

COCKPIT
FESTIVAL

COCKPIT ARTS MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL

FRIDAY 19TH
JUNE – SUNDAY
21ST JUNE 2020

PRESS RELEASE
18TH JUNE 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



A MIDSUMMER CELEBRATION
BROUGHT TO YOU ONLINE
BY LONDON'S LEADING
MAKERS: HANDS-ON
WORKSHOPS, TALKS &
CONVERSATIONS, LIVE
DEMONSTRATIONS, STUDIO
TOURS, FILM

[FULL PROGRAMME HERE](#)

[#COCKPITFESTIVAL](#)

COCKPIT ARTS INTRODUCES OUR MIDSUMMER FESTIVAL – EVERYONE IS INVITED

From London to the world, featuring 65 events with over 80 makers, Cockpit's Festival takes place online, on Instagram, Facebook and Zoom, over the midsummer weekend of Friday 19th – Sunday 21st June.

The packed programme features workshops, panel talks, live demonstrations and studio tours all led by some of London's leading makers and designers – ceramicists, leatherworkers, weavers, printmakers, jewellers, glass engravers and more.

Many of the events have a midsummer flavour with makers reflecting on new work, made under lockdown, inspired by the natural world. There'll be intimate conversations as well as essential discussions on such topics as inclusion in contemporary craft, unconventional career journeys, mental health and wellbeing, and juggling family responsibilities whilst growing a creative business.

Nine makers take on The Big Make challenge to create a complete object from start to finish over the course of the Festival weekend. Kicking off on Friday morning, we'll be checking in on their progress throughout the Festival with a finale on Sunday afternoon.

Alongside live programmed events, there's a raft of films on demand to catch at your leisure – and watch out for impromptu events and special guests across the Festival by following #cockpitfestival.

All events are offered free of charge in this summer celebration of making.

“PUT TOGETHER IN JUST FEW DAYS, COCKPIT’S FESTIVAL IS A CELEBRATION OF IMAGINATION AND INGENUITY. RUNNING A SMALL INDEPENDENT, CREATIVE BUSINESS IS A CHALLENGE AT THE BEST OF TIMES. YET DURING LOCKDOWN, COCKPIT MAKERS’ CREATIVITY HAS FLOURISHED. NOT ONLY HAVE MANY TURNED THEIR HANDS TO MAKING PPE AND RUNNING LOCAL SCRUB HUBS, THEY’VE ALSO FOUND TIME TO REFLECT, SLOW DOWN AND DEVELOP AMAZING NEW WORK. NOW WE CAN’T WAIT TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.

NORMALLY, WE’D BE THROWING OPEN OUR STUDIO DOORS AT MIDSUMMER. THIS YEAR WE’RE WARMLY INVITING GUESTS TO JOIN US IN OUR VIRTUAL FESTIVAL WHERE YOU’LL FIND HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS, INTIMATE CONVERSATIONS AND EXCLUSIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOURS. WE’RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.”

Cockpit CEO Annie Warburton



FESTIVAL FEATURES

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS FROM YOUR HOME

At the heart of the festival are pre-bookable hands-on workshops.

Sharing her passion for recycling through craft, designer Maria Spetlova will show how to create your own version of her signature upholstery patchwork textile, set to be featured in Vogue India.

Textile artist Richard McVetis will introduce the art of hand embroidery, Esna Su will lead

a workshop on traditional Turkish techniques of weaving and twining, and leatherworker and Yussico founder Yusuf Osman reveals how to make an origami handbag.

On Sunday, there's a family workshop with ceramist Annette Bugansky, a paper marbling workshop with Lucy McGrath of Marmor Paperie and a masterclass on geometry in art with Amber Khokhar – all ideal Father's Day activities.

FRIDAY NIGHT LATE

Our Friday Late is hosted by Nadia-Anne Ricketts of BeatWoven, an award-winning woven textiles art studio. She'll be inviting you to chill out and tune in to a live virtual immersive, meditation sound bath.

IN CONVERSATION

Drop in on a series of intimate conversations on making, taking place live on Instagram and Zoom, with plenty of chances to ask questions of your favourite makers.

In a timely and essential conversation on inclusion in craft, Jasmine Carey and Yusuf Osman will share their career paths and explore what makers and brands can do to be allies for black people and people of colour in the craft space.

A trio of jewellers will reflect on juggling family life whilst running a creative business, sharing tips they wish they'd known before embarking on that adventure. There'll also be discussions on making and wellbeing with jewellers Olivia Creber and Maya Selway; making for the luxury sector with milliner Elise Gustilo; and a midsummer collaboration between Paige Denham and Onome Otite.



LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS

Discover the secrets of master craftspeople through live demonstrations throughout the weekend.

Leatherworker, author and John Smedley collaborator Candice Lau will demonstrate how to make a bum bag in an exclusive live demo. See hand embroiderer Ekta Kaul in action as she stitches a new

embroidered map kit that will be launched during the Festival weekend.

There'll also be demos from jewellers Kelvin Birk, Lukas Grewenig and Will Odell. Sally Lees will print an aluminium postcard, and knitter and designer Olivia Holland will open a window onto the processes of making a tie.

STUDIO TOURS

Lockdown meant that many makers had to relocate their studios temporarily. Our series of live studio tours include makers returning to their Cockpit studios in Deptford and Holborn, as well as films from temporary home studios,

from East London to Taiwan. Watch out for Kendall Clarke's Sunday special where she'll reveal how you can find local colour on your doorstep in her introduction to natural dyes from summer plants.

THE BIG MAKE

Nine makers have taken on the challenge to make a complete object from start to finish over the course of the Festival. Starting at 10:30am on Friday, we'll be checking in on their progress each day via Instagram, with a finale on Sunday at 5:30pm.

Participating makers include four jewellers: Emma Calvert, Emily Kidson, Lucy Martin and Ejing Zhang, along with Maria

Hatling (textiles & painting), Vanessa Hogge (ceramics) and Joost Pasman (leather).

The Big Make also features two artist printmakers running mass interactive print projects. Kethi Copeland will create a 'museum of hand-crafted treasures' whilst Amanda Ross will make a botanical print from start to finish, using pressed flowers and leaves sent in by her followers.

FILMS ON DEMAND

Juggling work and family life means that not all of our makers can join us live over the weekend – but there's still a chance to catch them in action via films on demand.

Our programme of 17 films includes an insight into a new range inspired by nature developed under lockdown by Aimee Furnival of Another

Studio, Anthony Scala's film on glass engraver Katharine Coleman MBE, Esna Su's When the Nest Falls created for National Refugee Week, Deborah Levy's film Liminal featuring dancer and jeweller Sarah Warsop, and Yawen Chou filming from her temporary home studio in Taiwan.

IMPROMPTU EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

And there'll be more! Follow the Festival hashtag #cockpitfestival on Instagram to catch unscheduled contributions from many more Cockpit makers across the weekend.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

IMAGES

Images of participating makers and their work are [available here](#)

INTERVIEWS

To arrange an interview with Annie Warburton or Sandie Mattioli, please contact sandie@cockpitarts.com
To interview participating makers, please contact them directly.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Cockpit Festival is brought to you by the makers at Cockpit Arts.

Festival identity and design: TM
Produced by: Sandie Mattioli
Creative direction: Annie Warburton

www.cockpitarts.com
Instagram: @cockpitarts
#cockpitfestival
#makingitinlondon



NOTES FOR EDITORS

COCKPIT FESTIVAL

— The Festival takes place online on Instagram and Zoom from 10:30am Friday 19th June to 6pm Sunday 21st June. The programme features over 65 events over the Festival weekend.

— Events include live demos, workshops, studio tours and panel discussions from London's top makers – including weavers, ceramists, jewellers, fashion designers and leatherworkers.

— Discover impromptu events and guest appearances via #cockpitfestival and @cockpitarts

COCKPIT ARTS

— Cockpit is London's leading studios for contemporary craft and the only UK business incubator for makers. We offer in-house business support and dedicated studio space to enable makers to start and grow successful practices, with a focus on supporting new and emerging talent.

— Cockpit is home to over 140 independent creative businesses (and 300 jobs) at two sites in Deptford and Holborn. Many of our makers are recognised internationally as leaders in their field.

— 20% of our studio holders are beneficiaries of Awards and Bursaries, funded by City of London Livery Companies, trusts and foundations, and individual and corporate sponsors. Awardees receive studio space, professional development and, in many cases, access to equipment such as looms and kilns.

— In May 2020, Cockpit was recognised for the second year running on the NatWest SE100 index as one of the UK's 100 top-performing social enterprises. It is a 2020 SE100 Impact Champion Award Finalist.

— Published in March 2020, our annual impact report Making Community: The Cockpit Effect 2020 demonstrates the impact of Cockpit's work and the resilience of

our makers pre-Covid19 crisis. This year's report also includes case study portraits of seven makers by journalist Debika Ray.

— A destination for private collectors, museum curators, luxury retail buyers and interior decorators, Cockpit opens its doors twice a year to public visitors to buy and commission direct from makers. Pre-booked bespoke studio tours are available year-round and are popular with businesses, special interest groups, schools and colleges – and these are now taking place online.

— We provide consultancy to other studios and incubators in the UK and, working with the British Council, support international creative and social enterprises, this year in Indonesia and Pakistan.

— Cockpit is committed to inclusion, diversity and equality in governance and all our activities, and to eradicating structural inequalities in craft and design. We celebrate the diversity of our community, recognising that it fuels creativity and innovation. 20% of makers at Cockpit identify as BAME.

— Cockpit is a charity. We are grateful to all our donors and patrons. Be part of our story and support new talent here.