

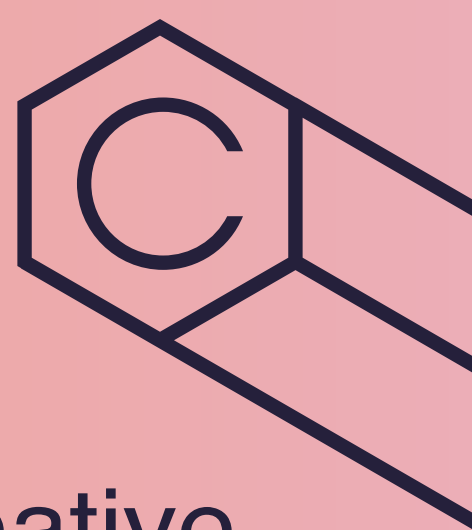


THE NATIONAL
**FESTIVAL
OF MAKING**

Commissioning and Collaboration

National Festival of Making
Talks and Tours Programme

In association with
Creative Lancashire



Creative
Lancashire

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About

During this Industry Talks & Tours Programme, we will be exploring the following themes:

Part One

- The power of hobbies as a radical act of reclaiming personal time, celebrating everyday creativity and the value of personal pastimes in contemporary life.
- Art as a social and cultural collaboration and how large-scale artistic projects like *Come As You Really Are* are co-created with communities and institutions.
- The power of partnership and participation, and the importance of shared authorship in public art.
- National and cross-sectoral collaboration and how partners from across the UK navigate the dynamics of commissioning and producing collaborative, multi-location exhibitions and national cultural programming.

Part Two

- Elizabeth Fullerton introduces the publication and her essay, *Artists and Factories Make Radical Pairings* discussing artists' practices and the unique nature of working as an artist within an industrial setting.
- Industry and place-based practices and how artists can create work within industrial and manufacturing settings which meaningfully responds to place and community identity.
- The legacy of artists working in industrial contexts, recognising their contributions through the lens of gender, visibility, and arts practice.

Timings

Time	12–5pm
Date	Friday 4 July 2025
Venue	Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery Museum Street, Blackburn, BB1 7AJ

Agenda

12–1pm	Networking Lunch & Preview of <i>Come As You Really Are</i> by Hetain Patel
1–1.10pm	Welcome & Introduction
1.10–2pm	Hetain Patel in conversation with Mariam Zulficar
2–2.45pm	<i>Come As You Really Are</i> - Network and Collaborators Panel
2.45-3pm	<i>Comfort Break</i>
3–4pm	<i>Radical Pairings</i> - Publication Essay Reflection & Panel
4–5pm	Tour of Art in Manufacturing Exhibitions



Conversations[©] in Creativity

Conversations in Creativity is Creative Lancashire's series of talks and insightful interviews, where creatives from across disciplines explore how inspiration, often from around the world, informs creative process.

This special edition of Conversations in Creativity is presented in partnership with the National Festival of Making.



Part One

Session

1

Come As You Really Are

As we launch Blackburn’s presentation of Come As You Really Are at Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, artist Hetain Patel will be joined in conversation by Artangel director Mariam Zulfiqar to discuss the vast celebration of people’s hobbies.

Hear about the artist’s long-standing fascination with the activities that occupy our free time, and what he considers to be the radical act of reclaiming time in dedication to our chosen pastimes. The pair will discuss the staging of this ambitious project; from its roots in some of Hetain’s early artistic works installed in the exhibition, to the nationwide presentations with partners including the National Festival of Making and Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland from 2025 - 2026.

Session

2

Come As You Really Are - Partner Panel

Following the session with Hetain and Mariam, they will be joined on stage by a representation of partners from Barnsley Civic and National Festival of Making, bringing together three of the 13 partners in the network collaborating on Come As You Really Are in conversation with the artist. Panelists will discuss their experiences from organisational and artist perspectives of commissioning collaborative works, partnering in major new works and engaging communities and people in the exhibitions.

This is a facilitated panel session.

Panellists

- Elizabeth Dickinson**, Barnsley Civic
- Elena Jackson**, National Festival of Making
- Hetain Patel**, Artist
- Mariam Zulfiqar**, Artangel
- Panel chaired by **Jamie Holman**

Part Two

Session

3

Radical Pairings

In 2025, the National Festival of Making is proud to launch a new publication, Radical Pairings. The publication features an essay, *Artists and Factories Make Radical Pairings*, by art critic Elizabeth Fullerton, discussing artists’ practices and the unique nature of working as an artist within an industrial setting.

In her writing, Fullerton introduces work created in response to, and alongside workforce communities. Responding to the publication release, guest curator and featured artist Liz Wilson presents a retrospective show of the work of the five contributing women artists. The exhibition is presented in Blackburn’s most recently completed building, which forms part of the town’s £50m culture and leisure quarter redevelopment.

During this session, **Fullerton will introduce the publication and her essay followed by a panel conversation which she will chair** including exhibition curator and artist Liz Wilson, along with publication contributor artists Hannah Leighton-Boyce, Jacqueline Donachie and Nicola Ellis.

Speaker

Elizabeth Fullerton

Panelists

Liz Wilson
Hannah Leighton-Boyce
Jacqueline Donachie
Nicola Ellis
Panel chaired by Elizabeth Fullerton

Part Two

Session

4 /1

Art in Manufacturing Tours

Liaqat Rasul + Herbert Parkinson (part of the John Lewis Partnership)

Through workshops with John Lewis Partners at the Herbert Parkinson textile factory, Liaqat Rasul will explore personal handwriting, memory, and belonging to create mobiles composed of sculptural 3D faces and shapes. Intimate and reflective, his installation will invite audiences to slow down and consider identity, community and connection.

[@liaqatrasulart](https://twitter.com/liaqatrasulart)

herbertparkinsoncontract.co.uk

Matter at hand + Darwen Terracotta

A two-year residency sees architectural designer Lewis Jones's new design practice, Matter at hand, embedded within Darwen Terracotta in a dedicated space on the factory floor. Best known for his role as co-founder of the Turner Prize-winning Assemble collective, Jones will present the first phase of his project at Blackburn Cathedral: an interactive and playful exhibition exploring clay's potential as a sustainable building material. Within a field of material experiments and new sculptural prototypes, his work reimagines earth as a low-carbon solution for future construction

matterathand.org

darwenterracotta.com

Part Two

Session

4/2

Art in Manufacturing Tours

Morag Myerscough + Crown Paints

Known internationally for her vibrant, community-driven installations, including “Dancing in the Sky” (2024, Coachella) and “Love Letters” (2024, Paris Olympics), Myerscough is creating three works in collaboration with Crown Paints, supported by the High Street Accelerator Project. Works will include an installation inspired by the artist’s garden and a passion for greening the high street; participatory workshops in Prism Contemporary and a bold, permanent mural energising the townscape long after the festival ends.

moragmyerscough.com

crownpaints.co.uk

Radical Pairings - Exhibition

Responding to the publication release, guest curator and featured artist Liz Wilson presents the exhibition of work by the five contributing women artists - Hannah Leighton-Boyce, Jacqueline Donachie, Liz Wilson, Nicola Ellis and Raisa Kabir. The exhibition is presented in Blackburn’s most recently completed building, which forms part of the town’s £50m culture and leisure quarter redevelopment.



Speakers

Elizabeth Fullerton

Art Critic (*Panel Host*)



Elizabeth Fullerton is a critic, writer, podcaster and researcher at Birkbeck College, University of London.

She writes for international publications including The New York Times, The Guardian, Art Monthly, Art in America, ARTnews and Art Quarterly and is the author of *Artrage! The Story of the BritArt Revolution* (Thames & Hudson (2016, 2021). She is fascinated by how artists use materials and technologies to respond to their lived experience, exploring issues of identity, body politics, labour and environment through social engagement.

elizabethfullerton.co.uk

Jamie Holman

Artist, Co-Director (*Panel Host*)



Multi-disciplinary Artist

Co-Director

Uncultured Creatives

**Chair of the Board,
Festival of Making**

Jamie Holman is a multidisciplinary artist based in Blackburn, alongside working as one half of ‘Uncultured Creatives’, a collaboration with Curator and Producer Alex Zawadzki, delivering works in public, digital, print and traditional gallery spaces. In 2017 Jamie was commissioned as part of Art in Manufacturing Season One, undertaking one of the programme’s first residencies with the manufacturer, Roach Bridge Tissues, and went on to become a core advocate for the festival.

Jamie’s work is multidisciplinary and is often fabricated using industrial processes or with heritage crafts makers and artists. His work is informed by the heritage of working-class communities, in particular the impact of the industrial revolution and the cultures that have manifested as a consequence of its emergence and subsequent decline.

In 2022 Jamie became Chair of the Board of Festival of Making CIC.

jamieholman.com

Mariam Zulficar

Artangel (*In Conversation Host*)



Mariam Zulficar is the Director of Artangel.

Prior to joining Artangel in January 2022, Mariam led the National Art Programme at Forestry England where she implemented a new strategic direction, developing partnership projects at the intersection of art, design, architecture, environment, and ecology.

As Deputy Director and Chief Curator at UP Projects, Mariam curated new commissions and oversaw Constellations – an artist development programme for artists working in the public domain, and This is Public Space – a programme of digital commissions that explore the internet as a site for art.

Mariam's primary area of focus is art in the public domain and as an independent curator, she has commissioned projects for Film and Video Umbrella and Art on the Underground. In 2021, Mariam curated Bring into Being – the inaugural programme of events, activities and contemporary art at Chiswick House. The programme marked a new chapter by inviting contemporary voices in the arts and sciences to respond to the historic 18th Century site. →

Mariam Zulficar



Mariam regularly consults for various international public art programmes and has guest lectured at academic institutions in the UK and internationally. In 2013 she was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Scholarship Fund. Mariam holds a BA in Design and Public Art from Chelsea College of Art and an MA in Curating Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art.

Elena Jackson

National Festival of Making



Elena Jackson is the Director and Co-Founder of the National Festival of Making and Co-Founder of culture company Deco Publique.

Curator of the National Festival of Making's artistic commissioning programme, Art in Manufacturing, Elena has placed 31 artists in residence with industry to date, establishing relationships with private sector companies and commissioning artists to produce ambitious new works.

Elena works across the creative festival programme – working with artists, industry and communities to produce mass and intimate art and cultural experiences that feel rooted in place. Together with Lauren Zawadzki, Elena shapes the Festival's vision and works to ensure the curated programme upholds the aims of the CIC; strategically develops the festival within the context of the regional and national arts ecology and secures project investment.

Elena is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

festivalofmaking.co.uk

decopublique.co.uk

Elizabeth Dickinson

Barnsley Civic



Elizabeth Dickinson is the Exhibitions Curator at Barnsley Civic.

She has previously held curatorial roles with North East Museums and worked with grassroots arts organisations in Sheffield. At Barnsley Civic, her practice centres on creating space for working-class artists and amplifying other under-represented voices in the arts, while also bringing nationally significant exhibitions to the town.

Elizabeth's curatorial approach is driven by a strong commitment to enriching Barnsley's cultural ecology and celebrating the creative talent already flourishing in the region. Through her work, she advocates for a more inclusive, honest, and locally rooted approach to exhibition making.

barnsleycivic.co.uk

Hannah Leighton-Boyce

Artist



Hannah Leighton-Boyce works across a variety of sculptural formats ranging from collage, drawing and print to site responsive installation.

She has exhibited and undertaken residencies and commissions with The Hugo Burge Foundation, The National Festival of Making, White Columns (USA), Bury Sculpture Centre, Castlefield Gallery, and Glasgow Women's Library.

Her practice is informed by material and sensory relations, contemplating the interrelations between people, objects, and their environment. Recent works in weaving, collage and writing entwine corporeal, material and somatic processing of a cancer relapse. The works occupy a position that slips between, of experiences of edges and thresholds, grafting and enmeshing, where cells fly over bodies of water, the position of a piece of chewing gum, and a conversation with a hip.

hannahleightonboyce.com

Hetaian Patel

Artist



Hetaian Patel is a London based artist and filmmaker.

His films, sculptures, live performances, paintings and photographs have been shown worldwide in galleries, theatres and on iconic public screens, including Piccadilly Circus, London, and Times Square, New York. His works have been presented at the Venice Biennale, Ullens Centre for Contemporary Art, Beijing and Tate Modern, London and Sadler's Wells.

Patel's work exploring identity and freedom, using choreography, text and popular culture appears in multiple formats and media, intended to reach the widest possible audience. His video and performance work online have been watched over 50 million times, which includes his TED talk of 2013 titled, 'Who Am I? Think Again'. →



Patel is represented by Chatterjee & Lal, Mumbai, is a supported artist at Copperfield, London, a Patron of QUAD, Derby, and a trustee of Liverpool Biennial. He is the winner of the Film London Jarman Award, 2019, Kino Der Kunst Festival's Best International Film 2020, and was selected for British Art Show 9, 2021/22. In 2021 Patel received a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Artist Award, a Henry Moore Foundation Award, declined a British Empire Medal and was a judge on Sky Arts television series, Landmark.

Patel's works are in public and private collections in the UK and internationally, including Tate, British Council, Arts Council England, Government Art Collection, Manchester Art Gallery, M+ Museum Hong Kong, KNMA New Delhi, and Fondazione In Between Art Film, Rome.



Jacqueline Donachie

Artist



Jacqueline Donachie is a Scottish artist with an interest in the structures and platforms we use to engage with one another.

A Glasgow School of Art graduate and Fulbright Scholarship Awardee for Hunter College, New York in the late 1990's, Jacqueline has established an award-winning career as an artist working across socially engaged, interdisciplinary practice. Her work is held in many significant public collections, including Tate and the Arts Council of Great Britain. In 2016 she completed a PhD with Northumbria University that examined the capacity for artworks to shape research and care in the field of genetics, continuing a long collaborative engagement with biomedical researchers in Newcastle and Glasgow.

She is currently a Baxter Research Fellow at University of Dundee. Recent gallery exhibitions include Right Here Among Them, a mid-career survey at Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh. Donachie also creates public, site-specific projects and publishes artists' books, including public commissions from NPRO, Oslo, Norway; Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) Melbourne; Edinburgh Art Festival; Glasgow International Festival of Visual Art and the film installation Beautiful Sunday for Folkestone Triennial 2022.

jacquelinedonachie.co.uk

Liz Wilson

Artist & Exhibition Curator



Liz Wilson is an artist working across the boundaries of print, moving image, sound and sculpture.

Wilson's practice explores the stretch of time between the industrial and post-industrial; in particular, the beginning of automation and how this is altering our relationships with technology. Using site visits as a catalyst to research, write and produce works, she is fascinated by the human-machine relationship of both 'conductor' and 'orchestra' and how these performative roles manifest themselves within both our natural and fabricated environments.

Since graduating with an MA in Fine Art from the Royal College of Art, Wilson has exhibited nationally and internationally at institutions including the Taoxichuan Museum of Art (China), OGA (Rome), Parc de la Villette (Paris) and Hockney Gallery (London). In 2019, she received the first digital commission for Art in Manufacturing (National Festival of Making, in partnership with Super Slow Way, Creative Lancashire and Arts Council England). →



In 2020, she undertook a seven-month residency at Coachworks (co-commissioned by Turner Works and Ashford Borough Council), collaborating with Hitachi Rail Ltd to produce *The Orchestrated Unconscious*. This led to further Arts Council England funding to work with CNC Robotics, culminating in *Within the Wake*, exhibited at the National Festival of Making in 2022 and featured in Aesthetica's *Future Now* anthology.

Most recently, Wilson created *OF CONFLUENCE* (2024), an immersive installation commissioned as part of the Turner Prize wraparound programme (Blackshed Gallery, The Talent Accelerator at De La Warr Pavilion, Eastbourne Alive and Rother District Council), which was shortlisted for Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2025. She has also been longlisted for the 2025 Aesthetica Art Prize, with her work due to be exhibited at York Art Gallery in September.



Nicola Ellis

Artist



Nicola Ellis is a British visual artist based in Manchester, who explores the question of who values what—and why—in different contexts.

Her work examines how information, tradition, and legacy are passed on and translated through materials, systems, and the people who work within them. Ellis works with materials sourced from places of industry, scientific research, and public institutions; therefore, her sculptures, drawings, and digital artworks often intercept and expand existing material cycles. Her work simultaneously celebrates the connections and distinctions between different contexts at specific points in time.

Since being introduced to Ritherdon & Co. Ltd — a steel enclosure manufacturer in Darwen, Lancashire — through an Art in Manufacturing residency with the National Festival of Making in 2018, Nicola Ellis has developed a long-term collaboration with the company. This initial residency led to the Arts Council-funded Return to Ritherdon project and an ongoing, open-ended placement at the factory which continues to the present day. →



In 2021, she was awarded Horizon Europe funding through Better Factory for an 18-month Knowledge Transfer Experiment in partnership with the Ritherdon factory and Digiotouch, a technology provider based in Estonia. The project focused on robotics integration, waste reduction, and the development of bespoke powder-coating technologies.

In recent years, Ellis's work has been acquired by private and national public collections, including the Government Art Collection and the Arts Council Collection. Many of these acquired works were made at, and are directly informed by, her ongoing engagement with the Ritherdon factory — reflecting the industrial processes, materials, and relationships developed through her long-term collaboration with the site. She is the recipient of a Henry Moore Foundation Artist Award, a Henry Moore Artist Research Fellowship, and several Arts Council England grants supporting the development of her practice. Ellis is a member of Para-lab Manchester, a group of artists and material scientists interested in cooperation and collaboration, based in Greater Manchester and Yorkshire. She is also a member of Incidental Unit, the current iteration of the Artist Placement Group. The Incidental Unit draws out key ideas, methods, processes, and rationales for maintaining the independent and critical work of artists and curators, connecting the historical legacy of APG with the complex nature of social practice today.



Other Talks at the National Festival of Making

Art in Manufacturing Artist Talks

Saturday 5th July

12.45pm

Hannah Leighton-Boyce, Jacqueline Donachie and Nicola Ellis in conversation with Claire Mander, Director of the COLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director.

Radical Pairings

Blakey Moor Terrace, *opposite King George's Hall*

1.45pm

Liaqat Rasul in conversation with Elena Jackson, Festival of Making Director & Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing and Jamie Holman, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair.

Umeed [*Oh-meed*] امید - **Gobaith** - **Hope**

The Crypt, *Blackburn Cathedral*

3.15pm

Lewis Jones in conversation with Elizabeth Fullerton, Art Critic and Writer

Poured Earth

North Transept, *Blackburn Cathedral*

Art in Manufacturing Artist Talks

Sunday 6th July

12.30pm

Liz Wilson in conversation with Elizabeth Fullerton,
Art Critic and Writer.

Radical Pairings

Blakey Moor Terrace, *opposite King George's Hall*

3pm

Morag Myerscough in conversation with Elena
Jackson, National Festival of Making Director &
Programme Curator of Art in Manufacturing.

Floral Timekeepers

Barton Street Car Park



In Conversation Talk

Sunday 6th July

1.30pm

George Clarke: in conversation with Wayne Hemingway

Join us for a special Conversations in Creativity event with George Clarke, architect, television presenter, lecturer, and writer, best known for his work on Channel 4's The Home Show, George Clarke's Amazing Spaces, and more.

George Clarke will be in conversation with Wayne Hemingway MBE.

Blackburn Cathedral

This Conversations in Creativity event is delivered in partnership with Creative Lancashire, a service provided by Lancashire County Council.



creativelancashire.org



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Creative Lancashire and Conversations in Creativity are services provided by Lancashire County Council.