

# Derbyshire Makes

## Maker in Residence Brief: The Makory Tour 2026

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### Overview

As part of *Derbyshire Makes*, Local Creative Project Ltd, in partnership with Derby Museums, invites proposals from artists, makers, and creative facilitators to join the 2026 Makory Tour – a mobile makerspace travelling across Derbyshire between March and May 2026.

The 2026 tour celebrates **Derbyshire's innovators – past and present**. Drawing inspiration from figures such as Richard Arkwright and the Strutts to Vivienne Westwood, Florence Nightingale,, David Mellor and Joseph Wright, the programme will explore the county's long history of invention, experimentation, and craft.

The Makory will tour towns and villages across Derbyshire, offering hands-on making experiences inspired by the county's rich industrial heritage.

Makers will form a small team of 3–4 practitioners who deliver creative workshops, co-produce elements of a small 2D touring exhibition, and engage communities with themes of **Experiment & Enlightenment, Industry & Innovation, and Community & Craft**.

The Makory Tour is supported by Derbyshire Makes and Derbyshire Makes History, with funding from Derbyshire County Council, Arts Council England and The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It aims to engage a diverse range of communities, reconnecting people with traditional craft skills and exploring their relevance today.

# The Makory

## About Derbyshire Makes

Derbyshire Makes is a countywide programme celebrating the county's rich heritage of making and innovation. It brings together museums, archives, heritage sites, arts organisations, libraries, education partners, makers and manufacturers to inspire creativity, support skills development, and strengthen cultural collaboration.

Through connected, mobile and place-based activity, the programme animates Derbyshire's collections, stories and communities, nurturing creative potential and building a sustainable future for the region.

Derbyshire Makes is a three-year programme led by Derbyshire County Council (DCC), delivered by Local and Arts Derbyshire, and is funded by Arts Council England, DCC and The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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## The Makory 2026 Programme Aims

- Celebrate Derbyshire's heritage industries – textiles, ceramics, metalwork, mining – and highlight at-risk and reviving craft skills such as framework knitting, tin-smithing, industrial ceramics, brick-making, and weaving.
  - Connect communities with Derbyshire's wider culture of innovation, inspired by historical and contemporary pioneers.
  - Deliver high-quality participatory making for schools, families, and community groups across the county.
  - Link to Derby Museums' Year of Wright (2026) and contribute to the broader Derbyshire Makes legacy of creativity, sustainability, and place-based engagement.
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## The Role

### Team Structure & Delivery Model

We are recruiting a small team of 3-4 artists/makers (or a collective) to collaboratively deliver the 2026 Makory Tour. The programme includes 14 engagement days, delivered across 7-9 locations in Derbyshire.

To provide consistency across the tour, each engagement day will be facilitated by one of the selected makers alongside Derby Museums' engagement team. Final

allocations (number of days per maker) will be agreed once the makers have been appointed.

Makers will meet regularly during planning and delivery with the Derbyshire Makes and Derby Museums teams.

## What the Role Involves

As a **Maker in Residence** team (up to four individual artists/makers or a collective), you will:

- Develop and deliver engagement activities across the tour.
  - Co-create a small touring 2D exhibition, capturing stories, processes, and artefacts from the programme.
  - Design and facilitate workshops linked to one or more of the programme themes and the innovators associated with each location.
  - Inspire participants to explore at-risk craft techniques and make creative connections between heritage and contemporary practice.
  - Deliver both school sessions and community-facing drop-ins, supporting curriculum-linked STEAM activity and broad community participation.
  - Collaborate closely with the Derbyshire Makes and Derby Museums teams to ensure alignment with the wider programme, the Year of Wright and heritage objectives.
  - Explore Derby Museums STEAM Learning principles; Creativity & Making, Communication, collaboration, Curiosity and Critical Thinking
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## Creative Direction & Themes

Makers are encouraged to draw inspiration from and may respond to any of the programme's three overarching themes:

### 1. Experiment & Enlightenment

Curiosity, invention and scientific/artistic enquiry.

**Inspiration examples:** Joseph Wright, Erasmus Darwin, John Lombe, Ellen MacArthur.

**Example activities:**

- Light and shadow drawing
- Camera obscura or optical experiments
- Natural pigment and mineral colour-making
- Data-inspired design
- Recycled-material challenges

## 2. Industry & Innovation

Material transformation, engineering and industrial creativity.

**Inspiration examples:** Richard Arkwright, Jedediah & William Strutt, Benjamin Outram, David Mellor, John Smedley, Vivienne Westwood.

**Example activities:**

- Metal embossing or tin-smithing
- Knitting, weaving or textile repair
- Clay or brick stamping
- Upcycling / DIY fashion
- Waterpower-inspired making
- Tool or cutlery design sketches

## 3. Community & Craft

Making as connection, heritage and shared identity.

**Inspiration examples:** Derbyshire mill workers, the Kinder Trespassers, Florence Nightingale, contemporary Derbyshire makers.

**Example activities:**

- Collaborative textile banners
  - Creative mapping and place-based drawing
  - Porcelain motifs or pattern-making
  - Textile storytelling
  - Making for wellbeing
  - Skill-sharing and repair activities
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## Audiences

The Makory will visit:

- **Rural communities and towns** with heritage links to the themes.
  - **Schools and young people**, exploring STEAM-inspired activities.
  - **Families and people of all ages**, through drop-in sessions.
  - **Community organisations**, particularly those supporting underrepresented groups.
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## Tour Locations & Delivery

The Makory will visit up to 7-9 locations between March and May 2026.

Each stop may include:

- **1 x school engagement day**
- **1 x community day** (drop-ins, demos, collaborative making)

Provisional locations:

**Matlock / Cromford · Belper · Ashbourne · Buxton · Hayfield · Glossop · Bolsover**

Makers will co-shape the specific content for each stop based on their practice, interests and local heritage links.

## 2026 Schedule

- **Planning & Appointment:** Early January 2025
- **Exhibition Development:** Jan–Feb 2026
- **Tour Delivery:** March–May 2026 (14 delivery days)
- **Reflection & Evaluation:** June 2026
- **Final Showcase (Assemble Festival, Derby):** October 2026

## Fees & Materials

- Maker fee: **£250 per day**
- Materials: **£50 per day**

Fee includes preparation, delivery, and post-session reflection.

### Additional Research Budget

There is also a budget of £250 per maker for archival research in partnership with Derbyshire Record Office.

*Please note: fees are inclusive of travel and expenses.*

## What We're Looking For

We welcome proposals from artists/makers who can demonstrate:

- Experience in socially engaged, participatory, or heritage craft practice.
- Ability to work collaboratively as part of a team of practitioners.
- Confidence working with schools, families, and community groups.
- Interest in Derbyshire's heritage, innovators, and making traditions.
- Commitment to accessibility, inclusivity, sustainability and place-based engagement.

- We welcome and encourage applications from ethnic minority and diverse communities
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## Application Process

Please submit:

1. A short proposal (max 500 words) outlining your approach, relevant experience, and how your ideas connect to the themes of Wright, heritage crafts, and community making.
2. Up to 6 images of previous work or participatory projects.
3. A short CV or bio (max 2 pages).
4. Share any dates you are unavailable during the tour period.
5. Send application to [Charlotte@derbymuseums.org](mailto:Charlotte@derbymuseums.org)

**Deadline:** 11:59, Sun 04 Jan 2026

**Interviews/selection:** w/c 12th January 2026

**Notification:** by Wednesday 21st January

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## Delivery Partners

**Derbyshire Makes** is the countywide programme celebrating making, creativity and heritage across Derbyshire.

**Local Creative Project Ltd** is the lead delivery partner for *The Makory*, responsible for coordination, programme development and partnership working.

**Derby Museums** is our key delivery partner for The Makory tour. The Makory bus is owned and operated by Derby Museums, who are being commissioned by Local Creative Project to deliver the 2026 tour.

The selected **makers** will be contracted by Derby Museums as part of this delivery arrangement.

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## Contact

For more information or to discuss your proposal, please contact:

**Charlotte Convey** –Head of Learning at Derby Museums

[Charlotte@derbymuseums.org](mailto:Charlotte@derbymuseums.org)

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