Make Your Future

Gareth Wadkin, Caroline Pratt, Dr Elizabeth Gaston, Dr Jane Scott and Sharon Bainbridge

The Make Your Futures exhibition is part of a three year collaborative project with the Crafts Council, Leeds Arts University, University of Leeds and secondary schools in West Yorkshire. The project involves schools across the region partnering with higher education institutions to reignite making in the classroom and tackle the challenges faced by craft education. Make Your Future 2018 was the final stage of the project and an opportunity for Leeds Arts University to host and curate the exhibition.

Make Your Future 2018 spanned the entire academic year starting with introducing teachers to the different projects, followed by professional development sessions with teachers, a series of workshops in schools and finally ending in an exhibition event and private view.

The project explored and investigated the rich historical heritage of Yorkshire’s textile industry reimagined through Knit, Print and woven textiles design, through both hand and digital practices bringing together both traditional crafts and contemporary technologies.

The exhibition included school children’s work from 8 secondary schools from across West Yorkshire. The context of the work and final outcomes were diverse in nature. There were 5 makers in total. Gareth Wadkin and Caroline Pratt ran screen-printing and printmaking activities in schools. The other makers were from University of Leeds and University of Huddersfield; they provided workshops in contemporary knitting and millinery.

The exhibition of textile artworks was showcased at the Vernon Street Building. There was a private view with visitors from participating schools (students, teachers and parents), representatives from the Crafts Council, University of Leeds and University of Huddersfield.

The exhibition enriched the on-going collaboration of Leeds Arts University, University of Leeds with the Crafts Council, together with local schools and sixth forms. The project and exhibition had several areas of impact, this includes the promotion of design and making in schools and encouraging young learners from Key Stage 3 to select art or design technology as a GCSE option.

Exhibition

Make Your Future, Vernon Street Building, Leeds Arts University, Leeds, 28th June - 16th August 2018.
Exhibition Postcard

Make Your Future

Make Your Future is a Crafts Council project that aims to reignite a passion for making in schools by creating opportunities for students and teachers to engage with traditional craft skills. Guest-ed by Gareth Waddell and with support from Caroline Pratt, the exhibition offers a curated collection of craft-inspired samples from several partner schools in West Yorkshire. It also seeks to develop Gareth Waddell’s current research into pedagogy, craft and collaboration.

Leeds Arts University is delighted to be hosting this year’s Make Your Future exhibition to coincide with Leeds Art Teachers’ Conference.

20 June — 18 August 2018
Vernon Street Gallery
Leeds Arts University
Vernon Street
Leeds
LS2 8PH

Preview:
Thursday 28 June
6—7pm

image: handloom cloth, major weaving and heat transfer printing, 2015
Make Your Future

A showcase of textile and design by students from Yorkshire schools in collaboration with the Crafts Council and University of Leeds and Leeds Arts University.

Location: Leeds Arts University, City Centre Building, Vernon Street, LS2 8PH
Dates: 29th June – 16th August
Opening times: 9am - 4pm, Monday - Friday
Private View: Monday 9th of July 4:30 - 7pm
Participating schools: Roundhay School, Castleford Academy, St Thomas à Becket Catholic Secondary School, Westborough High School, Horforth School, Beckfoot Upper Heaton, Guisley School, Dixon’s City Academy
Participating maker/educators: Gareth Wadkins, Caroline Pratt, Jane Scott, Elizabeth Gaston, Sharon Bainbridge

Make Your Future is a hands-on education programme connecting traditional craft with digital technologies to ignite a passion for craft in young people. Through supporting teachers, making use of local craft skills and creating opportunities for work and study in craft, it pioneers an approach that strengthens the position of making skills as a cross-curricular bridge between art and science.

With grateful thanks to The Clothworkers’ Foundation for its support of Make Your Future in Yorkshire.

www.craftscouncil.org.uk
Installation Photographs

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Exhibition Opening Photographs

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