



Upland | Call for Modern Makers 2021:

A programme for young people (30 years and under) to learn craft skills.

Lead maker for the 2021 programme: Lisa Rothwell-Young

What is the Modern Makers project?

A chance for a small group of young people to be tutored intensively for 23 days by a professional maker to learn new skills and to develop their own practice. This year you will be able to experience hands-on learning with skilled jeweller, Lisa Rothwell-Young.

You will gain an insight into the different processes Lisa uses, which includes learning how to make jewellery, from beginner level, right through to stone setting and mount making and gain an insight into running a creative business. Lisa creates jewellery which is ethical, sustainable and fairtrade – an important part of her making ethos which she can also share. We hope that participants will gain new skills and confidence and build relationships through shared experience.

Who is it for?

16 – 30 year olds from Dumfries and Galloway (you must be 30 years or under for the duration of the project).

No specific experience is required, just a willingness to learn and a bit of determination. Jewellery making can be frustrating and challenging at first. You'll need some patience, commitment and dexterity too, it can be fiddly depending on what materials you choose to work with, but hugely rewarding. If you already do other creative things, we'd be really interested to hear about them too.

These are some photos and products from previous Modern Makers projects:



(Photographs by Colin Tennant)



Who is the professional maker for 2021?

Lead Maker for the 2021 programme is: Lisa Rothwell-Young, a goldsmith, working exclusively with ethical and recycled metals and stones.

Lisa is a self employed jeweller and former gallery owner with a wealth of teaching experience. Lisa has been a mentor previously on our Emerge mentoring scheme supporting early career makers and regularly takes part in our flagship event, Spring Fling Open Studios.

Lisa creates ethical fine jewellery made using fairly traded or 100% recycled precious metals alongside ethical, responsibly sourced, traceable gemstones that meet fair trade principles.

Lisa describes her work: *"My bespoke jewellery designs are completely unique, sketched in my home overlooking the woodland then created by hand in my workshop. Each piece is a work of imagination fused with intention, taking your tale and turning it into something to wear forever – timeless designs with a sense of texture. My collections are inspired by nature and the beauty of simplicity – the light within the crest of the wave, the windswept wonder of the wilderness – wholeheartedly embracing the elements."*

<https://lisarothwell-young.co.uk/>

Where will the project be based?

Sessions will take place at Lisa's studio in Langholm, Dumfries & Galloway.



Images of Lisa in her studio..



Jewellery by Lisa

What the programme will include?

Some of the skills Lisa will share include: experience in technical jewellery skills, working on commissions, selling in galleries and at trade shows, branding and marketing, experience of running her own gallery, pricing work, running events and workshops.

Lisa explains more: *"As a group I'll teach you how to make jewellery by working through some projects, but ultimately I'll encourage you to develop your own style and think about where you might want this opportunity to take you. We'll work together on technical skills, but I'll help you use those techniques in ways that are unique to you. There'll be time to chat about what it's like to run a creative business, to talk about what job opportunities there are for jewellery makers, to talk ethics and sustainability & just generally pick my brain."*

We also hope the group will be able to exhibit some of their work towards the end of the programme in spring 2021.

In addition to the time spent with Lisa there will be additional studio visits to other makers in the region as well as Go & See trips to visit places of interest related to the project.

How many places are there?

4 places are available.

Health & Safety Considerations:

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic we will follow Government Guidance with regards to working in Lisa's studio.

All necessary precautions with regards to hygiene will be taken and we have opted to keep the group number small to ensure social distancing can be maintained. Whilst it is our intention for the group to work together 1:1 working may also take place if restrictions require this.

Risk assessments will be undertaken to ensure the safety of everyone in the studio.

When will the workshops happen and what is the commitment?

The final dates will be decided between the Makers and participants. Some flexibility will be required.

The workshops will begin in January 2021 and run until June 2021.

The project requires each participant to undertake 23 days working with the lead maker which can be spread over 6 months.

Upland will help negotiate these dates with school, college or your workplace if necessary.



What will happen when?

Mid October – late November 2020: Call out for participants, applications open.

Deadline for applications: 29 November 2020

Interviews: To be held via Zoom (or similar) 8th or 9th December 2020

Notify successful applicants: week beginning 14th December 2020

Programme begins: mid January 2021

Workshops to take place January – June 2021

Exhibition of work created: May/June 2021

Comments from past Modern Maker participants:

“By learning from craftsmen and spending time with people that make their living independently it has made me a lot more confident about making my own career from art. Before the programme I hadn’t ever really chatted with anyone about what it’s like to be an artist or craftsmen. Through this opportunity I’ve been able to see how it’s done and what it’s like, in a really friendly and encouraging environment.”

“I don’t feel as intimidated by the art world as I did before. I feel like I have people that I can go to for advice and support about making an artistic career in the future.” (comments from previous Modern Maker participants).

How can you be involved?

Email Amy Marletta at amy@weareupland.com with:

1. Personal Statement: outlining why you want to take part, what your aspirations are, what school or college you attend (if relevant), and where you live – no more than one A4 page in a word document
2. Examples of past creative projects (this could be artwork, music, writing) and may be scanned drawings, photographs of 2D or 3D work etc*

*(if you are unsure of what to include or you don’t have any images available but would like to apply please just email or call Amy, contact below, to chat about it)

If you’re application is shortlisted we will invite you to attend a short interview on either the 8th or 9th December (this will most likely be done remotely by Skype or Zoom). This will allow us to find out more about why you want to take part and also give you a chance to meet the maker and ask any questions you might have.

What will you need to organise?

1. Each participants will need to organise to be out of school/college/work for 23 days between January – June 2021 – the timetable will be worked out with the makers once participants are selected. This could involve a regular commitment of 1 day a week or blocks of time throughout the project period. If you have other commitments which might limit your involvement but would like to take part, please just state this in your application. We can also help with the negotiation of this with school teachers/college tutors/employees.
2. Each young person will need to organise travel – we have a budget to contribute to travel costs and can help with the organisation of travel but ideally you would be able to get to the venues yourself.



Would you just like to know more!

Please just ask! Email Amy (amy@weareupland.com) or give her a call on 07871201473

Deadline:

29th November 2020

Further information

What is Upland?

Upland is a bold, ambitious, rurally-based visual art, design and craft development organisation that evolved from Spring Fling CIC and was established in 2015.

Spring Fling Open Studios continues as Upland's flagship event but we now offer a year round programme delivering a range of projects, events and exhibitions working with young people, emerging and established artists and makers. As the visual arts and craft development organisation for Dumfries & Galloway, Upland aims to provide a network for learning and sharing, offering advice and support to creative practitioners whilst aiming to inspire and educate a wide range of audiences to participate in and be supportive of visual arts and crafts.

Find out More

Resources:

Upland Website: www.weareupland.com

Modern Makers 2016: <http://www.weareupland.com/projects/modern-makers-2016>

Modern Makers 2017: <http://www.weareupland.com/projects/modern-makers-2017>

Modern Makers 2017 Blog: <http://www.weareupland.com/projects/modern-makers/blog/>

Modern Makers 2019 blog: <http://www.weareupland.com/projects/modern-makers-2019/blog/>

Modern Heritage Craft film: <https://vimeo.com/128026467>