

# Makers of The Month

## THE GARDEN ROOM

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### Information for Applicants

#### What is Makers of the Month?

Makers of The Month is a new programme for 2024 , designed to encourage craft and entrepreneurship in the local community. The aim is to support local independent crafters and makers by offering the opportunity to showcase and sell their product in our retail space The Garden Room.

Each month we will feature 1-3 Makers who will each be allocated a designated area within The Garden Room. Our team will support the display and visual merchandising of their product and promote it on our social media platforms.

#### How Does it Work?

Makers of the Month will operate on a commission basis. The Garden Room will retain 30% of each sale to cover our costs and to reinvest into our community projects. The Maker will receive the remaining 70% from each sale.

Makers are encouraged to set the Retail Price for their products. However, if your product is selected, we are more than happy to offer our experience in this area and support you in finalising a price that offers our customers good value for money while also reflecting your time, skills and creativity.

We will ask Makers to provide some information about themselves and their craft so that we can share this with our customers, who always love to know the story behind the products featured in The Garden Room..

#### Who is Eligible to Apply?

We are keen to hear from crafters who are just starting out, as well as those who are more established and would like to connect with a new audience. You do not need to have a website or large social media presence to apply, but we do ask that you support the marketing of your work if you're selected as a featured Maker.

As we are a community organisation, we will prioritise applications from those who live in or have strong connections to the local area.

At The Exchange we are keen to promote handcrafted, high-quality products that are produced in a way that aligns with our values. If you're thinking of applying, please take a few moments to read our Retail Product Guidelines. Applicants are not required to meet all of the requirements listed, but the guidelines should give you an indication of the work that we would be most excited to showcase.

The Makers of the Month opportunity is only available for product which is handmade and/or designed by the person or people applying. We will not be able to accommodate the re-selling of items that are not produced by the featured Maker.

Quality is important to us at The Exchange, we will only accept product that is well crafted and designed to stand the test of time.

Our aim is to provide a platform for local makers and crafters to showcase their creations, have an opportunity to sell their product and raise their profile. However, as we want to ensure the best possible product range for our customers, we may not accept crafted products which are very similar to that of recently featured Makers, product that is very similar to what we already stock, or product which does not align with the ethos and values of The Exchange.

Product must not breach any copyright laws and must adhere to legal regulations. This includes regulatory testing and warning labels for any clothing or toys for children and babies as is required. Any cosmetic or home fragrance products must have the relevant CPSR or CLP. The responsibility of ensuring their product is legally compliant lies with the Maker.

For products with very specific display requirements, such as jewellery or certain styles of clothing, we may request that display props are provided by the Maker.

Makers are required to arrange delivery and collection of their product. We can be flexible on dates and times as required but we are unfortunately not in a position to store stock on our premises before or after the agreed dates.

Makers are responsible for their own earnings and declaring any taxable income as appropriate. This will not be managed by The Exchange.

**Refunds and Exchanges:** If a customer returns an unused item within 7 days of purchase they will be offered an exchange for an item of an equal value from the same maker. In the case where an item is returned due to a fault, a full refund will be given. To comply with consumer law, this will be the case even if a faulty item is returned after the Makers season at The Garden Room.

Safety and security is a priority in The Garden Room. The space is always supervised by a team member when we are open and all reasonable steps will be taken to prevent theft or damage of product. However, we cannot take responsibility for any loss that might arise from theft or breakage. It is worth considering your own insurance.