

PRESS RELEASE

MAKING FOR CHANGE: WALTHAM FOREST

An exhibition to show how fashion can lead to positive change.

A three-week-long exhibition, supported by the Sheepdrove Trust, will open in Leyton Green on Friday 22 November, as part of Making for Change: Waltham Forest, a partnership project developed by London College of Fashion, UAL (LCF) and Waltham Forest Council. The project explores how fashion and making can lead to positive change and activate legacies within the local community.

The exhibition will comprise of three main areas – *education, manufacturing and community*.

The *education* theme will showcase for young people in Waltham Forest the wide range of career prospects within fashion sustainability. This will include teaching resources developed by LCF staff and a number of works produced by students from Waltham Forest schools.

The second theme will present the research residencies of three LCF staff members who have worked with three (large, medium and micro) textile and fashion *manufacturing* businesses – Wagland Textiles, Blackhorse Lane Ateliers and Cactus Leather – helping them solve particular sustainability challenges they face.

The final area of the exhibition will focus on the local *community* so visitors can see the outcomes of a number of making activities and creative workshops which involved community members throughout the project. On display will be slogan t-shirt designs, upcycled garments from the art performance 'I Wanna be me, I Wanna be (E)U', and embroidery work, all of which showcase the creative skills gained by local people.

The exhibition will be at the project's newly developed fashion hub, Arbeit Studios Leyton Green – 778-782 High Road, Leyton, E10 6AE – which until recently was a derelict supermarket. The studio now provides affordable workspace and support for local businesses, flexible gallery space and delivers shared services for the borough.

The exhibition is open each Wednesday to Sunday between Friday 22 November – Sunday 15 December 2019, 1pm – 7pm and admission is free.

Laura Gander-Howe, Director of Public Engagement and Culture at London College of Fashion, UAL, said:

“Making for Change: Waltham Forest is an amazing collaborative project which has contributed to the development and nurturing of local creative talent. By introducing a number of initiatives across the school curriculum and within the local community, we have seen what can be achieved when you bring young people, researchers, artists, designers and manufacturers together, to push forward the message that fashion can be fundamental in creating positive change.”

Councillor Paul Douglas, Waltham Forest Cabinet Member for Culture said:

“One of our main ambitions of being the first London Borough of Culture has been to support growth and highlight the cultural opportunities within our community. I am incredibly proud of the work we have achieved thanks to the support of the Great Place Scheme and London College of Fashion, UAL. Making for Change: Waltham Forest has provided a platform for the next generation of artists and creatives to nurture their talents and I am excited to see how this programme will develop in the future.”

Note to Editors:

VENUE: Arbeit Studios Leyton Green
ADDRESS: 778-782 High Road, Leyton, E10 6AE
OPENING TIMES: Wednesday – Sunday, 1pm - 7pm
ENTRANCE: FREE
DATES: Friday 22 November – Sunday 15 December 2019

Making for Change: Waltham Forest

Making for Change: Waltham Forest is a project developed by London College of Fashion, UAL (LCF) in partnership with Waltham Forest Council for London Borough of Culture 2019 and the Great Place scheme. Led by Dr Francesco Mazzarella (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at Centre for Sustainable Fashion, UAL), the exhibition hosted by Arbeit Studios Leyton Green, will comprise of three main areas – education, manufacturing and community engagement – all of which will each examine the narrative of the artefact, the story and the maker.

Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019

Waltham Forest is the Mayor’s first London Borough of Culture. The award, the flagship programme in his culture strategy, was a major new initiative launched by Sadiq to put culture at the heart of London’s communities. More than 15,000 people backed Waltham Forest’s bid, which aims to inspire 85% of households to participate in the cultural year, engage every school in the area in arts and culture, and to attract over half a million new visitors to the borough. Waltham Forest, London Borough of Culture 2019 explores the themes of ‘Radicals’, ‘Makers’ and ‘Fellowship’. It will shine a light on the character, diversity and cultures of the borough, the things we have in common and the things that make us different, a year-long celebration of the real cultures of London by the people who live here.

London College of Fashion, UAL

London College of Fashion, UAL, leads the world in fashion education – across design, media and business. Through our Making for Change programme, we're turning belief into action. And action into opportunity. Making for Change helps people gain hands-on fashion manufacturing skills, industry-recognised qualifications – and later, jobs in the UK fashion manufacturing industry. As we look towards our move to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in 2022, we're forging partnerships, opening up opportunities, and creating connections with east London's schools, community and industry. Part of East Bank, a new culture, education and innovation development, our single-site campus will spark collaboration, experimentation, and inspiration – all under one roof. In doing so, we'll continue to pioneer how we all consume and practice fashion. Use fashion business, media and design to shape culture, economics, and society. And through fashion, shape lives.

Acknowledgments

Making for Change project leader: Dr Francesco Mazzeola, Centre for Sustainable Fashion at London College of Fashion

Curator: Fiona McKay, Centre for Sustainable Fashion

Exhibition coordinator: Mina Jugovic, Centre for Sustainable Fashion

This exhibition is kindly funded by the Sheepdrove Trust. The Making for Change: Waltham Forest project is part-funded by London Borough of Culture 2019, Waltham Forest Council and Great Place: Creative Connections, a programme supported by Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Great Place Scheme is designed to put arts, culture and heritage at the heart of the local community.