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Making it 09: Business Start-up Programme

Craft NI invites craft entrepreneurs to take their first steps in business

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[STORY BEGINS] Craft NI champions the development of the craft sector in Northern Ireland and is seeking new and emerging craft talent to join the *making it* 09 craft business start-up programme.

making it, a specialist 2-year business programme, aims to nurture and develop craft innovation in Northern Ireland.

Each maker selected for the programme is placed in an arts and cultural organisation where they can access a package of financial and professional support suited to their individual business needs.

Over the next 2 months Craft NI invites makers from all craft disciplines to apply to the programme, to set up in business in Northern Ireland and realise their creative ambitions.

Successful applicants will be joining a network of *making it* participants who are growing their businesses across Northern Ireland.

Since the programme was established in 2005, there have been 22 makers on the programme working in 14 different arts and cultural venues.

Director of Craft Northern Ireland, Joe Kelly, explains that:

“The making it programme is about developing the potential of Northern Ireland’s creative talent of innovative makers”.

“Each business has a specific and unique focus with makers working in a range of diverse disciplines and media from ceramics, to paper to mixed media and from small-scale production jewellery to installations for the public realm.”

“By equipping them with the entrepreneurial skills they need, the programme helps makers to turn their creative talent into a sustainable business.”

Makers interested in applying to the programme should visit Craft NI's website, www.craftni.org./cni_programmes.php, where they can download the application forms and find out more about the craftspeople already in business as part of the programme. The closing date for maker registrations is 13 March 2009.

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Editor's notes:

- Craft NI are currently recruiting for *making it 09*. The closing date for maker registrations is 13 March 2009. [Click here for more information >>](#)
- In 2008 Creative & Cultural skills produced a video about the making it 07 programme entitled [Making it, Marketing It, Selling it](#)
- Since 2005, 3 making it programmes have placed 22 makers in 14 arts and cultural organisations throughout Northern Ireland. [Click here to view their profiles](#)
- The programme is supported by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Invest Northern Ireland.
- Research recently commissioned by Craft NI highlights that setting up a craft business in Northern Ireland is becoming increasingly attractive to young graduates - '***A Future in the Making: a socio-economic survey of the craft sector***' ([download here](#))
- The *making it* programme actively retains graduates and attracts returning craftspeople to establish craft businesses in Northern Ireland.
- [Craft Northern Ireland is a limited company which was set up by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland as a regional agency to represent and support the development of the crafts sector.](#) Craft NI's advocacy document for the craft sector, '***Why the crafts matter***', is available to [download here](#).
- There are more than 300 craft businesses and 500 people working in the crafts sector in Northern Ireland with a combined turnover of some £8m. [You can find out more about Craft Northern Ireland at: www.craftni.org/](#)
- [For further details and to arrange interviews](#) with makers, host organisations or Craft NI, please contact: Emma Duggan, Craft NI, E: emma@craftni.org, Tel: [0044 \(0\) 28 9032 3059](tel:0044(0)2890323059), Mob: 07708 178667