

Celebrating 10 Years of In:Site

Craft - Design - Make

A practice and career development opportunity for UK based emerging artists, makers and designers.



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Introduction / General

In:Site is a practice and career development project for UK based artists, makers and designers who have recently graduated from a BA or MA in craft, art or design.

Since 2011, In:Site has supported new graduates to bring their work to new audiences by commissioning them to deliver their own engagement project in Cathedral Square, a busy space in the heart of Birmingham's city centre.

In:Site encourages emerging artists, makers and designers to explore the potential in diversifying their practice to include working creatively with people, exploring their practice in participatory, socially engaged and site responsive contexts. It supports new graduates to learn how to adapt the ideas, methods, materials and techniques used in their work to create a space for people to explore their own creativity, and to make meaningful connections to others, to their localities, and to making.

Craftspace works with In:Site artists on each stage of the project, from the development of an initial idea to the delivery of their first participatory project for a public audience. Often their first paid commission, In:Site is a portfolio building opportunity where graduates can build experience, knowledge, skills, contacts and networks, helping them to more confidently make early career decisions and take their next steps.

Craftspace is committed to developing In:Site as a valuable opportunity for commissioning emerging work and showcasing the best of new talent from Birmingham, the Midlands and nationally, creating opportunities for artistic development that are accessible and open to all graduates. We are committed to actively increasing participation from graduates with diverse backgrounds including: race, socio-economic status, class background, sexual orientation, disability, mental health, caring responsibilities and gender identity.

As a public facing, high quality craft event, In:Site is unique in offering large audiences a rare opportunity to encounter contemporary ideas in craft and making, and meet the new generation of artists, makers and designers.

Graduate artists, makers and designers

112 graduates were recruited for In:Site from 45 art, craft and design courses at 29 universities and colleges from across the UK.

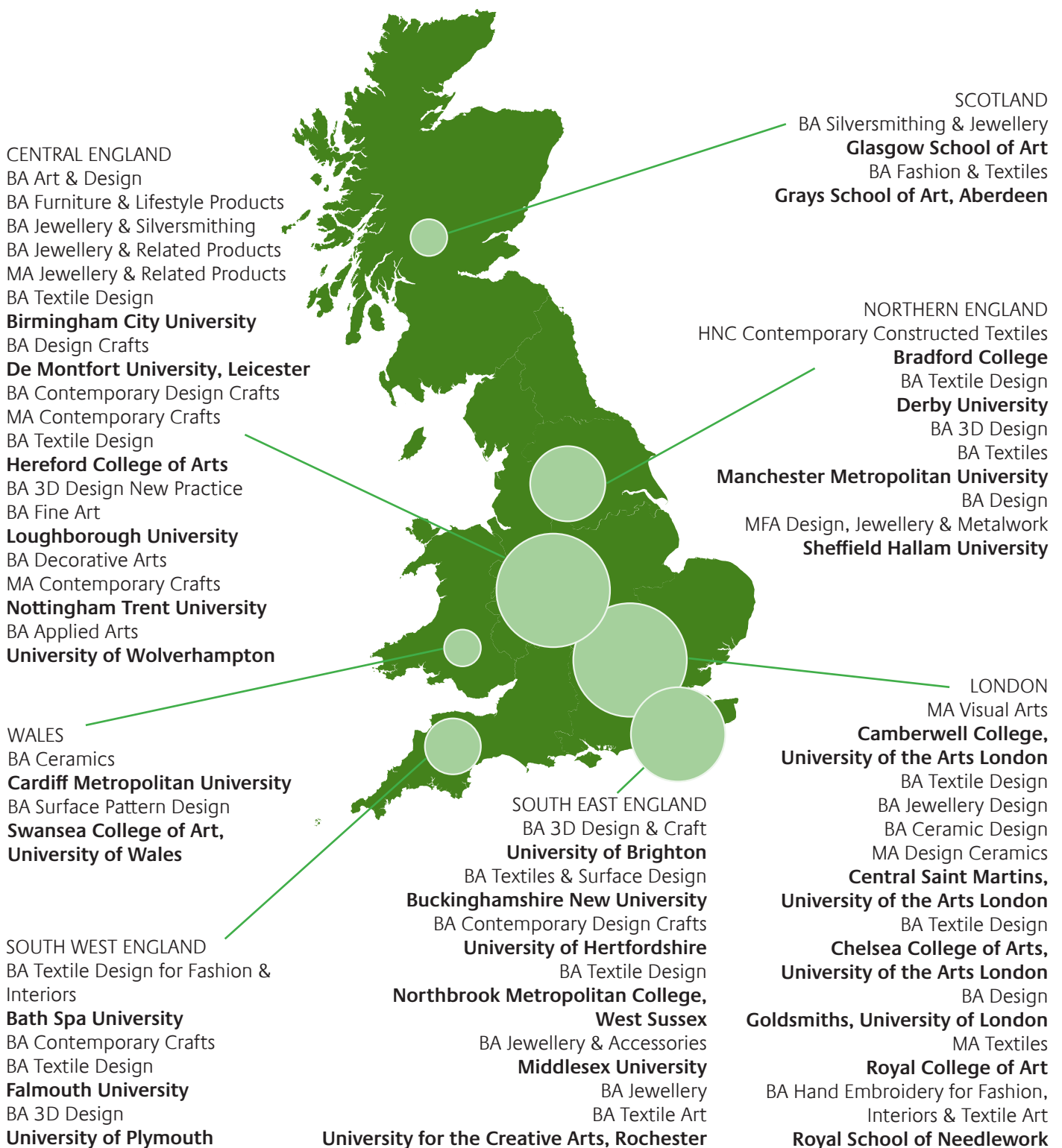
With a geographical spread stretching from Aberdeen to Falmouth and including universities in Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Nottingham, Cardiff, Brighton and London, In:Site has consistently attracted emerging artists, makers and designers working to a high standard in a variety of creative disciplines, exploring a wide range of material practices and processes.

Graduates apply in response to an open call. They are encouraged to apply by their tutors and Craftspace staff at degree shows (online during the pandemic), and at New Designers, the UK's largest national craft and design graduate exhibition <https://www.newdesigners.com/>. Graduates are selected for In:Site by Craftspace and partner organisations.

Art, craft & design BA and MA courses represented at In:Site have included: textiles, jewellery, silversmithing, metalwork, ceramics, embroidery, fashion, surface pattern, design, product design, 3D design, contemporary crafts, art & design, applied arts, decorative arts, visual arts and fine art.



Participating courses and universities by region



Techniques and processes

Textiles

- Hand embroidery
- Appliqué
- Free-motion sewing
- Digital stitching
- Hand spinning (wheel & drop spindle)
- Weaving by hand and using a loom
- Circular weaving
- Needle felting
- Crochet
- Knitting
- Macramé
- Fringing
- Basketry
- Rag-rugging



Ceramics

- Hand building: pinching and coiling
- Sgraffito
- Sculpting
- Concrete casting



Jewellery, Silversmithing & Metalwork

- Enameling
- Patination
- Pewter casting
- Jesmonite casting
- Copper chasing and repoussage
- Aluminium smelting
- Wirework



Print

- Lino printing
- Mono printing
- Screen printing
- 3D printing

Other techniques & art forms

- Cyanotypes
- Willow weaving
- Origami
- Painting
- Drawing
- Writing



In:Site Professional Development

In:Site provides additional professional development opportunities alongside the public facing participatory project.

Events have included talks, mentoring, workshops and exhibitions. Experienced artists, makers and designers from diverse backgrounds and working across a varied range of art forms, disciplines, material practices and contexts have supported graduates with career and practice development. Offering guidance and insight into different approaches to accessing, developing and maintaining a creative career, contributors have helped graduates to move forward positively and confidently at an early stage in their careers.

Contributors have included:

Anna Ray

Artist

Hertfordshire

Ibukun Baldwin

Multi-disciplinary artist and social practitioner

Manchester

Laura Slater

Textile designer

Shipley, West Yorkshire

Julia Rowntree

Creative producer & arts consultant

London

Naomi Clarke

Artist, jeweller and enameller

Birmingham

Rebekah Frank

Artist and writer

San Francisco

Stefanie Cheong

Artist jeweller

Glasgow

Stefano Santilli

Designer

Brighton & London

What participating artists, makers and designers say about In:Site

Supporting artists to work with people

"It was such a positive experience both personally and for my craft, and I really enjoyed the social aspect of it. Now that I know it's possible, I would love to engage more audiences with workshops similar to what I achieved with In:Site."

"This was the first time that I have held a workshop in public and, for me, it was an invaluable experience in using creativity to communicate with others. Also for the workshop I conducted a lot of research about Birmingham and considered my approach and what I could do for the local community. These experiences help me a lot to develop my ideas and the project I am currently working on."

"I really enjoyed it and found it hugely rewarding – I had hoped that the project would inspire the public to exchange stories and memories through making, and also to think about their own relationship to Birmingham's past, whether or not they were actually from the city. I really enjoyed hearing stories from those who took part, and it was wonderful to see so many different cultures and backgrounds pass through the square, and join in."

Building confidence after university

"In:Site was a great experience and was key to growing my confidence in sharing techniques and creative ideas with members of the public. I was not comfortable in selling myself and my work previously, so the opportunity made me feel as though I was able to apply for more local events."

"This was such a positive and reassuring experience, giving me confidence and understanding of the importance of these public engagement activities. Coming out of the In:Site day, I am more keen than ever and enthusiastic about finding and organising other opportunities for public engagement activities and sharing my craft."

"The process of making mixed with the interaction of the public makes In:Site a unique experience for graduates – giving them one of the first chances to be making again since university and giving them the exposure of the public, easing them into the world after education. The feedback from the public helped to gain confidence within myself and my practice and has made me feel more positive about opportunities after university."

"I think that finishing University and being out in the real world can be quite a daunting process. In:Site gave me something positive to look forward to and gave me a boost to keep making."

"In:Site was an amazing first experience as a graduate and I'd definitely recommend it to anybody who has recently graduated and looking to explore their work further or are unsure about what they want to do after graduation."

Developing a professional art practice

"This year I have applied for multiple jobs in participatory art projects and have recently applied for a residency. It has been great to reference my In:Site project as part of these applications. As well as being interesting to discuss, it provides further proof of my ability to work with the public, as well bringing a new location into my portfolio of projects."

"In:Site has really helped me to step out of my comfort zone, I started to figure out that I wanted the public to engage with in my work in a variety of ways outside of the usual exhibition or gallery space. That was an important discovery as it led me to apply for opportunities I wouldn't have normally and I'm now looking forward to working on a public project. I'm really thankful to Craftspace as I'm now doing things I didn't think were possible!"

"In:Site was a great opportunity to take my developing practice to a new place. Working in a public space and engaging members of the public expanded my sense of the social potential of clay and craft. Adapting your work to a space outside of a university/gallery setting is extremely valuable. Discussing my ideas with Craftspace throughout the planning and on the day was a really positive experience. After doing work mostly alone at university it was great to have this aspect of collaboration."

‘...it was an invaluable experience in using creativity to communicate with others.’



Engaging the public

Graduates develop projects that offer the public a way into their practice. Taking inspiration from the history, physical features, people, stories and life of Cathedral Square, they create thoughtful and welcoming making spaces for the public.

Their carefully designed activities provide enough guidance and inspiration for anyone of any age and ability to get making, but are open enough for people to bring their own creativity and making skills into each project.

People can watch or try different processes and techniques, and use tools and equipment used in contemporary making. Artworks made each day are displayed inside Birmingham Cathedral, or in the Cathedral grounds.

In:Site is a fully accessible and inclusive space welcoming everyone regardless of gender identity, social background, race, sexuality, disability or religion.

Participant focus: Lew

“You got me back into pottery.”

Lew came by In:Site on day 2, when Hannah Fellows’ Slow Sgraffito project was in progress. He talked to staff about how he had previously been very involved in ceramics and has a great deal of experience but hasn’t worked with clay for a long time. In:Site offered his first step back into it and reignited his interest for the discipline. He visited In:Site every day, and worked alongside Anna Cebular all day on her Reinforced: REGENERATION clay project. Lew now regularly attends Sundragon Pottery in Birmingham, he has plans to set up his own pottery, which will give him much more freedom to experiment with glazes, which is his specialist area.

“I was just walking through the square and just come across all this craft taking place in the square. I sat down and started doing some, I think it was a pottery day and as I’ve had experience with clay, I was inspired to have a go. Having not touched it for a while, it just triggered my interest. So I did the day and got the bug, I suppose, of doing craft again because COVID had interrupted everything that I had planned for my future.”

Participant focus: Victoria

Victoria came along to In:Site everyday, having very recently arrived in Birmingham from Ukraine. This was an uncertain time for her, she was new to the city and didn’t know many people. She enjoyed creative activities and making, the experience of sitting and working alongside artists, and connecting with other people. After In:Site, Victoria joined Shelanu, Craftspace’s collective of migrant and refugee women working to develop craft skills, confidence and well-being through social enterprise.

Their carefully designed activities provide enough guidance and inspiration for anyone of any age and ability to get making, but are open enough for people to bring their own creativity and making skills into each project.



What the public say about In:Site

"Thank you for reigniting my embroidery smile. I'll definitely carry on now, I'm back into it." Lou Lou, made a piece in memory of her friend.

"I've seen you each day. I've come over to have a look. It's helped to brighten up the space seeing you here."

"It's nice to be able to come out and do something as I'm pretty much based at the Children's Hospital with my son. I'll take a programme and plan to come back."

"It's nice to get involved with some art."

"A lovely experience to do something different."

"Inspiring, I'm eager to learn more."

"I loved it, very thrilling. Everyone was lovely, the crafts were a lot of fun."

"It's important to create together with a sense of belonging to a city and to recognise it as a community."

"People don't realise how all these crafts fit into our lives."

"Fabulous event - can't wait to see it all at the end of the week."

"It's amazing what you can make."

"It's good that people can get involved."

"It's important for strangers to make together - society is divided and we need to do more to find out what we have in common."

"In school we're told that it's about the end result not the process, but that's not it."

"That was very relaxing, I was in the zone. It really made my mind work."



Volunteers

Volunteers for In:Site come from all walks of life and have included current and recently graduated students, people taking a career break, looking to gain work experience in a creative field, and people who want to get more involved with the community and creative activities.

Volunteers assist Craftspace staff and makers with their projects, help with set-up and take down, talk to and engage visitors, and collect data. They gain experience of delivering a creative making project directly to the public, learn about contemporary craft and working in a participatory way, tried new craft techniques and processes. For current art, craft and design graduates, In:Site provides an opportunity for them to meet graduates from similar courses across the country, and to find out more about graduates future plans, the final year, and next steps beyond graduation.

What volunteers say about In:Site

"I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and could not be more thankful for the opportunity. All the craft space team were all so positive and friendly all the time which was great!"

"Throughout the whole week I enjoyed working at the festival as I was able to talk to the new graduates and experience making and taking part in the crafts as well as monitoring the public participation. It was a relaxed environment and I had a very fun week alongside the whole team. I was able to experience something new each day and it has been good to see how making is a massive influence on people's lives."

"It was very fun to connect with the public through each artist's project. It was very insightful to me, as a current university student to see how creative graduates progress after graduating. It left me feeling very inspired and I feel it was the perfect event for me to be involved in!"

"I thoroughly enjoyed my volunteering experience; everyone was so friendly and inspiring! I learnt so many new skills; craft skills, people skills, how to interact with different sorts of people, how to keep myself busy, how to involve myself. It was such a fun way to spend my time, and while doing it I was helping an amazing organisation and event!"

Statistics

112
graduates

from
45
courses

at
29
universities

110
YouTube
videos



over
10
years

20,815
participants

from
82
wards

including
27
areas of
deprivation

On average, In:Site Festival provides for residents across **51 wards in Birmingham and the West Midlands**, attracting participants from up to 82 wards in our most highly attended years. On average, In:Site Festival manages to reach participants from at least **11 of the 27 wards of deprivation in Birmingham**, which have deprivation scores that rank in the 10% most deprived areas nationally. With up to 20 of the 27 wards in some years.

Public participation figures

2013: 1290
2014: 3,377
2015: 1703
2016: 3181
2017: 2361
2018: 4807
2019: 2030
2021/22: 2066
Total: 20,815

Online

craftspace.co.uk/insite

The current website showcases each year's participants alongside an archive of selected previous makers.

insitefestival.craftspace.co.uk

The blog is now archived. It tells the story of each In:Site through daily blogs and features.

You Tube

Hosts **110 videos** from the festival exploring the activities of each maker.

Craftspace^{co}

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In:Site, Craft-Design-Make

In:Site

2010 – ongoing
Birmingham

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To mark the 10th edition of the event we are developing this new online space where you can explore the project.

In:Site 2022: Celebrating 10 years of In:Site

This year's event took place 9-13 May in Cathedral Square, Birmingham and showcased a variety of techniques and disciplines including ceramics, textiles, embroidery, weaving, sgraffito, metal work and 3D printing. [Learn more about the 2022 artists in the showcase](#)



[In:Site](#)

[More about In:Site](#)

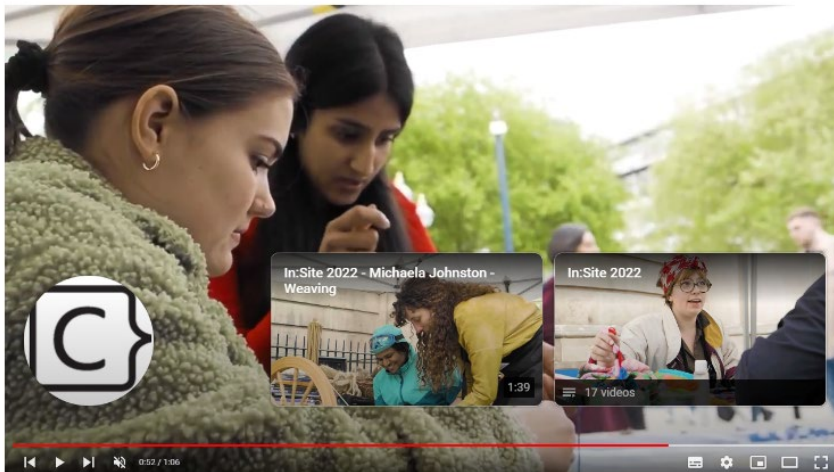
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CATHEDRAL SQUARE
In:Site 2022 - Tia Parmar - stitching stories

Craftspace
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In:Site Festival 2017

A festival of graduate creativity

Birmingham Cathedral Square, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB
4 – 8 September
(Work on show until 10 Sept)

In:Site Festival, organised by Birmingham based arts charity Craftspace, returns to Birmingham City Centre for a seventh year with recent graduates transforming the outdoor space around the cathedral with unusual craft 'interventions'. Over the week, each graduate has a day to make their creative intervention on-site, turning the making process into a performance. The public can get involved with the making of some of the artworks using different techniques; embroidery, casting in concrete, enamelling, manipulating wire and spinning wool. With different artists working each day, at the end of the week visitors can expect to see the space adorned with twelve new art works including a camera obscura, a crocheted chandelier, architectural wire sculptures and a textile tribute to historical figures buried in the graveyard echoing the shape of the Cathedral's stained glass windows.

Craftspace Director, Deirdre Figueiredo says: "A festival of making in this public square draws attention to Birmingham's rich heritage in a creative and imaginative way, encouraging people to slow down and take time to appreciate skills and stories - strangers from all walks of life talk and make together finding surprising ways to connect in an otherwise busy world."

Find out more at insitefestival.craftspace.co.uk
and @tweetcraftspace #InSite17.



ARTS PROFESSIONAL

Crafting their next steps

Katy Sadler explains how a festival in one of Birmingham's busiest thoroughfares enables craft and design graduates to test their ideas in a supportive environment.



In:Site, curated and produced by Craftspace, is an annual festival in the centre of Birmingham that provides an opportunity for new arts graduates to create bespoke, site-specific artworks.

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