

## Written evidence submitted by Crafts Council

### **Pulse Survey: how have young creatives been affected by COVID-19?**

The [Crafts Council](#) is the national development agency for craft in the UK. We shared an online survey via our social media networks, asking creatives aged 15-30 to tell us about how they had been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. This survey can be found [here](#).

As of 15/4/20, we have had 52 responses to the survey; 12% of respondents were under 18, 52% were aged 18-24 and 36% were aged 25-30.

Key themes emerging from the results included:

- GCSE and A Level students are at home with limited access to materials and in many cases a lack of space for messy creative work. Respondents raised concerns about lost teaching, how predicted grades will be calculated and the process of applying to college and university courses.

*'I will probably miss some teaching (or have to teach myself) which will have a significant impact on my GCSEs'*

- University students expressed anxiety and frustration about having to complete their courses without access to materials, facilities, libraries or creative workspaces. Some mentioned that they had not yet been given information about how they would be graded.
  - 51% of respondents predicted that the crisis would have a negative impact on their degree of HE course
  - 53% were concerned about not having access to workshops and studio spaces to finish work

*'The lack of support for masters students--we have been told to still do our exams when I have no way of making work as my course is practical. There is no thought to the added impact and stress this has.'*

- The cancellation of degree shows was a key concern, with respondents flagging the loss of associated networking and career development opportunities.

*'I'm in the final year of a ceramics degree--degree show has been cancelled, as have many graduate shows we were planning on doing this summer. It's also very hard to stay motivated to finish the degree, working from home only on digital/written work without access to facilities and materials..'*

- Young people at the start of their careers have faced the loss of work placements, residencies and professional development opportunities
- Respondents flagged a range of financial challenges: loss of part-time jobs; zero-hours contact work impacted; freelance contracts cancelled and self-employed makers unable to sell work. These were combined with concerns about continued rental payments for university accommodation that had been closed and securing enough income to meet basic needs.
  - 67% were concerned about loss of income as the result of the crisis

- 47% were worried that the crisis would impact their ability to secure work as a designer/artist/maker

*'I left my home and my job for a long term artists residency that was cancelled after one week. I have nothing to go back to'*

*'After working hard to build my career, worried I'll have to start over again.'*

- Wellbeing is a key issue, with 73% of respondents reporting that they felt isolated from friends and 76% stating that if the situation continued for up to six months it would have a negative

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