



## Upland | Call for Modern Makers 2020:

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

Lead maker for the 2020 programme: Amanda Simmons

### What is the Modern Makers project?

A chance for a small group of young people to be tutored intensively for 30 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 glass artist Amanda Simmons, who creates kiln formed glass objects.

You will gain an insight into the different processes Amanda uses, which include printmaking and model making to 'sketch' out ideas for her three dimensional glass work, and also into how an artist/maker functions in today's social and economic environment. We hope that by working in a group, participants will gain new skills and confidence while at the same time be able to share ideas 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)

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



(Photographs by Colin Tennant)



## Who is the professional maker for 2020?

### Lead Maker for the 2020 programme is: Amanda Simmons

Amanda was one of the original makers involved in 2014's [Modern Heritage Craft](#) (MHC), which ran for 10 days. We are very excited to work with Amanda on a new expanded programme for 2020.

Amanda is an internationally renowned glass artist. She has worked with glass for the past 16 years, graduating from Central St Martin's School of Art & Design in London with Distinction studying Postgraduate Certificate in Glass & Architecture, before relocating to Dumfries & Galloway, Scotland in 2005. She has exhibited at Collect (Crafts Council) shown by Craft Scotland and Contemporary Applied Arts (CAA), with London Glassblowing, Bullseye Projects in Portland, Bellevue Arts Museum in Washington, SOFA Chicago and Pittsburgh Glass Centre.

Find out more about Amanda's work at her website: <https://www.amandasimmons.co.uk/>

Watch a video about Amanda's process: <https://vimeo.com/88595626>

Amanda has taught around the world including UK, Switzerland, Australia, USA, Denmark and Austria with organisations such as Bullseye Glass, Pittsburgh Glass Centre, Warm Glass in the UK and Art Glass Studio and Blue Dog Glass in Australia.

Amanda describes her work: *"I make kiln formed glass objects, playing with gravity in the kiln. Manipulating mass, heat, colour and time I aim to create complex, elusive work that has intense colour and pattern which reacts to the light it is placed in. I use opaque glass powders to construct my work because of its varying translucency as the form elongates in the kiln. I finish the kiln fired pieces using many cold working processes to shape and mark the glass including sandblasting, hand lapping and diamond point and wheel engraving."*

### Where will the project be based?

Sessions will take place at Amanda's studio in Corsock, Dumfries & Galloway.



Amanda teaching on Modern Heritage Craft, 2014.



Inside Amanda's Studio



Work by Amanda Simmons

## What the programme will include?

This year's programme will focus on exploring the techniques Amanda uses in her work. Participants will learn the three components of kiln formed glass; fusing (permanently bonding the glass together), slumping (forming the glass) and coldworking (finishing of the glass). Using these techniques, the participants will design, make and finish their own glass pieces. During the scheme the many aspects of running your own business and creative practice will be covered, including pricing, building a brand, promotion and professional development.

The group will develop work along a theme that we will choose collectively, this will include individual pieces and a collaborative project to exhibit at Gracefield Arts Centre in May 2020. This exhibition will feature work by those who have been involved in the last 5 years of the Modern Makers programme

In addition to the time spent with Amanda 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 theme.

## How many places are there?

4 - 6 places maximum

## 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 2020 and run until approximately June 2020.

The project requires each participant to undertake 30 days working with the lead maker which can be spread over approx. 6 months.

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

## What will happen when?

End of September 2019 – End of November 2019: Call out for young people

Deadline for applications: 5pm on 22nd November 2019 New deadline: 5pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019

Interviews: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Notify successful applicants: week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Programme begins: January 2020

Workshops to take place January – June 2020

Exhibition of work created: May 2020

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## 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 Modern Maker participants 2017).*

## How can you be involved?

Email Amy Marletta at [amy@weareupland.com](mailto: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 artwork created in the past, i.e. 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 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> December in Dumfries (venue and exact date tbc). This will allow us to meet you 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 30 days between January – June 2020 – 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](mailto:amy@weareupland.com)) or give her a call on 07871201473

## Deadline

**5pm 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**



## Further information

### What is Upland?

Upland is a bold, ambitious, rurally-based visual art, design and craft development organisation.

Our mission is to embrace a spirit of excellence, innovation and experimentation. We nurture, produce and promote visual art, design and craft, and raise the profile of the creative industries of our rural area in a national international context. We support and promote visual artists, designers and makers by developing mutually supportive partnerships, and engaging with diverse communities and audiences.

### Find out More

Resources:

Upland Website: [www.weareupland.com](http://www.weareupland.com)

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

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/>