Supporting talented craftspeople
Housing up to 170 independent businesses at our two centres in central and south London, we support craftspeople at the start of their careers, as well as those who are more established, to build successful businesses in the UK and abroad.

We work with a wide range of talented individuals, including master craftspeople, artist-makers, batch producers and more scalable businesses.

As a Social Enterprise, our services and studios spaces are offered to makers at affordable rates. Any profit made is reinvested to support those most in need. We offer special awards and bursaries to early stage craft businesses and a unique Creative Careers Programme for young people referred by The Prince's Trust. We also generate wider craft employment opportunities through our Apprenticeship and Internship Programme.

Cockpit Arts is an award winning social enterprise and the UK’s only business incubator for craftspeople.
Business Incubation for craft makers

Our unique business incubation services comprise an all-inclusive package of workspace, on-site business coaching, workshops, promotional opportunities, as well as referral to specialist advisors and access to finance. We work with hundreds of other craft businesses based in all parts of the UK and overseas through our training workshops and consultancy arm.

Our Craft Incubator Package includes:

Business Development
- A team of on-site coaches
- One-to-one business support
- Peer-to-peer action learning
- Ingenious Growth Loan Fund
- Referral to Cockpit Arts’ Associates
- Workshops & seminars

Affordable studio space
- Managed studios
- Creative environment & community
- Office facilities & resource library

PR & sales
- Renowned Open Studios public selling events
- Exclusive studio tours & selling opportunities
- Online maker directory
- Brand association with our Makers Mark

For an application form and more information, visit www.cockpitarts.com
The Cockpit Effect

Since opening in 1986, Cockpit Arts has helped thousands of talented makers grow their businesses, many of who have gone on to achieve national and international success. Our craft business incubator model is proven to work and our impact reports are positive, showing higher than average economic outcomes as well as social and cultural impact.

Consultancy

The Cockpit Arts craft business incubator and social enterprise model is widely considered to be innovative and a useful case study of how to create sustainable support in the sector. We draw on our extensive expertise to provide consultancy on social enterprise, creative incubation and craft sector development.

Our consultancy work is applied to a national and international context. You can read the Case Studies on our website to find out how others have benefited from our services.

Awards & Bursaries

Through the generous support of our partners, our awards and bursaries help to support the next generation of creative talent by providing sponsored places at our craft business incubators.

Creative Careers

Launched in 2010, our Creative Careers Programme now runs annually, in partnership with The Prince’s Trust, as a gateway to a professional career in craft and design. Participants are integrated into Cockpit Arts’ professional working environment, while craft mentors provide aspirational role models.

‘As a Trustee of NADFAS, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to visit Cockpit Arts, and see the recipients of our Awards flourishing there. It is the interaction with other craftspeople, together with the business and artistic mentoring, that makes Cockpit such a special place to be, and a brilliant starting point to bound into a wonderful future!’

– Kate Siebert, Vice Chairman of NADFAS
Eleanor Lakelin
Maker in Wood

Eleanor Lakelin is one of Britain’s most accomplished artists making in wood. Working exclusively with trees that have been felled in the British Isles, she combines traditional craftsmanship with a free-form approach to create vessels with a distinctly contemporary feel. Her work is shown in major galleries and exhibitions including CAA (Contemporary Applied Arts), Sarah Myerscough Gallery at COLLECT and William Benington Gallery, Sculptural 2015. She was nominated for the Perrier-Jouët Arts Salon Prize and has work in the permanent collection of the National Trust.

Originally from a furniture making background, it wasn’t until Eleanor won the Cockpit Arts / Worshipful Company of Turners’ Award in 2011 that she was able to take her business in a new and more exciting direction. With support from the Business Development Team she has dedicated her time at Cockpit to repositioning her business and developing a body of work for the art gallery and high-end retail markets. “I think it’s fair to say that without the Turners’ Award, I would not have had the confidence to pursue [turning and carving] full time,” says Eleanor.

‘Without the support of Cockpit Arts I would have struggled to find a way to express myself creatively; to be able to turn that into a way to make a living really does feel miraculous.’

We have a rich diversity of makers’ success stories, which demonstrate the trailblazing nature of the ‘Cockpit Effect’ and the career journeys that exist for craft makers working in Britain today. Visit our website page for a constantly updated inside view.
Rita Parniczky
Architectural Textiles and Installations

‘I chose Cockpit Arts mainly because of the business support you get here; I wasn’t ready to move into a studio with no support. Cockpit seemed the ideal place for a complete beginner like me.’

Tipped as one of the standout stars of her generation by The Worshipful Company of Weavers, Rita Parniczky is winning awards and fans alike with her large-scale art installations that defy conventional weaving techniques.

Using unusual materials like nylon monofilament, Rita weaves extraordinary x-ray like pieces that play with light and shadow. She has exhibited at COLLECT Open and her work is in the permanent collection of the V&A.

Moving into a studio at Cockpit Arts with help from a Clothworkers’ Foundation Award in 2011, enabled Rita to work on a much larger loom and has allowed her to grow creatively and expand the boundaries of her chosen art form.

With one-to-one support from the Business Development Team, Rita is successfully repositioning her work in the world of art and rapidly being recognised with the recent announcement, as the 2016 winner of The Perrier-Jouet Arts Salon Prize.
‘The Cockpit Arts & Ingenious Growth Loan Fund gave us the boost we needed for sampling and marketing and enabled us to create some real energy around our campaign to launch the new ready-to-wear range’

Deborah Carré and James Ducker, of Carréducker, craft beautiful bespoke shoes using traditional English hand welted construction. Since joining Cockpit Arts the company has grown to include shoe making courses, a design consultancy service, an online tool shop and a successful ongoing partnership with gentlemen’s outfitters Gieves & Hawkes. They have recently benefitted from The Cockpit Arts & Ingenious Growth Loan Fund which has helped them launch their new ready-to-wear collections.
Billy Lloyd
Ceramicist

Billy Lloyd is an award-winning designer of ceramic tableware, perhaps best known for the series of interlocking mugs he designed exclusively for The Conran Shop. He started his practice at Cockpit Arts in 2011. At the time he was selling hand thrown tableware through a number of modest stockists and collectors, but it was during his time at Cockpit that he realised the potential of designing his work for manufacture. With support from the Business Development Team he was able to carefully and strategically reposition himself as a designer.

Billy now spends the majority of his time designing and making prototypes for manufacture, and has collaborated with RIBA and Brooks Brothers, as well as The Conran Shop. He is currently working on a collection of coffee cups and saucers for international cycling super brand Rapha.

‘Professionally and emotionally I am indebted to Cockpit Arts. I feel very proud to be an alumnus. You don’t ever really leave Cockpit; you still feel part of the family.’
Cockpit Arts is a registered charity and a social enterprise, which means that any income generated from our activities is reinvested into supporting talented designer-makers from all backgrounds to develop successful craft businesses in the UK.

For more information on how to give your support, and ways to be involved, visit our website or contact dana@cockpitarts.com

We are extremely grateful to all our Supporters and Partners. A list of our current supporters is available to view at www.cockpitarts.com

Support Cockpit Arts

If you want to support the best in British craft and design and the work that we do to enable independent craftspeople working in the UK, then you’re in the right place.

‘Cockpit Arts is leading the way in self-sustaining social enterprise in the arts and I’m proud to be part of that. I believe passionately in the crucial contribution the creative industries make to our society, culture and economy.’

— Cornelius Medvei
Chairman and Patron of Cockpit Arts

‘As an arts graduate with some many talented friends who never managed to make a living out of their craft, what sung out for me was the support mechanism in place to help really talented people be and stay in the industry.’

— Leanne Wells
Patron Supporter of Cockpit Arts
Open Studios

Cockpit Arts’ Open Studios take place twice a year. See behind the scenes and meet independent makers over two sites.

Sign up to our mailing list on our website and keep up to date with these highly-popular events.

‘Find work by some of the capital’s classiest designer-makers.’
— The Guardian

‘Visit designer-makers in their studios and pick up gorgeous, unusual presents or commission a one-off for someone really special.’
— Time Out

‘An award-winning hub of creative talent’
— Homes & Gardens

Maker Directory

Use our online directory to find out more about Cockpit Arts’ makers and source beautifully made crafts.

With links to their websites and shops, you can make contact to discuss special commissions and keep in touch with their news.

www.cockpitarts.com
‘Search for a Designer-Maker’
Venue hire

The Education Space in Holborn, WC1 accommodates 30 – 50 guests. Whether you are looking for a space to hold a committee meeting, run a workshop or a private function, our room can be arranged to meet your requirements with hourly and day rates.

Visit our website or contact dana@cockpitarts.com

Private Tours & Away Days

Usually closed to the public, Cockpit Arts is very much a working studio space in two vibrant locations in London. Discover our ‘hidden gem’ on your private tour or educational group visit, tailored to your favourite crafts or theme.

Looking for something inspiring to do with your team? Led on-site by a selection of expert craftspeople, our bespoke tours and workshops will allow you and your staff to get creative and hands-on for an hour, afternoon or entire day of inspiring activity.
Cockpit Arts Holborn
Cockpit Yard
Northington Street
London, WC1N 2NP
T 020 7 419 1959
E info@cockpitarts.com

Cockpit Arts Deptford
18 – 22 Creekside
London, SE8 3DZ
T 020 8692 4463
E info@cockpitarts.com

Photographs - with thanks to
Alun Callender, Kamil Kurnikoff
and Cockpit Arts’ makers

www.cockpitarts.com
Registered Charity no. 1029643

COCKPIT ARTS 30

2016 – Cockpit Arts’
30th Anniversary year

We are proudly marking
our 30th Anniversary
in 2016 – with supporters
of British craft being
invited to take part in
a series of events.

Celebrating the successful
transformation of the organisation
from solely a workspace centre to
the UK’s only craft business incubator,
Cockpit Arts offers a unique package
of support with a goal to ‘raise the
bar’ in the sector and actively help
independent makers to develop and
become more successful.

Join us for our planned events
and sign up to our mailing list
to keep up to date:

London Craft Week 2016
Cockpit Arts Holborn
Thurs 5th May 6-8pm
‘The Art of Commissioning’ -
Collectors Programme

Cockpit Arts Deptford
Friday 6th May 6-8pm
‘Cockpit’s Jewellers’ - Public
Programme bookable via
www.londoncraftweek.com

Summer Open Studios
Cockpit Arts Holborn
2nd – 5th June 2016
Thurs 6-9pm, Fri, Sat & Sun 11am-6pm

Cockpit Arts Deptford
10th – 12th June 2016
Fri 11am-9pm, Sat & Sun 11am-6pm

Free entry, donations welcome

Cockpit Arts Maker Portraits
During the Summer Open Studios
- an exhibition of Cockpit Arts maker
portraits by acclaimed photographer,
Alun Callender

Bespoke Tours and Away Days
Bookable throughout the year -
details from dana@cockpitarts.com

Winter Open Studios
Cockpit Arts Holborn
24th – 27th November
Thurs 6-9pm, Fri, Sat & Sun 11am-6pm

Cockpit Arts Deptford
2nd – 4th December
Fri 11am-9pm, Sat & Sun 11am-6pm

Fundraising event - £5 entry both
weekends / £3 Deptford only