



Arts Council of Northern

**ART FORM AND SPECIALIST
AREA POLICY 2013-2018**

CRAFTS & APPLIED ARTS



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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www.artscouncil-ni.org

Preamble

The Crafts & Applied Arts Policy has been developed in line with *Ambitions for the Arts*, the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's five-year Strategic Plan for the Arts, 2013-18. The overarching priorities of the Plan – champion the arts, promote access, build a sustainable sector – are reflected across the set of the Council's Art Form and Specialist Area policies, 2013-18.

Introduction to Crafts & Applied Arts Policy

The crafts sector in Northern Ireland is broad and diverse. It ranges from the use of traditional techniques and materials within a heritage context, through small businesses making batch product for the retail market and giftware, to innovative and experimental exploration of new materials to make work for gallery exhibition.

The Arts Council's interest is greater in certain areas within the crafts and applied arts spectrum, and our response to the needs and opportunities present in the sector is specific and targeted accordingly. The Council's interest is in contemporary works of applied arts and design-led crafts that show a high degree of creativity, innovation, skilled workmanship and originality. This interest naturally extends into the support and enhancement of an environment where this work is both respected and encouraged. Crafts and applied arts are a significant contributor to the cultural, economic and social landscape of Northern Ireland and must be valued as such.

The Council has both remit for, and interest in, development of the crafts sector in Northern Ireland. Given the breadth and diversity of the sector, Council support and focus must complement that of other development agencies working within the sector. It will therefore work with other agencies and bodies towards co-ordinated and sustainable support for crafts in Northern Ireland.

The Council acted as the catalyst for the establishment of Craft NI in 2004 and it remains committed to supporting their development. As the lead agency for the development of the sector, Craft NI will deliver a range of projects and initiatives designed to impact across the craft sector in Northern Ireland, develop and disseminate models of best practice and broker inter-agency intervention.

The Council values the work done at a local level by craft networks and makers' groups. It will continue to advocate their importance and potential. Issues of long-term planning, complementarity, quality and sustainability need to be primary concerns.

Funding Objectives

- promote the work of Northern Ireland's designer/makers to a wide audience, both at home and abroad;
- encourage designer/makers in Northern Ireland to be innovative and creative, working to a high quality and developing technical and entrepreneurial skills;
- encourage new designer/makers to establish in Northern Ireland;
- develop and enhance the opportunities for audiences in Northern Ireland to experience and view high-quality crafts and applied arts;
- develop and strengthen the infrastructure of groups and networks that support and promote crafts and applied arts;
- encourage partnership working;

Additional Information

'Ambitions for the Arts' Five Year Arts Strategy, 2013-2018

www.artscouncil-ni.org/about-us/strategy

Art Form and Specialist Area Policies, 2013-2018

www.artscouncil-ni.org/the-arts

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Crafts & Applied Arts	Voluntary Arts
Dance	Youth Arts



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