

## It's a Joy to be here, 14th January 2023 - 1st April 2023

Working Class Creatives Database x 87 Gallery Hull

'It's a joy to be here' brings together six working-class artists from around the UK. Collectively, the artists draw on the history and traditional processes of craft whilst conceptually exploring the nuance of personal narrative. Many of the artists do this through the use of materials that are immediately available, reused or altered, together challenging stereotypes around gender, class and DIY approaches. By celebrating methods often associated with the working class, such as textiles and metalwork, the work provokes questions around the hierarchies within artistic practice.

When brought together these pieces open up a dialogue between artists from the North and the South of the UK and capture the power in the community, reinforcing the idea of there being strength in numbers. The exhibition considers how our experiences, working-class histories and identities can both set us apart and unite us. It also celebrates the collective joy of learning, loving, community and collaboration.

Exhibiting artists are Ben Brumpton (based in Manchester), Charlotte Cullen (based in Leeds), Daniel Fountain (based in Exeter), Grace Clifford (based in Sheffield) Sam Batley (based in Liverpool) and Stephanie Francis-Shanahan (based in London).









## Gatherings, August 2023

SET Woolwich

Gatherings brings together twenty eight artists across a range of disciplines as part of a collaborative show between SET and the Working Class Creatives Database. Made up of work from a host of different disciplines, though touching on installation, sculpture, photography, video and text, the exhibition offers a variety of approaches to making and thinking, with Gatherings distilling them into a space of collaborative belonging.

To gather, to bring together. Gathering is a process of thoughtful contemplation, a cathartic approach to collecting. Artists in Gatherings have approached the making of works with a level of intimacy and trust through muted tones and care for their subject and practice. A softness runs throughout the works, balanced by a structural rhythm created by the ways in which they examine the world around them. Intimacy bleeds through familiarity, created by that softness of touch.

The exhibition showcases the breadth of working-class voices, representing diversities, histories, places, and identities within the working-class experience. Overall, "Gatherings" presents a collection of deeply personal, delicate, and powerful works.









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