, laying bare their industry secrets and specialist machinery, their materials, staff and heritage skills in an unprecedented collaboration. Working shoulder to shoulder with factory floor staff, unearthing dead poets and delving deep into the factory records, our artists have produced works that are surprising, politically charged and which explore the unheralded skills, processes and history of our factories.

Over the weekend you will see art of great scale and tenderness – industrial workspaces transformed into celestial sculpture, the lives of employees upholstered into a chaise-lounge, Rudolph von Laban-inspired choreography, stirring choral performances, and a vast, waste-plastic floor installation. Our artists' responses to their residencies are a triumph of public-facing, engaging art, revealing manufacturing as an outlet for the creativity of future generations.

**From amongst the machinery and the materials it is the workforces of the industrialists that have emerged as the centre of Art in Manufacturing – their loves, dreams and their craft have proved as essential to the artists' process as they are to the manufacturers'. Their stories are here retold in unexpected and inspiring ways, marking the shared history of our making.**

Art in Manufacturing is a celebration of making and manufacturing on all scales. Whilst 9 artists were working at historic factories and on industrial estates, a 10th international artist was filming 'Front Room Factories', a profile of Lancashire's home-based makers, the entrepreneurs who turn their kitchen tables and front rooms into production lines.

At a festival with making at its heart, this headline project provides an opportunity for visitors to get their hands on the materials of our world leading manufacturers. In a series of exclusive artist-led workshops, try your hand at making - from plaster casting to embroidery to movement workshops - throughout the weekend.

**Art in Manufacturing is an inspiration to our future makers, a reckoning with our past and a celebration of our present.**

# OF HEART AND HAND

## James Bloomfield and Darwen Terracotta

DARWEN  
TERRACOTTA  
AND FAIENCE

6 13 CATHEDRAL SQUARE & TEMPLE GALLERY / SAT & SUN 11AM-6PM / FREE

Celebrating Darwen Terracotta's workforce, Bloomfield's monumental installation and individual cast objects pay tribute to the role of the craftsman and form a true centrepiece of the festival.

Project

Bloomfield presents two complementary works: small, delicate casts of personal workbench tools alongside monumental columns - poignant symbols of the camaraderie, trust and friendship of workers

at Darwen Terracotta and a timely reminder of the 1817 'Blanketeers' March' spirit of rebellion and protest.

Walking the factory floor, Bloomfield was drawn to workers' individual stations and their personal sets of small bespoke handmade tools, each specific to a job. His cast replicas of their tools are a celebration of the influence of the hand in modern manufacturing and assert that the machine, however powerful, cannot take away the

process, skill and experience of the worker.

Informed by Darwen Terracotta's dramatic history, his columns are a feat of manufacturing - reaching up to two metres tall and involving 32 makers, a 1,200 degree furnace and hundreds of litres of plaster. They form a record of the firm's rise from the ashes of redundancy and preserve the spirit of friendship, protest and craft that still pulses through Lancashire's veins.



"We have been delighted with James whose talents complement our manufacturing abilities. The comradery shown in the factory to succeed on this project has been fantastic."

STEVE ALLEN, DARWEN TERRACOTTA

Manufacturer

Working with skill and artistic expertise since the end of the 19th Century, Darwen Terracotta has a storied heritage and a modern manufacturing story about change and evolution at its heart. Using the knowledge and expertise of generations

of artisans, the manufacturer produces visually stunning terracotta and faience. Their incredible work can be seen in Grayson Perry's 'A House for Essex', and locations as prestigious as The Royal Albert Hall, The London Coliseum and Battersea Power Station.

[darwenterracotta.com](http://darwenterracotta.com)

### PLASTER CASTING

Cathedral Square / Sat & Sun 11am-5pm / FREE

Experience Darwen Terracotta's famous processes. James Bloomfield will demonstrate the processes involved in creating his slip cast objects. Experience mixing plaster and using latex moulds first-hand, then decorate your own piece to take home.

Artist Workshop

"The raw ingredients of this project are clay and fire and over 100 years of skill and expertise."

JAMES BLOOMFIELD

Artist

James Bloomfield lives and works in Manchester, UK. He studied Art at Manchester Metropolitan University and has since exhibited work both nationally and internationally. Bloomfield's work across sculpture, ceramics and print explores personal connections as well as social and political issues. He cites war, propaganda, capitalism, consumerism and social conditioning as his source material and constructs new entities using a museological language, filtering modern ideas through classical elements.

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

# TRAYSWAY

Ruth Jones and Cherry Tree Bakery



6 CATHEDRAL SQUARE / SAT & SUN 12:45 & 3PM / FREE

Traysway sees the factory-floor movements of ten Cherrytree Bakery staff woven into a unique 15-minute choreography. This singular performance echoes the physicality of the factory, past and present.

**Project** Inspired by Rudolph von Laban's work with Viennese workers in the 1930s – instilling movement principles in production lines to influence efficiency and wellbeing – choreographer Ruth Jones leads ten employees from Cherrytree Bakery away from the production of brownies and Chorley Cakes to perform a 12 minute choreographed

performance based on authentic movements from the bakery floor.

Jones set up a 'Movement Club' for bakers to attend at work, supporting and encouraging the group to investigate the physicality and movement in their everyday activities, as well as the historic and modern physicality of the factory itself,

to create a completely new dance performance.

Joined by four professional dancers and presented in two sections, this unique performance of dancing bakers is a rumination on the modern shop floor, a look back to the physicality of the factory in 1984, and is like nothing you've ever seen before.

**Artist** Ruth Jones is a contemporary choreographer and specialises in working with people in unusual spaces. Having choreographed large-scale parades with non-professionals and community groups she thrives on socially engaged work. You will also find her professional outdoor dance work touring festivals and events, connecting with and entertaining audiences who may not ordinarily have the opportunity to see dance in a theatre setting.

**Manufacturer** Independent, family-run, and grounded in operational and technical excellence, Cherrytree Bakery was founded in 1984 with just one product. Then came the Coffee Shop Revolution and through innovative spirit, investment and vision they are now the market leader in premium muffins and other cake products. The manufacturer is in the heart of Lancashire but they produce and distribute over 30 million treats a year to locations around the world.



**Artist Workshop** **TRAYSWAY MOVEMENT**  
Cathedral Square / Sat & Sun 1 & 3:15pm / FREE  
Fresh from her residency at Cherrytree Bakery, choreographer Ruth Jones and her four professional dancers lead their 'Traysway' movement workshop - stretch, move, be creative and have fun!

**“It's been a fantastic experience, both in terms of how our staff have personally benefited from Ruth's knowledge, and been able to inspire an incredible art piece which is a real celebration of how our industry has evolved over time”**

LYDIA ENTWISTLE, CHERRYTREE BAKERY



**“Art In Manufacturing has meant I have been able to collaborate and choreograph in a unique way... how else would I have found a factory full of dancing bakers?”**

RUTH JONES



# BLACKBURN TO THE FORE

Roach Bridge Tissues  
SPECIALIST PRINTERS & CONVERTERS OF FINE QUALITY TISSUE

## Jamie Holman and Roach Bridge Tissues

8 PRISM GALLERY / SAT & SUN 11AM-6PM / FREE

13 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL / SAT & SUN 2PM / FREE

A poet is resurrected and printing and papermaking take centre stage in a trio of works that delve into 19th century hardships; an ethereal lightbox, delicately printed tissue paper and a stirring choral performance.

“Jamie’s ideas developed quickly when he saw what he could achieve with the material and machines. The whole experience of the Art in Manufacturing Project has been very exciting.”

CAMILLA HADCOCK, ROACH BRIDGE TISSUES

### Project

Seemingly simple things had an enormous impact during Jamie’s residency. He recalls hearing an off-the-cuff remark about a store of “old paper” which led him to unearth a treasure-trove of heritage tissue made at Roach Bridge on machines built in 1875; the last paper to be made at the site.

He has illuminated this fragile, antique tissue paper with

the words of Blackburn poet William Billington, to be mailed to employees of the firm and Billington’s own descendants. The poet - another discovery of Holman’s - lived during the sometimes devastating industrial revolution. Holman has used his words to hold a dialogue between Blackburn’s industrial past and present, both on the rediscovered

tissue and as a stirring choral arrangement, to be performed over the festival weekend by Blackburn People’s Choir. His trio of reaching works concludes with a gallery installation of light, sound and physical objects that seeks to bridge the the distance between our industrial past and our manufacturing futures.

### Artist

Jamie Holman studied at Chelsea College of Art and Design and is a contributing editor to The Saatchi Gallery Magazine Art and Music. Jamie works like an archaeologist, digging amongst our forgotten and discarded collective memories, lost words, and undervalued objects, remaking the images we associate with our communities and thriving on the unexpected connections and collisions that emerge.

[jamieholman.com](http://jamieholman.com)

### Manufacturer

Built on quality, service and integrity with a heritage in British manufacturing tradition, Roach Bridge tissues is a family owned and run business with over 170 years experience of tissue paper manufacturing. As a specialist flexographic printer, the company produces bespoke designs for retail branded packaging.

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

### Artist Workshop

#### REMEMBER ME VIDEO BOOTH

Blackburn Cathedral / Sat & Sun 11am-5pm / FREE

Add yourself to the future memory of the town in Jamie Holman’s workshop. Become part of a film that asks future generations to “remember you” & take away a printed artwork made by the artist during his residency at Roach Bridge Tissues.



“I’ve worked with words, people, places and processes that span over 150 years of poetry, printing and papermaking in Samlesbury. These words will be sung by the people of Blackburn and brought back to life in the Cathedral.”

JAMIE HOLMAN



# FRONT ROOM FACTORIES

## O Production

4 THE BUREAU / SAT & SUN 1 & 5PM / FREE

Whilst nine artists were working with mass manufacturers, a 10th international artist was filming 'Front Room Factories', a profile of Lancashire's home-based makers, the entrepreneurs who turn their kitchen tables and front rooms into production lines.

**Project** Zainab Bilal is the mother of five children and one burgeoning business. From the kitchen of her home in Blackburn she bakes a range of 22 award-winning pies that she sells across the county. Zainab is just one of the home-based makers featured in O Production's Front Room Factories - a trip into Pennine Lancashire's smallest and most interesting manufactories.

Lancashire's domestic creators have invited Front Room Factories through their front doors, revealing a domestic industry producing ceramics, cigar box guitars, African cakes and biscuits, petrol can lights, tableware, jewellery and more. Front Room Factories is an intimate story of people and place, exploring manufacturing that occurs at home, amongst family, amid hectic lifestyles

and in a response to the opportunity and demands of business, trade and making. A reminder of just how much you can do with what you have, Front Room Factories champions the creative spirits working in our midst.

**Artist** The camera is a key that constantly unlocks new worlds for us to explore. We are fascinated by people, their creative processes, characters and stories.

We have developed a crafted approach to filmmaking with an emphasis on aesthetic quality and the desire to engage with the subject and audiences.

Our filmmaking process works best when it develops and reveals genuine friendship and creative collaborations which can be expressed on the screen.

Front Room Factories is a special commission that explores manufacturing at home, where making is a way of life and part of the fabric of everyday living.

The documentary film, 'Front Room Factories' premiering at Festival of Making, will focus on makers living in Lancashire, discovering the artisans who are an integral part of the manufacturing and making mix. [oproductio.co.uk](http://oproductio.co.uk)

**The Makers** Zainab Bilal / Pie Mezzanae / @piemezzanae

Rizwana Matadar / Cover Me / @cover\_me\_collection

Alex Devol / Wood Woven / @woodwoven

Graham 'Rod' Rodgerson / Woodcrafts by Rod / @graham\_rodgerson\_rod

Verity Evans / Oh You Pretty Things / @ohyouprettythingsjewellery

Ami Gleeson / Ida & Rudy / @ida\_and\_rudy

Lee Walsh / Lee Walsh / @leewalshdesign

Fatima Patel / Tempting Delights / @temptingdelights



"Our filmmaking process works best when it develops and reveals genuine friendship and creative collaborations which can be expressed on the screen."

O PRODUCTION



FRONT ROOM FACTORIES

## THE SOCIAL FABRIC

Panaz®

### Grennan & Sperandio and Panaz

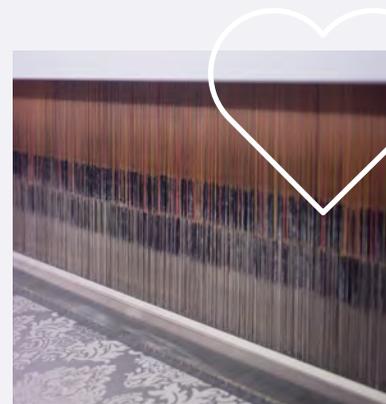
14 1849 PRIVATE DINING ROOM, FLEMING SQUARE / SAT & SUN 11AM-5PM / FREE /

The Social Fabric uses Panaz's archive to investigate the life experiences of four employees of the Burnley-based manufacturer, threading the fabric of their lives into bespoke textiles and wallpapers.

**Project** From the finance office to the shop floor, four employees of Panaz have had their lives, loves and work experiences turned into textile artworks for their homes. Fascinated by the connection between homelife, personality and work environments, Grennan and Sperandio aimed to get the employees of the fabrics firm doing things they hadn't done before. During their residency

they surprised Glenn, Peter, Martine and Anita by making them the centre of their work, holding intensive design sessions in their kitchens, living rooms and workplaces to create fabric patterns featuring coy carp, Whitesnake, Tibetan mandalas and King Charles Spaniels.

Installed in a town centre coffee shop the resultant wallpaper, curtains, sofa and bed runner inconspicuously evoke elements





## THE SOCIAL FABRIC

**“We all dream of having something made especially for us. With our new fabric and wallpaper patterns, we’ve made that dream come true for four folks from Lancashire.”**

GRENNAN AND SPERANDIO

# FROM CORDWAINERS & CURRIERS

**COOKSON & CLEGG**  
Made in England since 1860

**Jeni McConnell and Cookson & Clegg**

**17** FESTIVAL HUB / SAT & SUN WALKING TOUR 11.30AM & 3:30PM / FREE

**Denim flying hats and mechanical soundscapes - the story of the long-standing Blackburn-based clothing manufacturer Cookson & Clegg is revealed.**

**Project** of each worker's personality and personal history with patterns as idiosyncratic as the four collaborators themselves. The artists' creations span the space between worklife and homelife; the fabric of the employees' lives threaded through the fabric of their factory.

**Artist** International fine art studio Grennan and Sperandio have a three-decade-long history of telling stories in unusual media, from comic books to chocolate. Based in North Wales and Texas, two things remain constant in their practice: they always work together and their work always involves members of the public.

Grennan and Sperandio invite people to do things that they don't usually do - taking a small step into the unknown together.

[kartoonkings.com](http://kartoonkings.com)

**“It's been a fantastic experience to have been involved in Art in Manufacturing, and a fascinating insight into how art can become a part of people's everyday lives.”**

SIMON ATTARD, PANAZ

**Artist Workshop** MAKE YOUR OWN PATTERNS!

1849 Private Dining Room, Fleming Square / Sat & Sun 11am-5pm / FREE

Drop in to make and take home your own patterns - from simple arrangements to half drop repeats (the most magical of patterns) - all you need is your imagination. The artist will set you going and all materials are provided. The (patterned) sky's the limit!

**Project** McConnell has spent the last few months unearthing the stories of the company - from its leatherworking origins to its current guise under Patrick Grant - and has discovered how deeply the company is embedded in the physical landscape of Blackburn. Her research-focussed approach to the residency has resulted in a multimedia, audio-visual walking tour of Blackburn town centre, along with an installation of audio work hidden in a set of repurposed jacket sleeves.

To prepare for the trip back in time, participants will don specially made, flying cap replicas inspired by the headwear made in the factory during the 1930s for the new age of pilots. The artist worked with the factory to revive the archive pattern, with the flying hats cut and reimagined in denim. Beginning at the former family residence and taking in the past sites of Cookson & Clegg's 'manufactories,' the tour is interwoven with oral histories and mechanical soundscapes.



**Manufacturer** Burnley-based Panaz is one of Europe's leading and most innovative suppliers of high quality decorative fabrics and wall coverings for hospitality, healthcare and corporate sectors. With a focus on design and technical innovation, Panaz works with interior designers to supply fabric for iconic interiors and their work can be found decorating ships and theatres. The company has an environmental focus and their eco manifesto is a fundamental part of their business strategy. [panaz.com](http://panaz.com)

**“Seeing Cookson's past through new eyes has been an enriching experience. Jeni has given our manufacturing history a contemporary life.”**

PATRICK GRANT, COOKSON & CLEGG

**Manufacturer** The Cookson & Clegg story starts in 1860, when the Blackburn-based manufacturer made leather workwear for coal delivery men. In 1914 the factory began making uniforms for the British Army and has continued a long-standing relationship with the Ministry of Defence. Specialist sewing skills and technological advances have helped to forge partnerships with contemporary clothing brands, sold in some of the most prestigious retail stores in the world.

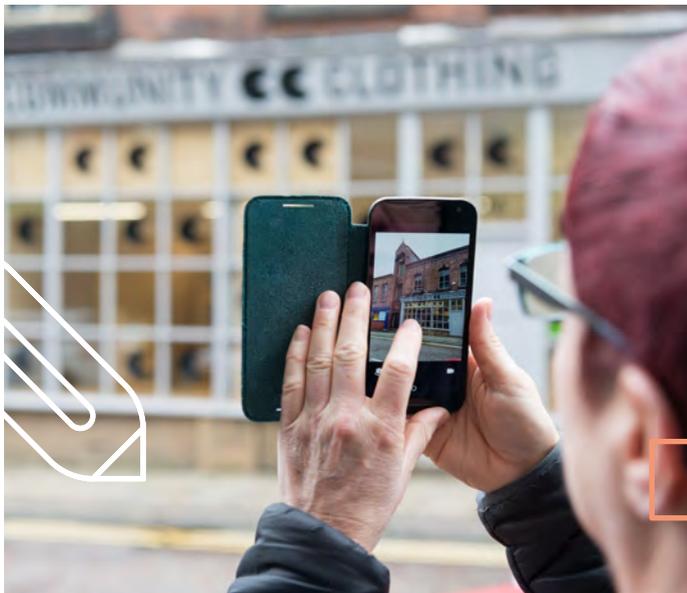
[cooksonandclegg.co.uk](http://cooksonandclegg.co.uk)

**Artist** As a socially engaged artist, people are imperative to McConnell's work. Her creative practice has 4 key components - people, place, objects and archives - which are brought to life by the social connections between them.

The artist uses a research-based approach, delving into history books and maps found in archives, libraries and museums to create work that engages with people.

[jenimcconnell.blogspot.co.uk](http://jenimcconnell.blogspot.co.uk)





“Supported by an incredible workforce, fazed by nothing I’ve asked of them, with enthusiastic help we achieved all this together!”

JENI MCCONNELL

## EVERYONE HAS A ROLL



“There is the story of a guy who was sent out to buy his mum a pint of milk and got dragged in to help on a shift and didn’t leave. These stories are just amazing and need to be told.”

MICHELLE WREN

# EVERYONE HAS A ROLL

GRAHAM & BROWN  
EST. 1946

Michelle Wren and Graham & Brown

7 BLACKBURN BUS STATION / SAT & SUN 11AM-6PM / FREE

A celebration of the ‘Black Art’ at play behind-the-scenes at the factory, Michelle Wren’s multimedia installation is a humorous and evocative reflection on the hidden customs of the workforce.

Project

Debbie knows the alarm is shorter for a label missfeed and longer for a flapfind. Gavin tricks his workmates into singing songs by typing their titles into a comments box. Jimmy started at the factory the day he finished school and the manager made him a clock in card. He is still there 30 years later - Graham & Brown is teeming with stories and

quirks and Michelle Wren’s six-foot, animated, multimedia installation, with music by Phullopium Dude, intertwines them.

Her installation at Blackburn’s RIBA Award-nominated Bus Station, is complemented by a wry worker’s manual - ‘The Art of Doing Things Well’ - which details those dark arts

of employment not usually included in the employees’ handbook. Both have been produced in close collaboration with workers of the 12-hour ‘pink shift’ and offer a true celebration of the humanity at the heart of the factory, from the entrepreneurial spirit of the founders to the satisfaction of a perfectly timed cigarette break.

Manufacturer

Started by two friends, Harold Graham and Henry Brown, after the Second World War, Graham & Brown have built up an international reputation from their base in Blackburn, Lancashire. Selling to over seventy-five countries and with divisions across the world, they continue to innovate in design and product development and work with high profile designers and emerging design talent.

[grahambrown.com](http://grahambrown.com)

Artist

Michelle Wren is a visual artist and set designer who works in participatory contexts with communities, creating work that responds to a place and its people. The artist works with people to solve problems, working, laughing, smiling and getting annoyed together until all the collaborators are happy and have made an idea happen.

[unbastarto.wixsite.com/unbastarto](http://unbastarto.wixsite.com/unbastarto)

Artist Workshop

### WHAT’S YOUR ROLL?

Blackburn Bus Station / Sat & Sun 11am-5pm / FREE

Your roll is empty until you fill it! Join Graham & Brown and artist Michelle Wren to record your stories and help create the manual ‘The Art of Doing Things Well’.

“Michelle has got under the skin of our business - the characters, the history and the passion we have for what we do - to create a fascinating and unique piece, reflecting so much of what makes us Graham & Brown.”

ALAN KEMP, GRAHAM & BROWN



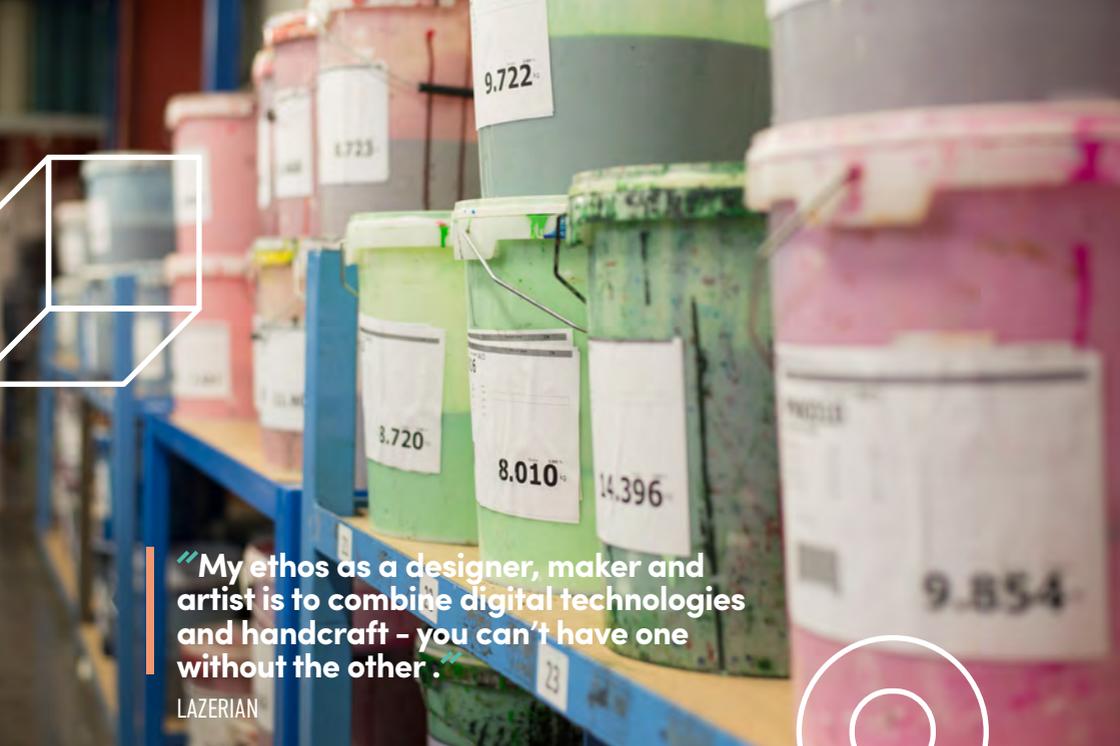
# CHROMATOGRAM

Lazerian and The Cardboard Box Company



15 COTTON EXCHANGE / SAT & SUN 11AM-6PM / FREE

Housed in the tainted grandeur of Blackburn's Cotton Exchange, Lazerian's walk-in cardboard 'pods' present a striking, physical expression of the unusual semi-isolation of workers in the modern factory.



“My ethos as a designer, maker and artist is to combine digital technologies and handcraft - you can't have one without the other.”

LAZERIAN

## Project

During his residency Lazerian's founder, Liam Hopkins, discovered that the workforce of the Cardboard Box Company depended entirely upon each other - yet worked largely alone, in distinct sectors. His vibrant and exotic cardboard structures evoke this modern predicament of individual detachment, whilst suggesting the colleagues' essential

connectivity. The pods' use of irregular and organic forms presents a further challenge to perceptions by skewing the expected, strictly angular form of the cardboard box.

And this is not to mention Chromatogram's exuberant colour schemes - a direct result of Hopkins' research into the company archives of colour palettes. Each tone in

the range has been used by the manufacturer at some stage in its production history and their realisation in the work represents a record of the company's stunning gradient of colour through time. You are invited to put on a hard hat to experience the pods in all their modern, alien glory in the semi-dereliction of our vast heritage space.



“Working with Liam revealed to us the close link between art and manufacturing. We have different methodologies, but we both make things.”

KEN SHACKLETON, THE CARDBOARD BOX COMPANY

## Artist

Overseeing creative design for a wide range of clients, as well as a series of industry-acclaimed conceptual projects, British designer Liam Hopkins has seen Lazerian grow in capability and reputation since its 2006 inception. The firm combines traditional handcraft techniques with modern, computer-based modelling to explore new concepts in multi-dimensional design. Preoccupied by the inherent strength found in paper, wood and carbon fibre, Hopkins finds strength and beauty in the most ubiquitous of materials.

[lazerian.com](http://lazerian.com)

## Manufacturer

Shortlisted for The Telegraph 'SME of the Year' award, Cardboard Box Company designs, prints and manufactures corrugated board 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 invention. Whilst creating more than 25,000 solutions for customers, the firm remains an inventive, creative and people-centric company, committed to the local area.

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

## Artist Workshop

### CHROMATOGRAM

Festival Hub / Sat & Sun  
11am-5pm / FREE

Join artist and maker Liam Hopkins to create a range of products from a cardboard collection, including vases and bowls. Get hands-on with the manufacturer's own materials and their stunning gradient of colour.

# HUMAN HANDS PRESENT



## Bella May Leonard and Silentnight

13 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CRYPT / SAT & SUN 9AM-4PM / FREE

Silentnight's resident embroidery artist displays her playful walk-in installation - a dreamlike meditation on sleep and modern machinery's dependence on tender human hands.

### Project

During her residency Bella May Leonard was struck by the scale and speed of the Silentnight factory and was inspired by the idea that the frenetic, cellular mass manufacture she encountered needed, nevertheless, to be guided by the tenderness of human hands to produce 'sleeping products' - things we all use but know little about. Her work is a playful celebration of the role of the

individual in the powerfully efficient manufacturing process and aims to encourage pride in the abilities and workplace heritage of Silentnight's staff, making them part of the historical and present achievements of the company.

Blackburn Cathedral's Crypt provides a dreamlike home for her interactive installation. In collaboration with Silentnight's

New Product Development team, the artist has created a playful assembly of divan frames that form a canvas onto which she has embroidered bold shapes and patterns from production line waste. You are invited to walk around, sit and lie on the artwork, to visually explore for yourself the inner workings of a mattress.

"It's been an absolute pleasure working with Bella. Her delve into our company history has reminded us of lots of great things that we used to do, and highlighted the importance that the human hand still has in today's more machine led manufacturing."

ANGELA MORAN, SILENTNIGHT

### Manufacturer

With 70 years of manufacturing heritage, Silentnight is a national name in the beds and mattresses sector, making products from the Barnoldswick factory since 1961. With the longest serving staff member being part of the company for 50 years, the team make products including spring, foam and gel mattresses that use technical advances and innovation to remain at the forefront of the market.

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

### Artist

Bella May Leonard uses hand embroidery to gain insight into other cultures. The process of hand stitch appeals because of its labour intensive qualities and elaborate possibilities. The artist creates sculptural stitched works exploring the meaning of craftsmanship in the post-industrial West and our developing relationships to textiles. Leonard has previously studied Lancashire's industrial heritage during commissions with Queen Street Mill and Gawthorpe Hall Textile Collection.

[bellamayleonard.com](http://bellamayleonard.com)

### Artist Workshop

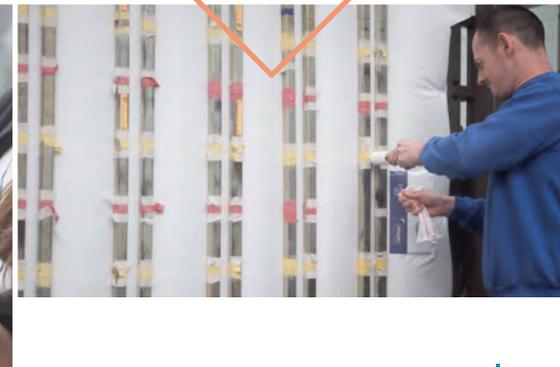
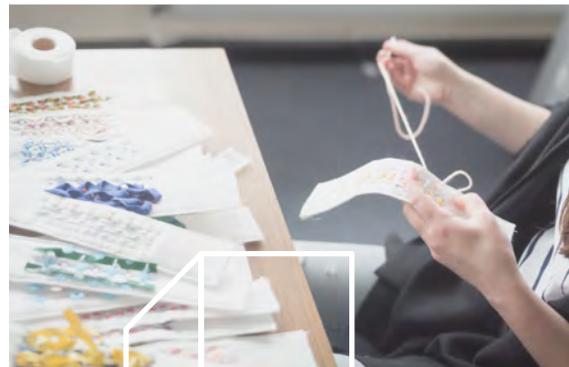
#### NEW TICKS: TACK AND TUFT YOUR COMFORT LAYER

Blackburn Cathedral Crypt / Sat & Sun 9am-4pm / FREE

Use threads, tufts, felt washers and offcuts collected from Silentnight to stitch a mattress tick pattern. Wooden divan bases have been re-worked into units for participants to collectively embroider, mixing textures and colours in their own way. In contrast to the pace of the factory, here the materials are used in a new context where the slow process of hand stitch aims to calm and relax.

"For me, making is about engaging your creative, critical brain with your senses and physical body, enjoying the tactile outcome."

BELLA MAY LEONARD



# REVOLUTION (2017)



## Robyn Woolston and MGS Plastics

16 29 NORTHGATE / SAT & SUN 11AM-6PM / FREE

Family histories run parallel to the evolution of manufacturing and unseen waste; a vast, immersive floor installation exposes our relationship to waste, whilst a film documents human responses to the 1st and 4th industrial revolutions.

**Project** In the first part of Robyn Woolston's project, thousands of pieces of injection moulded plastic from the factory floor of MGS form a vast and immersive installation. Using mis-moulds, 'sprue' and 'purge', the installation works ambitiously in colour, form and scale to illustrate the nature and scale of industrial manufacturing waste.

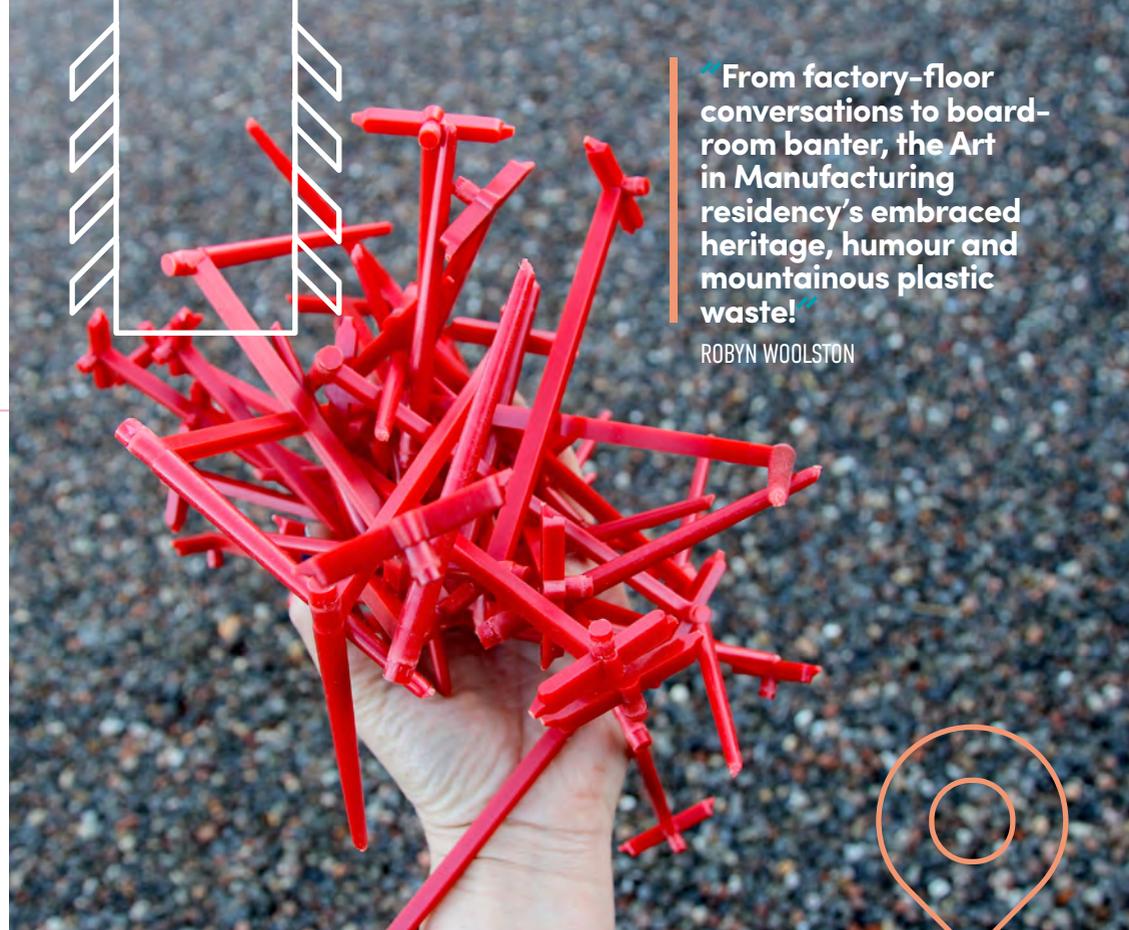
In her complementary piece, a documentary film contrasts the 1st Industrial Revolution against our contemporary 4th.

The artist's father spent his whole life in plastic injection moulding and Woolston found herself drawn to the intergenerational narratives emerging in interviews with MGS employees, producing a film that not only draws on their stories but reaches further into our industrial heritage.

As the two halves of her work come together, historical parallels proliferate; design, fabrication and plastic moulding processes are shown in parallel with the ebb-and-flow of the Leeds to Liverpool canal, culminating in a meditation upon Lancashire-based manufacturing and its legacy.

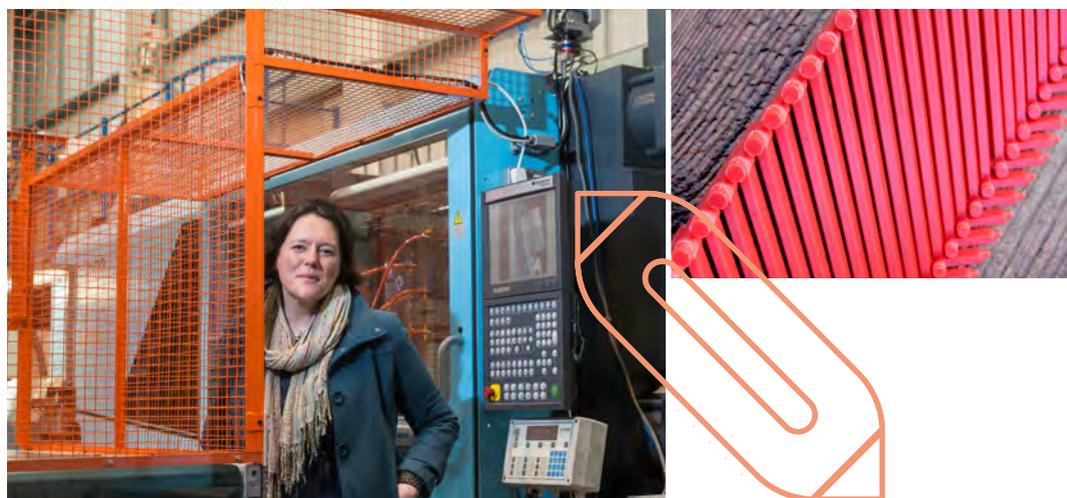
**“Having Robyn here has been an exciting change from the norm. The team have really enjoyed the conversations that have taken place - Robyn is breath of fresh air and will always be welcome here at MGS.”**

SAMANTHA TAYLOR, MGS PLASTICS



**“From factory-floor conversations to board-room banter, the Art in Manufacturing residency's embraced heritage, humour and mountainous plastic waste!”**

ROBYN WOOLSTON



**Artist** Passionate about reducing environmental waste and committed to recycling, MGS Technical Plastics is a plastic injection moulding company based in Blackburn, Lancashire. Established in 1974 they are now the production partner of some of the world's leading brands. The company operates 20 plastic injection moulding machines, weighing from 22 - 800 tonnes, and riveting, heat staking, over moulding and pad printing are all standard processes for the team.

[robynwoolston.com](http://robynwoolston.com)

**Manufacturer** Robyn Woolston is visual artist who works across installation, photography, moving image and print. From socially engaged practice to site-specific responses, her work seeks to harvest, uncover and re-appropriate what is 'left behind' by archetypal narratives. Previous installations have included the use of 7,500 ice-cream containers and 45,000 carrier bags. Woolston works both nationally and internationally questioning material values within different cultures.

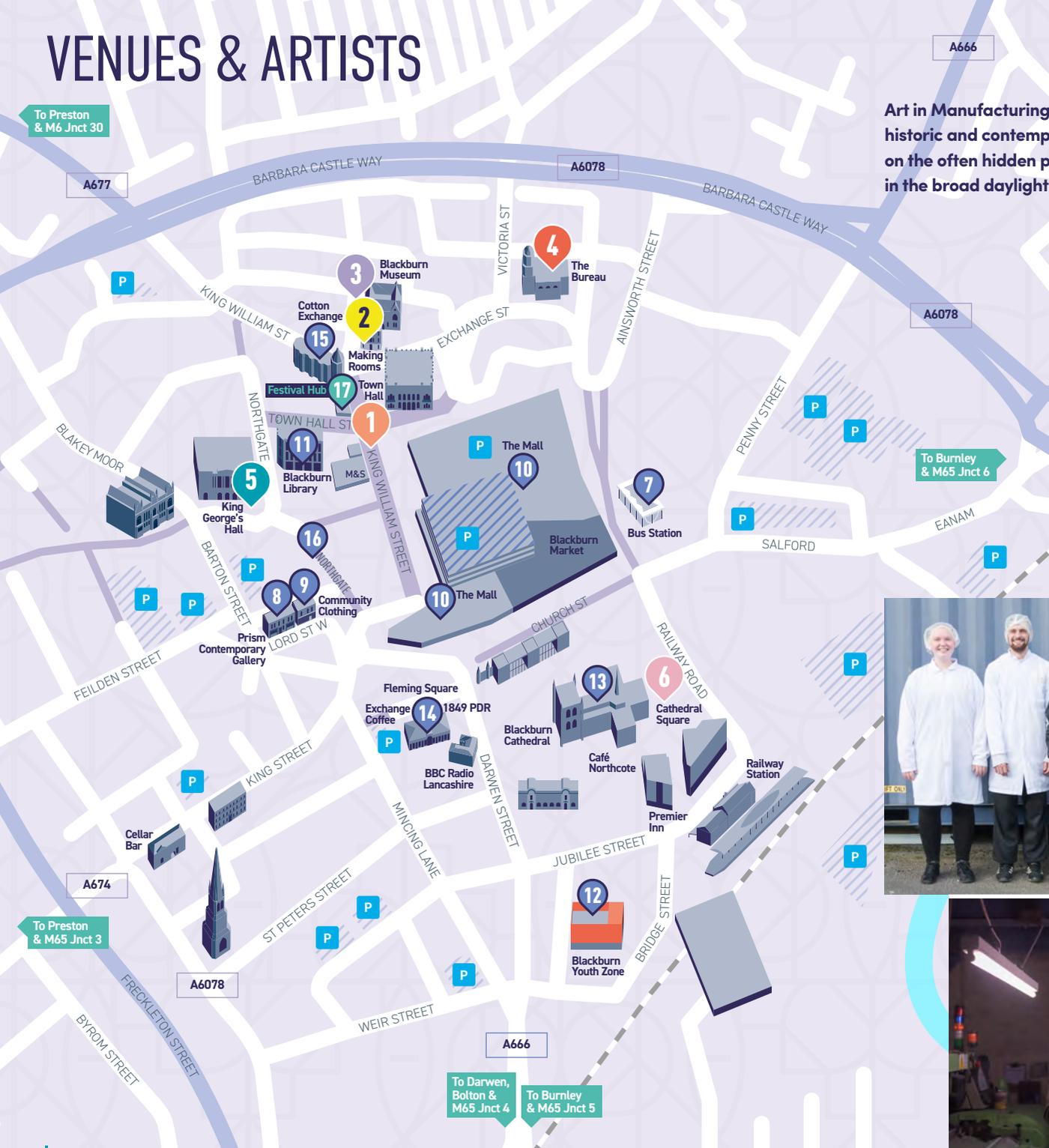
[mgsplastics.co.uk](http://mgsplastics.co.uk)

**Artist Workshop** **PLASTIC FANTASTIC**  
29 Northgate / Sat & Sun  
11am-5pm / FREE

Rediscover the disposable in Robyn Woolston's workshop. Using domestic plastic food packaging in new and ingenious ways you'll explore both form and function in this family-friendly making experience.

# VENUES & ARTISTS

To Preston & M6 Jct 30



Art in Manufacturing is positioned amongst Blackburn's most historic and contemporary venues, exposing our artists' take on the often hidden processes and practices of manufacturers in the broad daylight of a collection truly wonderful venues.

- 4 THE BUREAU  
O Production
- 6 CATHEDRAL SQUARE  
James Bloomfield / Ruth Jones / Jamie Holman Workshop
- 7 BLACKBURN BUS STATION  
Michelle Wren
- 8 PRISM CONTEMPORARY GALLERY  
Jamie Holman
- 10 THE MALL
- 11 BLACKBURN LIBRARY
- 12 BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE
- 13 BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL, TEMPLE GALLERY & CRYPT  
Jamie Holman / James Bloomfield / Bella May Leonard
- 14 1849 PRIVATE DINING ROOM  
Grennan & Sperandio
- 15 COTTON EXCHANGE  
Lazerian
- 16 29 NORTHGATE  
Robyn Woolston
- 17 FESTIVAL HUB  
Jeni McConnell / Lazerian Workshop





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FESTIVAL OF MAKING  
SUPERSLOWWAY

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



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Since 1788



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MGS

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