

Creative Product Collaborations

A chance for artists and makers to work with Making it Out participants to create unique products based on your style and skill set. The resulting products will then be sold by Making it Out with a commission for the artist involved.

Time: Varies depending on discipline, but expected 1-3 days

Locations: Portside, Portslade (East Sussex) / Buncton, Steyning (West Sussex)

Compensation: Negotiable day rates for workshops and/or percentage of any sales.

Background

Making it Out (MIO) is a charity that facilitates art, design and making opportunities for people leaving prison or at risk of ending up there without support. MIO sells a small range of unique and creative products that have been designed and made in collaboration with its participants, allowing for creative expression in myriad fields including metalwork, carpentry, painting, sculpture, ceramics and CAD design.

In its inception, MIO staff and participants solely worked on bespoke, commission-based projects. However, as the scope and size of the charity grew, we were able to initiate regular, smaller designs that could be used as “jumping off” points for introducing new and existing participants to the different disciplines that MIO offers. Our primary aims of all MIO products are to create quality, saleable goods for retail to the public which allow participants to have input at all stages of R&D, fabrication and POS; provide opportunities for learning and development of artistic and creative skills while promoting sustainable ways of being creative; and raise funds for MIO’s other activities.

The products are currently available through [Making it Outlet](#) but other avenues are currently being explored including local and national retailers and participation in local arts-based events. All profits made enable Making it Out continue to provide meaningful and regular creative activity and social opportunities for MIO participants.

Artist Collaborations

In line with the above, MIO is looking to work with local, established artists, craftspeople and other creative professionals to further develop its product range. From pottery to graffiti, children's books to public sculptures, photography to stone-carving, MIO is interested in all disciplines and are seeking creatives with established practices who would be able to work collaboratively and enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with shared skills, resources and exposure.

For a successful and cooperative relationship, MIO has set out the following necessary criteria:

- Established and knowledgeable practice in one or more creative disciplines.
- Enthusiasm for making and creating and helping others learn and develop new skills.
- Non-judgemental attitude towards people who have previously been in prison.
- Commitment to working in a workplace regardless of gender, race or sexual orientation.



How it works

Initial meetings

After initial discussions, the collaborating artist would join a small design meeting with MIO staff and selected participants interested in the artist's creative field. This is an opportunity to discuss potential design concepts, materials and processes and agree on a plan of action, and would take place in MIO Portslade studio.

Workshops

The collaborating artist would lead one (or more) workshops for MIO participants; explaining their creative practice and demonstrating methods of working around the concept agreed in the meeting. The result of these workshops would be for the participants to produce items or artworks inspired by and in partnership with the artist, with the potential to further develop and produce similar pieces in the future. The workshops would take place in either the MIO workshops in Portslade or Steyning. A day or half-day rate can be negotiated.

Development

After the workshops, MIO staff and participants will further develop the results into saleable products. This will be communicated and agreed with the collaborating artist at every stage.

Sale

When all parties are happy with the outcome of the design and fabrication, the product will go live on the MIO website for sale to the general public. Depending on quantities and success, some products may also be sold in physical locations (with agreement from all parties). MIO staff and participants will continue to fabricate products as and when sales continue or until editions have been exhausted. Products will be promoted via MIO social media accounts. We would also expect the collaborating artist to promote the works on their social media.

What's in it for you?

- Work with creative, talented and enthusiastic people and develop local creative networks.
- Develop a new or unique element to your artistic practice.
- Exposure on the MIO website, social media accounts and any associated events or avenues of sales.
- Financial returns on any products sold.

Safeguarding

At MIO we work with vulnerable people who have histories of criminal behaviour and as such we have strict safeguarding procedures to ensure that everyone is kept safe. Any work through these collaborations will always take place in a group setting and you will be required to adhere to our safeguarding policy throughout.

Contact

If you are interested in collaborating with MIO on a future artwork or product range, or have any questions, please contact admin@makingitout.co.uk, via the Makingitout.co.uk or DM us on social media channels. Where possible, please include links or images of your previous and current work.