

For immediate release

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## **‘Making’ takes centre stage in Horniman’s immersive exhibition**

Visitors to the Horniman Museum and Gardens are invited to step into a new installation where all the artworks have a story to tell about design, techniques and materials, and where visitors are invited to ‘make’ as part of the show.

The Horniman’s new exhibition **Stages of Making, opening on 19 October 2019**, turns the tables on conventional museum exhibits. Rather than being solely focused on finished works, it places the materials, acts and processes of making things centre stage.

Stages of Making is co-produced by a collective of nine local community members working with artist Katie Schwab, who have taken inspiration from the Horniman’s anthropology collection, the design history of the Horniman site and its stores. Exhibits are displayed at various points of production – from different materials, many sourced locally, and experimental samples through to completed works including a large rag rug – with the surrounding walls painted in colours referencing the palette of a geological timescale in the Horniman’s Natural History Gallery.

Everything displayed in the exhibition is either made from repurposed materials or sourced with care; environmentally-friendly paint is used on the walls, composite plastic table-tops are made from yogurt pots, refrigerator trays, electrical fuse boards and medical packaging, excess materials have been sourced within the Horniman and more than 750 used t-shirts have been woven into the rag rug.

The making of the rag rug, by the Collective and members of the public visiting the Horniman over the summer months, is captured in a film exploring the methodology of ‘chaîne opératoire’ – a technique used in anthropology and archaeology to understand the physical actions and social processes involved in making an artefact. Visitors can watch the film while seated on the rug itself.

Visitors can also take part in making something to add to the growing ‘archive’ of samples in the exhibition, by joining daily Making Time drop-in sessions or booking onto one of the specialist workshops.

**More**

The Collective members say: 'We want to create a space at the Horniman where people can come together to experience making in a collaborative way and to think about the value and sustainability of materials and the objects around them and their own relationship to these.'

Anila Ladwa, Studio Curator at the Horniman Museum and Gardens, says: 'It is fantastic to have an arts space within the Horniman where diverse people and artists have opportunities to work together with museum staff and with access to the collections, to develop public exhibitions. The Collective members have thought about sustainable everyday living and have brought together their different concerns, knowledge and skills to create an exhibition that resonates with the Horniman's own concern about human impact on the environment.'

**Stages of Making is free to visit and will be open in The Studio from 19 October 2019 to 19 April 2020.**

**Making Time free drop-in activities in The Studio will be daily from 10.30am to 4pm from 19 October 2019.**

### Ends

Horniman Press Office - Tel: 020 8291 8166 - [press@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:press@horniman.ac.uk)

#### **Pictured:**

Wire weaving sample (detail), Stages of Making, credit Robbie McKane

Making the rag rug, Stages of Making, credit Robbie McKane

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- The **Studio Collective 2019** are:
  - **Ahmadzia**, a volunteer at Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers (SDCAS) and a kite maker, who came to the UK in 2006 from Kunduz, Afghanistan, and is a refugee
  - **Carola Cappellari**, a photojournalism and documentary photography student who volunteered her skills to produce promotional material for the Indoamerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation, a community-led organisation supporting Latin Americans to build secure and integrated lives in the UK
  - **Francis Stanfield**, a member of the Collective during the formative stages who sadly passed away in July 2019. He was a multi-tasker when it came to music who described himself as 'the original stuporman'. He was influenced by surrealism, films and art, likes 'anything out of the weird'. We will remember his music, his political wit, his incredible cartoons and his outrageous jokes. He is much missed by us and his friends at St. Christopher's Hospice.
  - **Godfrey Warui**, from Kenya but living in London, who volunteers with SDCAS 'because it enriches the community where I live' and who also has an interest in gardening
  - **Jacqueline Benn**, who has a career background in TV programming planning and immersive theatre, and whose interests lie also in the arts, and producing short films. In her spare time she is a keen artist, writer and swimmer alongside her involvement with South East London ME Support Group
  - **Jawad**, who was born in Afghanistan in 1991 and came to the UK in 2006. He got his refugee status in 2011, and his indefinite leave to remain later that year. He wants to become a plumber or an electrician, and is a volunteer gardener at Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers.
  - **Kate Emblen**, an artist working across multiple media and art forms including painting, printing, textile art and millinery, who engages with the local community through craft fairs, art trails and collaborative work, including with Arts Network
  - **Katie Schwab**, the commissioned artist, chosen by her fellow Collective members

- **Norin Khanna**, a sighted person since birth who lost sight later in life, and is involved with organisations both as a service-user and contributing back as a volunteer in various ways including being part of the Horniman's Access Advisory Group and advisory panels for other organisations
- **Satch Chauhan**, from Three Cs, a 'very curious' person with 'a lot of passion for anything and everything' who was born in Nairobi, moving to the UK aged one
- **Sheila Hepper**, a florist who has rediscovered her creative streak through joining St. Christopher's Hospice Arts team
- **Katie Schwab** is an artist who works across exhibition, learning and community contexts to explore forms of collective working. Her recent exhibitions include *A Working Building*, The Gallery at Plymouth College of Art, Plymouth (2019); *Jerwood Solo Presentations*, Jerwood Space, London (2016); *Making the Bed, Laying the Table*, Glasgow Sculpture Studios, Glasgow (2016) and *Together in a Room*, Collective, Edinburgh (2016). Recent projects include *This Interesting and Wonderful Factory*, Clore Sky Studio Commission, Tate St Ives, St Ives (2018); *Atrium Commissions*, mima, Middlesbrough (2017) and *A Portable Mural*, Serpentine Galleries, London (2017). She was the recipient of the 2016 Nigel Greenwood Art Prize, the 2017 Wilhelmina Barns-Graham Residency at Porthmeor Studios, St Ives, the 2018/19 New Contemporaries/ SPACE Studio Bursary and the 2017-19 Design Residency at Plymouth College of Art. [katieschwab.com](http://katieschwab.com)
- **The Horniman Museum and Gardens** opened in 1901 as a gift to the people in perpetuity from tea trader and philanthropist Frederick John Horniman, to 'bring the world to Forest Hill'. Today the Horniman has a collection of 350,000 objects, specimens and artefacts from around the world. Its galleries include natural history, music and an acclaimed aquarium. A new World Gallery of anthropology opened in June 2018 and a new arts space, The Studio, opened in October 2018. Indoor exhibits link to the award-winning display gardens – from medicinal and dye gardens to an interactive sound garden, Butterfly House and an animal walk – set among 16 acres of beautiful, green space offering spectacular views across London. [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk)
- The Horniman Museum and Gardens is core-funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and since 1990 has been governed by an independent charitable trust, registered charity no. 802725. The Horniman Museum and Gardens also receives funding from Arts Council England as one of its National Portfolio Organisations.
- On 29 July 2019 the **Horniman Museum and Gardens declared an ecological and climate emergency**, pledging to place carbon reduction and environmental issues at the heart of its work. The declaration is both a consolidation of existing work and a commitment to renewed ambitions to reduce the Horniman's environmental and pollution footprint, increase biodiversity, and inspire others to do so. Find out more about the Horniman's specific commitments as part of the declaration at [horniman.ac.uk](http://horniman.ac.uk).
- **Opening times and admission.** The Horniman Museum is open daily 10am-5.30pm, except 24 - 26 December, when it is closed. The Gardens open at 7.15am Monday to Saturday and 8am on Sunday and Bank Holidays, and close at sunset. Entry to the Museum and Gardens is free but charges apply for the Aquarium, Butterfly House and some special exhibitions and events. Horniman Members and Benefactors go free – [horniman.ac.uk/members](http://horniman.ac.uk/members).
- **Access.** The Museum and the Gardens are both wheelchair and pushchair friendly with accessible toilets. Limited on-site parking is available for Blue Badge holders. [horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access](http://horniman.ac.uk/visit/disability-and-access).
- **Travel.** The Horniman is situated at 100 London Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3PQ on the South Circular Road (A205). It can be reached easily by train to Forest Hill station (London Overground/Southern, travel time approx. 15-20 minutes from east/central London or East Croydon) and by local buses (176, 185, 197, 356, P4).