

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Build Your Own: Tools for Sharing**

**4 June – 31 August 2015 at FACT, Liverpool**

A Crafts Council and FACT exhibition

in association with Norfolk Museums Service



Linda Brothwell, *Acts of Care: The Sheffield Edition*, 2013. Jerwood Makers Open 13.

The exhibition ***Build Your Own: Tools for Sharing*** premieres at FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) 4 June - 31 August and will **explore how digital technologies come together with traditional processes of production to create new ways of working, sharing and collaborating.**

Co-produced by **FACT**, **Crafts Council** and **Norfolk Museums Service**, the exhibition will feature newly commissioned work by leading makers, creative technologists and collectives to be created in Liverpool and Norwich. The artists will work closely with FACT’s award-winning engagement strand to develop projects with various local groups and communities in both cities and provide a major programme of related events and workshops.

**Will Shannon and Assemble’s** new commission *Homework* will explore domestic spaces as platforms for experimentation, production and learning by setting up a casting factory in the backyard of a newly refurbished house on Cairns Street in Toxteth, Liverpool.

**Linda Brothwell** will carry out research within Liverpool’s large Polish community for her project *Acts of Care: Liverpool Edition*, in order to create paving slabs influenced by traditional Polish paper-cutting techniques and patterns. The slabs will be permanently incorporated into the street in a Liverpool area.

**Rachel Rayns’** project *Neurotic Machines* (working title)developed with the **Raspberry Pi Foundation** will show us how an ‘Internet of Things’ machine – a Raspberry Pi greenhouse - can help us take care of our gardens.

The hacker and entrepreneur community **DoES Liverpool,** led by creative technologists Ross Dalziel, Patrick Fenner and Adrian McEwen, will set up an iteration of the *Enabling the Future* project by the e-NABLE community. DoES Liverpoolwill set up a production line of 3D printers at FACT, which will supply the components for building prosthetic hands for local people with real needs.

The wide range of projects that fit under the *Build Your Own* umbrella show that the nature of craft and DIY has changed drastically. The ability to make clothes, furniture and other household goods used to be absolutely necessary to provide for the family, but nowadays we are just as likely to create a website as to knit a sweater. New times call for new skills - but the old ones have an important role too. This exhibition will explore what the democratisation of digital tools really means, whom the emergence of new technologies will affect, and how traditional craft skills can connect with new digital tools.

The projects will be showcased through the exhibition at FACT, a series of **creative interventions taking place across the city** and an ambitious and inclusive public programme of **talks, skill sharing workshops and maker hacks, a summer school for children and young people, a publication and a conference to be held in Norfolk**. All activities intend to bring alive the joy of making.

The exhibition is curated by curator and cultural programme director **Lauren Parker** and creative communications company **Thirteen Ways**. The curators have a special interest in how the common ground between old and new crafts can be applied in the real world - and how acts of sharing can engage and intersect with individuals and communities. Artists **Simon and Tom Bloor** will create a bespoke environment for the show along with design studio **An Endless Supply**.

*Build Your Own: Tools for Sharing* will tour to Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery 3 October 2015 – 3 January 2016, where the artists will work with local communities and develop their artworks further.

**Artworks**

Artist **Will Shannon** and architecture collective **Assemble’s** new commission *Homework* will explore the domestic space as a platform for experimentation, production and learning by constructing and setting up a concrete casting factory in the backyard of a house on Cairns Street in Toxteth, Liverpool. The casting workshop will be used to manufacture concrete fire surrounds and mantelpieces together with the future residents of ten houses that are being refurbished for the **Granby Four Streets** Community Land Trust. The material will be developed from reclaimed aggregate from the housing refurbishment, such as old roofing slates and broken bricks, to celebrate the heritage of the material and the process of its reappropriation. Community casting workshops will be held on Cairns Street in the run up to the exhibition and the casting workstation itself will be installed at FACT along with documentation of the project once finished.

The 10,000 strong Polish community in Liverpool is the starting point for **Linda Brothwell’s** project *Acts of Care: Liverpool Edition*. This artwork will be generated through research about Polish culture and how cultural practices and identities evolve and change over time in relation to a new city after immigration. Brothwell will hand-make new tools to make paving slabs influenced by traditional Polish paper-cutting techniques and patterns. These unique slabs will be permanently incorporated into the street paving in a Liverpool area.

The project *Neurotic Machines* (working title)by **Rachel Rayns** developed withthe **Raspberry Pi Foundation** will show us how an ‘Internet of Things’ machine – a Raspberry Pi greenhouse – can work as an alternative gardening system by monitoring light levels, temperature, humidity, soil moisture in order to keep our plants healthy. An essential part of this project will be to, through public workshops, encourage people of all ages to learn more about both the process of growing plants as well as computer programming. Over fifty Raspberry Pi greenhouse kits will be built and used by individuals all over Liverpool. A purpose built garden will also be created at FACT, teaching us how computing can be used in unexpected, creative and rewarding contexts.

*Build Your Own* will also provide an insight to the benefits and opportunities that come along with 3D printing and open source projects, by inviting visitors to get involved in testing and building 3D printed prosthetic devices. The hacker and entrepreneur community **DoES Liverpool** will setup an iteration of the *Enabling the Future* project by the e-NABLE community, where a production line of 3D printers will supply the components for building prosthetics for local people in need of a prosthetic hand. Lead creative technologists **Ross Dalziel, Patrick Fenner and Adrian McEwen** will help to setup, facilitate and technically support the 3D print area at FACT.

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**NOTES TO EDITORS  
  
Opening hours:** Tuesday – Sunday 11am – 6pm  
**Tickets:** Free entry  
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**About FACT**FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) is the UK’s leading media arts centre, based in Liverpool and is focused on bringing people, art and technology together. FACT’s award-winning building houses three galleries, a café, bar and four cinema screens. Since the organisation was founded in 1988 (previously called Moviola), it has commissioned and presented over 250 new media and digital artworks from artists including Pipilotti Rist, Nam June Paik, Bill Viola, Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Isaac Julien.

**About Crafts Council**

The Crafts Council is dedicated to enabling people across the UK to make, see, collect and learn about craft. The Crafts Council develops new touring exhibitions annually, available for hire to small and medium sized galleries, museums and arts venues across the UK.

**About Norfolk Museums Service**

Norfolk Museums Service comprises museums, collections study centres and countywide services relating to archaeology and education. Norfolk Museums Service was established in 1974 when the County and District Councils in Norfolk agreed to delegate their museum powers to a Joint Committee to manage museums through a county-wide Museums Service. The Service remains a unique partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's district councils, funded through council tax, earned income and grants. NMS is now regarded as one of the leaders in the museum sector and in 2012 was successful in its bid for major investment from Arts Council England. NMS is one of only twenty one museum services in England to be awarded Major Partner Museum status by the Arts Council.

**About Lauren Parker**

Lauren Parker is an internationally recognised curator and cultural programme director. Lauren was Head of Contemporary Programmes at the Victoria and Albert Museum for six years, commissioning award-winning exhibitions, events and art projects including *Power of Making*, *Decode: Digital Design Sensations*, and the ground breaking *Friday Late* event series. Lauren now works as an independent curator and as Director (Associate) of digital agency Caper. Her fields of expertise include global emerging design practice, the intersection of arts, culture and technology and new models for public engagement.

**Thirteen Ways**

Thirteen Ways is a creative communications company capitalising upon curatorial and communications expertise to devise high profile cultural programmes and campaigns. Founded by Clare Cumberlidge and Rebecca Blackwood, Thirteen Ways creates relationships between corporate brands, cultural organisations and leading creative practitioners to deliver audience growth through innovative forms of communication, particularly social media.

**About the Artists**

**Will Shannon** investigates the relationship between making, technology and community within a domestic context. His work explores the relationship between design and craft and touches on social issues that surround the design and making of things, exploring material provenance, the motivations to make and the act of making itself. Shannon has an extensive knowledge of materials and making processes, and a belief in the dissemination of making skills and the democratization of craft.

**Assemble** is a design and architecture collective based in London. At the heart of Assemble’s working practice is a belief in the importance of addressing the typical disconnection between the public and the process by which spaces are made. Assemble champions a working practice that is interdependent and collaborative, seeking to actively involve the public as both participant and accomplice in the on-going realization of the work.

**Rachel Rayns** joined the Raspberry Pi Foundation in 2013; at first as Artist in Residence and now on staff permanently as Creative Producer. Raspberry Pi Foundation is a charity focused on enhancing computing education worldwide, strongly believing computing to be a cross-curricular and a creative activity.

**Linda Brothwell** is currently pioneering a new understanding of the significance of British crafts skills and tools illustrating the importance of their value to economic, social and cultural development. This study will inform Linda’s new series of nationwide ‘Acts of Care’ in partnership with museums and galleries UK wide, of which *Acts of Care: Liverpool Edition* is a part.

**DoES Liverpool** is a community of makers and entrepreneurs with a diverse range of skills of interests who arrange events, workshops and much more. DoES Liverpool are working together with the **e-NABLE** community on the Liverpool edition of the *Enabling the Future* project. e-NABLE first began in 2013, consisting of about 300 people who owned 3D printers or who had design skills to share, and who wanted to help improve the first open sourced design for 3D printed hands that had been released online. They also wanted to help print and assemble free 3D printed prosthetic devices to anyone that reached out to them. Now, in 2015, their “matching system” has over 1000 recipients in various stages and 3000 registered volunteers, who all work to make more people’s lives easier thanks to 3D printed hands.