

# DareToDream

## Dare to Dream Installation - Artist-Maker Brief

**Commission Opportunity:** Installation Finale Event, April - May 2027

**Host Venue:** Masson Mills, Derbyshire (Derwent Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site)

**Project Link:** <https://www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk/projects/dare-to-dream>

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### 1. Introduction

**Derbyshire Makes** is a countywide cultural programme celebrating creativity, making and place across Derbyshire, working through a network of local hubs, artists, libraries, heritage sites and community partners. Led by **Local**, the programme supports community-led creativity, sustainable making and new ways for people to connect with the places they live, work and care about.

**Dare to Dream** is one of Derbyshire Makes' flagship participatory strands, inviting collective imagination and creative action as a way to explore shared futures. The 2027 finale will culminate this three-year programme, bringing together hundreds of community-made flags and banners that share dreams for a better Derbyshire.

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### 2. Context

The installation will form the centrepiece of the *Dare to Dream Finale*, connecting Masson Mills, Cromford Mills and Aqueduct Cottage through a physical and digital trail celebrating creativity, sustainability and shared imagination.

The Artist-Maker will begin research in 2026, visiting Derbyshire Makes Festival hubs (Cromford, Belper 250, etc.) and *Sewing Bee* events to:

- Observe and gather materials, themes and community stories
- Identify how participant-made work can be incorporated
- Meet partners, groups and local creatives
- Explore the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site landscape

#### Scope

A visually impactful, interactive installation at Masson Mills, incorporating banners, flags and textiles. The work should:

**Derbyshire  
Makes**

- Be pre-installed with selected community contributions
- Include an interactive element allowing visitors to add their own pieces during the finale weekend
- Remain in situ for an agreed exhibition period (April–June 2027)
- Use sustainable, low-impact materials and, where possible, repurpose looms or machinery from Masson's collection

#### **Potential locations within Masson Mills:**

- Ground-floor (large, atmospheric space suitable for installation)
- Tea Room (ideal for workshops / talks)
- Museum space (possibility of displaying work among heritage machinery)
- Exterior wall for a large-scale temporary banner or projection

#### **Access and permissions:**

Discussions to be held with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Masson Mills management (Caroline Bowler / Jamie Needle) regarding temporary use of decommissioned rooms and external façade permissions.

#### **Technical considerations:**

Fire safety, fixings, load-bearing capacity, visitor flow, accessibility, and any listed-building constraints.

#### **Linked activity:**

- Projection or digital display of [The Digital Loom](#) (online archive of participant banners)
- Trail walk between Masson and Cromford, potentially featuring creative walks, flags, canal installations or signage
- Connection to Aqueduct Cottage (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) for outdoor interpretation and audience engagement

### **3. Rationale**

The installation should celebrate *Derbyshire's spirit of making* - past, present and future - drawing on the heritage of the Derwent Valley Mills and the creativity of local communities. It will symbolise collective hopes, sustainability, and innovation - linking traditional craft with digital creativity.

Themes may include:

- Machines & Makers → Digital & Industrial Futures
- Craft, community and care
- Innovation and sustainability in Derbyshire

## 4. Target Audiences

- Local residents, families and visitors to the World Heritage Site
- Schools, colleges and creative learning groups
- Makers, artists and community organisations involved in Derbyshire Makes
- Visitors to the Derbyshire Makes festival and heritage attractions
- Businesses and sponsors engaged through *Dare to Dream* campaigns
- Sustainable travel users: Walkers, public transport users (Bus, Train) cyclists

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## 5. Outline & Deliverables

| Activity                              | Description  | Output  |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Artist R&amp;D (2026)</b>          | Fieldwork and engagement during Sewing Bees, Belper 250, and Cromford Hub.           | Research notes and concept development.   |
| <b>Public Engagement (2026)</b>       | Participation in Festival Hubs; talk/workshop with local creatives.                  | 1–2 community sessions + 1 artist talk.   |
| <b>Installation Production (2027)</b> | Design, fabrication, installation and activation of the <i>Dare to Dream</i> finale. | Design proposals. Temporary installation and interactive display at Masson Mills. |
| <b>Documentation</b>                  | Contribution to <i>Digital Loom</i> and online zine (images, text, reflections).     | Images and text for promotional material. 1 digital entry.                        |

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## 6. Timescales & Delivery Approach

| Phase                                    | Timing            | Focus  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>1. Research &amp; Development</b>     | Apr–Jul 2026      | Site visits, testing materials, attending Festival Hubs and Sewing Bees, engaging with partners and communities. |
| <b>2. Design Development &amp; Build</b> | Aug 2026–Mar 2027 | Prototyping, securing permissions, sourcing sustainable materials, preparing installation off-site.              |
| <b>3. Festival Engagement</b>            | Apr–May 2027      | Installation and activation during the Derbyshire Makes Festival; public interaction and live making.            |
| <b>4. Reflection &amp; Legacy</b>        | Jun–Jul 2027      | Documentation, evaluation, and de-installation. Explore potential for permanent or touring legacy.               |

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## 7. Artist Fee and Materials

- **Fee:** £10,000 (includes research, engagement, delivery, documentation, travel and expenses).
- **Materials budget:** Negotiated with producer and host; emphasis on reuse, sustainability, and local sourcing.
- **Support-in-kind:** Space, materials or transport (from partners and sponsors).
- **Insurance & tax:** Responsibility of the artist.

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## 8. Support and Logistics

Artists will receive:

- Curatorial and production support from Local with Cathy Newbery
- Creative engagement support from artist Sue Reddish
- Site and technical guidance from Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales BC, Masson Mills and Derwent Valley WHS
- Access to community and school networks
- Assistance with logistics, risk assessment and environmental planning
- Documentation support (photography / written reflection)

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## 9. Specification

We welcome proposals from artists, makers or collectives working across installation, textiles, visual art, or interdisciplinary practice.

### **Essential:**

- Proven experience in community and/or place-based projects
- Understanding of sustainability and reuse in creative production
- Ability to manage technical, logistical and health & safety aspects
- Skill set appropriate to the project for example; craft, building, designing, making, performing arts – practical, imaginative, resourceful.

### **Desirable:**

- Knowledge of Derbyshire's making heritage
- Experience of working in heritage or outdoor contexts
- Innovative use of digital or interactive elements

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## 10. How to Apply

Please submit:

- Short statement (max 500 words) describing your concept, approach and relevant experience
- 3-5 images or links to recent work
- CV (max 2 pages)

**Deadline:** 5pm Friday 20th February 2026

**Send to:** [makes@derbyshiremakes.co.uk](mailto:makes@derbyshiremakes.co.uk)

Shortlisted interviews: Friday 27th Feb 2026

Commission start: March/April 2026

If you would like to discuss this opportunity with a member of the team, please contact  
[makes@derbyshiremakes.co.uk](mailto:makes@derbyshiremakes.co.uk)

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### Additional information

- Dates for Derbyshire Makes Hub Festival Programme 2026
  - Cromford - 11th April
  - Chesterfield - 18th April
  - Swadlincote - 25th April
  - Heanor - 2nd May
  - Glossop - 9th May
  - Bolsover - 16th May
- Dates for Dare to Dream Community Sewing Bees
  - Hardwick Hall - 30th May
  - Masson Mills - 10th October
  - More to be confirmed

<https://www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk/>

<https://www.derbyshiremakes.co.uk/digitalloom>