



© Blackhorse Workshop

***Makers Run Amok
For London Design Festival
21st-27th September 2015***

The Makers Playground will be taking over Blackhorse Workshop for one week, providing London Design Festival with the antidote to all things too serious. Over 30 artists, studios, workshops and makers will take part proposing objects, participative workshops, after dark events, outdoor installations and new designs on the dance floor. Instigated by the dynamic community of designers based at the workshop, *The Makers Playground* is being developed in collaboration with [Seán & Stephen](#), an architectural practice, selected for their playful and theatrical design approach. "We create for the theatre of the everyday; our projects are the stage, props & backdrops around which interesting stories unfold."

Under these playground rules Blackhorse Workshop will run amok:

DO PLAY AFTER WORK
PLAY NICE OR MEAN
DO PLAY WITH THE WRONG CROWD
TWIST DON'T GET STUCK
MEASURE ONCE CUT TWICE
ROLE-SWAP, BACKWARDS
DO OFF-CUT (DON'T CUT OFF)

The spirit of *The Makers Playground* is about trial and discovery, and there will be plenty of opportunities throughout the week to do just that. **Open workshops** will run strictly adhering to the rules of the playground. Independent wallpaper, textile and surface designer Dan Heath will be hosting an afternoon of screenprinting Kentucky style on wooden workshop off cuts;

while indigo dye specialist Katherine May (from neighbouring denim studio *Blackhorse Lane Ateliers*), will build a giant swatch made from twisted cotton rope hand dyed with indigo dyes.

Key **installations** making an appearance include 'The Sky Pavillion' – an architectural experiment in coloured thread by *Mill & Jones* and *Jan Kattein Architects*, 'My Urn' – a mobile studio in a converted horsebox where ceramicist Lennard Houkes will be making cremation urns throughout the week, and 'Propagation Delay', a series of layered light patterns generated from wall mounted prisms by furniture designer Jordan Soderberg Mills, not to mention a giant mechanical bar canopy created by lighting designer Hannah Schmidt and Toby Poolman.

Collaborative projects will be present to view and eat. *Group Design* will be showcasing their latest furniture piece: 'Wedge stool', Catherine Aitken and David Murphy will exhibit their new creation, a flexible room divider made from textile and wooden batten, and resident designers of taste *Osinsky Ice Cream* and *Left Bank Brewery* will pair up to explore how beers & ice creams can bring out the best in each other and introduce a little about the processes behind both.

And finally a spirit of **renewability** and growth permeates the air. *Company of Things* will prototype plantstands together with workshop residents *See What We Saw* in response to plants donated by workshop members. Nana Dawson will be presenting her *AwiaHene (Sun King)* - a casting machine that uses the sun, for power to provide opportunities for jewellery manufacture in small communities. A bicycle powered cinema curated by Tim Worsley will spin into action on one of the evenings to show a series of short films exploring trends in craft, recycling and the designer maker movement. Filmmaker Nisha Duggal will be presenting her film *Forcing Tastes*, which seeks to reimagine the work and words of William Morris for the digital age, and Angharad Davies shows *Iceberg* a piece that stems from a daily encounter with the security guard sat behind a Frank Gehry desk in the lobby of the Inland Steel Building, Chicago.

Please join us for The Makers Playground.
For a full list of events at the playground visit:
www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk/makersplayground

Background

Opening Hours:

10am – 10pm throughout the week
Monday 21st September – Sunday 27th September
Launch night: Monday 21st September, 6.00pm – Late

Address: Blackhorse Workshop, 1-2 Sutherland Road Path, Walthamstow, London, E17 6BX

Nearest Tube / Overground: Blackhorse Road (5 minute walk)

Bus: 158 from Chingford Mount or Stratford (Bike racks are provided on site)

Telephone: +44 (0) 20 8531 1612

Keep Up To Date:

www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk/makersplayground

Twitter: @BlackhorseWS / @Makers_Playing

Instagram: Blackhorse WS / The Makers Playground

Facebook: BlackhorseWS /The Makers

Participating Artists, Studios and Workshops:

Studio Catherine Aitken, Roan Allen, Blackhorse Atelier, Blackhorse Workshop, Company of Things, Sarawut Chutiwongpeti, Angharad Davies, Toby Dawe, Nana Dawson, Nisha Duggal, Laura Dukes, Nayda Florez, Group Design, Dan Heath Studio, Lennard Houkes, Hiba Ismail, Lucy Johnson, Julian Leedham, Lola Lely Studio, Man Yee Li, Mill & Jones and Jan Kattein Architects, Katherine May, David Murphy Studio, Rob Nicol, Little Mashers, Giorgio Ritucci, Hannah Schmidt & Toby Poolman, See What We Saw, Rob Shaer, Tom Skeens, Jordan Soderberg Mills, Workshop East and Tim Worseley.

About Sean & Stephen:

Seán & Stephen Ltd is a London-based architecture studio. Founded in 2012 by architects Stephen Mackie and Seán McAlister, the company focuses on public artworks, high street regeneration and private residential projects. They have orchestrated compelling, built designs for a long list of past clients, including the Museum of London, Waltham Forest council, Camden Town Unlimited, the V&A, and the artist Sinta Tantra. Seán & Stephen count familiar geometry, science and fiction as conceptual tropes. Their projects are the stage, props & backdrops around which our clients unfold interesting stories. The projects are sometimes intimate, sometimes extrovert, but always contextual. Both Seán & Stephen are graduates of Dundee School of Architecture.

www.seanandstephen.com

About Blackhorse Workshop:

Since opening in February last year, Blackhorse Workshop has established itself at the forefront of London's maker-space movement. It is now home to some of the capital's top emerging design talent. Blackhorse Workshop was founded with a mission to create a new kind of public space, one that would provide affordable access to tools and machinery for everyone, from the complete novice through to the professional craftsman. The Workshop is generating a new wave of makers by reinstating knowledge that had skipped a generation and helping people to hold onto the manual skills that the digital world is letting slip by, skills that are crucially important to our understanding of and approach to design.

Blackhorse Workshop was built in a former industrial building by architecture and design collective, and Turner Prize nominees Assemble, and has been developed by its Creative Director, Harriet Warden. It was commissioned by Waltham Forest Council and co-funded by Create, the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund and the Olympic Legacy Trust UK.

www.blackhorseworkshop.co.uk

About Our Supporters:

This project has been made possible thanks to the generous support of our main sponsors, independent estate agents *The Stow Brothers*, and one of London's major affordable housing providers the *East Thames Group*. The build of the show has benefited from extensive material sponsorship provided by *E Roberts Timber*, *Smile Plastics* & *BASE*.

**Contact**

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