

# Craftspace<sup>C</sup>

We are Commoners: Creative acts of commoning  
Exhibition for Hire

**We are  
Commoners**

“The commons means: Things we share / Places we share / Systems we share / Ideas we share / Culture we share”

Peter Barnes, On the Commons co-founder



*Net Project Procession*  
Claudia Rodríguez, Ana Joaquina Ramírez & Rosina Santana Castellón  
Photo: MetzilCerde



*Lament For The Seas On A Great Auk*  
Pinkie Maclure

## Exhibition background

### Why commoning?

We are currently witnessing the increasing privatisation of publicly owned assets in the UK. Many areas are experiencing the erosion of local common spaces and resources (e.g. parks and libraries).

Some countercultural movements that have emerged in recent decades have begun to challenge corporate forms of enclosure. They champion the sharing economy, peer to peer economy and open source.

In ‘Mapping the New Commons’ Charlotte Hess suggests that divergent disciplines, political interests, and geographical regions are increasingly finding the term ‘commons’ crucial in addressing issues of social dilemmas,

degradation, and sustainability of a wide variety of shared resources.

Historian Peter Linebaugh has popularised the term ‘commoning’ which in modern times is about activating the power of social cooperation to get things done.

Commons researcher Julie Ristau describes how “the act of commoning draws on a network of relationships made under the expectation that we will each take care of one another and with a shared understanding that some things belong to all of us. The practice of commoning demonstrates a shift in thinking from the prevailing ethic of “you’re on your own” to “we’re in this together.”



Launching: 2021  
Tour: 18 months  
A national touring exhibition  
Curated and organised by Craftspace

**Craft can make a powerful commentary on what society stands to gain from acting to protect and reclaim our global commons.**

## Crafting the Commons network

This exhibition has been informed by a range of cross disciplinary perspectives through the Crafting the Commons network. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the network is led by Nottingham Trent University in partnership with Craftspace. Artists in the exhibition and academics from a range of disciplines participated in workshops, discussions and exchange. The network blog documents activities and contributions about exhibition projects, ideas and thoughts: [commoners.craftspace.co.uk](http://commoners.craftspace.co.uk)

## Exhibition

This national touring exhibition highlights 'acts of commoning.' It invites visitors to become, or recognise themselves, as a 'commoner'. Activating the verb 'to common' is a way to renew public life. Acts of commoning can be woven into every aspect of life and become a way of living. A life in which we can connect to produce shared rituals and resources that we look after together. Getting involved through co-operation, mutual care and exchange can heal and make change in our communities.

Featuring UK and international artists, the projects exhibited represent ideas and resources to inspire acts of commoning. Craft and making skills are often passed down and shared in all cultures of the world. In this exhibition, skills and materials provide a means to common or are used to give insight into examples of commoning.

The artists' projects are represented across three themes: Claiming, Healing and Co-operating. Actions of claiming, healing and co-operating can enable communities to thrive.

We hope visitors will feel encouraged by the examples of co-operative action. To experiment, seek out exchange and make connections with people, objects, spaces and their environments.

## Exhibiting Artists

### Loaned work:

Ele Carpenter, Claudia Rodriguez with Ana Joaquina Ramírez and Rosina Santana Castellón, Pinkie Maclure, Fourthland, Alice McLean & Justine Boussard.

### Commissioned work:

Amy Twigger Holroyd, Deirdre Nelson, Linda Brothwell, Blackwater Polytechnic (Ben Coode-Adams & Freddie Robins), Jacky Oliver, Common Agency Projects, Lise Bjørne Linnert and Gelawesh Waledkhani, Rachael Colley, Alinah Azadeh, Hefin Jones, Kate Hodgson.

## About Craftspace

Craftspace is a charity creating opportunities to see, make and be curious about exceptional contemporary craft. We are based in Birmingham and work collaboratively regionally, nationally and internationally. We build relationships between artists, people and organisations and encourage the sharing of ideas, skills and knowledge.

Craftspace initiates artistic programmes which stimulate creative excellence, critical thinking and understanding of contemporary crafts in the widest social and cultural contexts.

### Craftspace

Tel: 0121 608 6668

[info@craftspace.co.uk](mailto:info@craftspace.co.uk)

[www.craftspace.co.uk](http://www.craftspace.co.uk)

[facebook.com/craftspace](https://www.facebook.com/craftspace)

[tweetcraftspace](https://twitter.com/tweetcraftspace)

[@craftspace\\_](https://www.instagram.com/craftspace_)

Craftspace is a non profit distributing company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital and registered in England No. 2492368. Craftspace is registered as an Educational Charity No. 1001237

## Target Audience

Younger people 25-45  
Students/Academics/Scholars (craft/design/environmental/politics)  
Artists  
Commons activists (local, national, international)  
Environmentalists/Ethical Consumer  
Socially engaged public  
Online audiences (through digital, exhibition blog and social media)

## Tour

**The tour launched at Oriel Davies Gallery, Wales in March 2021.**

The exhibition will tour for 18 months. The following tour slots are available:

27 November 2021 - 22 January 2022

23 July - 17 September 2022

1 October - 3 December 2022

These dates can be negotiated.

## Venue Requirements

Space: approximately 200 square metres.

Security: full time invigilation or CCTV

## Cost

£2500 based on 8 weeks – the number of weeks can be negotiated.

Hire fee includes all display cases/stands and interpretation, education and marketing/PR resources.

Venues must insure the exhibition shelf-to-shelf and undertake one-way (onward) transport as well as fulfilling Craftspace's Conditions of Hire.

## Contact

**Emma Daker**, Exhibitions and Project Development Manager at Craftspace

E: [e.daker@craftspace.co.uk](mailto:e.daker@craftspace.co.uk)

T: 0121 608 6668



**MÉXICO**  
EMBAXADA EN REINO UNIDO



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**