



Jo Lathwood: Making Up

Large Print Guide

Entrance Hall

Jo Lathwood: Making Up

20 Jan - 2 Feb	build pathway
3 Feb - 19 Feb	pathway open
20 Feb - 3 March	dismantle pathway

Jo Lathwood makes sculptures and large-scale installations in response to a particular site, event, material, or process. For *Making Up*, The Lowry has invited Lathwood to spend four weeks in residence developing, building, and ultimately deconstructing a new sculptural installation made especially for our galleries.

Lathwood will begin by building a raised pathway that connects to a circular rotating platform, made from recycled timber. You can see this pathway being built via our live broadcast from The Lowry's workshop. When it is finished, visitors will be invited to make a simple journey along the pathway. Inspired by the history and heritage of Salford Quays, the area that is now home to

The Lowry, and by her longstanding interest in journeys and movement, Lathwood offers the idea of traveling backwards, undoing, and turning around as potentially poignant aspects of a sustainable future.

The title of the show is taken from a 'maker up', the job title for someone who packaged things made in the cotton mills and factories into boxes. This was a necessary role before containerisation boomed and Salford Quays stopped operating as a working dock. Inspired by 'maker ups', Lathwood will be dismantling the pathway, and the wood will be repurposed into reusable boxes which are then given away, leaving no trace and minimal waste. The boxes will be available towards the end of the project. If you are interested in taking a box then please talk to a member of staff.

6 Ladder Drawings

Four step ladder, 2023

Tripod ladder, 2020

Iceland stile ladder #2, 2021

Scotland stile ladder, 2023

Painted ladder, 2020

Travel ladder, 2022

All drawings gouache on heavyweight paper

Jo Lathwood is interested in journeys, or moving through things to reach a destination, whether that be physically or metaphorically. During lockdown, she started drawing ladders, which are symbolic of this idea. They are a quintessential tool to get over something, and they offer a different viewpoint. Each are portraits of real ladders and contribute towards an ongoing series of unique ladder drawings.

Lathwood's drawings are available to purchase in the shop.

GALLERY A

This space houses the pathway that Jo Lathwood is building and dismantling throughout the residency. When the artist is not present in this space, she is based in the workshop in The Lowry's basement where she has access to specialist equipment. You can see what activity is happening there via the live feed on view in the room next door.

The pathway is inspired by Manchester and Salford's industrial heritage which relied on its complex network of canals and railways. Lathwood was interested in these transport systems and started to think about how canal boats and trains needed turntables to turn around. When the pathway is finished mid-way through the exhibition period, visitors will be able to walk along it, and pause at the end. Rather than feeling at a dead end, the rotating platform allows visitors to physically turn around. In a world of growth and consumption, where the mantra 'onwards and upwards' is often at odds with environmentally friendly living, the turning circle symbolically links the idea that progress towards a

sustainable future is not linear, but circular.

Lining the gallery is the phrase 'WE ARE ALL IN A CYCLE' painted directly on the walls. The paint is leftover from previous exhibitions here in the Lowry galleries, continuing her strategy to be as resourceful as possible. Lathwood wanted to include this emotive phrase in order to connect us to the wider ideas of climate change, and to encourage a conversation about these ideas. The font used is Handel Gothic, mirroring the logo of Veolia, one of the biggest waste management companies in the UK.

The green lighting is a nod toward the colour that is synonymous with the recycling industry. This environment aims to set itself apart from the stark white space normally associated with exhibitions that showcase finished artworks. The coloured gallery instead references a space that is in flux, revealing production and fabrication.

GALLERY B

(clockwise left to right)

3 small ladder drawings

90 degree ladder, 2021

Tube ladder, 2021

Round ladder, 2022

All drawings collage with recycled paper

These impossible ladders are collages made from recycled paper. While working on previous drawings, Lathwood realised that the opaque colours could be better replicated with paper. For these works, she has replaced the paintbrush with a scalpel knife, linking back to her sculptural practice.

3 large ladder drawings

Plan ahead ladder, 2023

Waste paper and oak gall ink

Loop the loop ladder, 2023

Waste paper and oak gall ink

Leave what you find ladder, 2023

Waste paper and oak gall ink

These images are part of Jo Lathwood's ongoing body of work depicting ladders. These drawings are made from scavenged waste paper from Jo's studio and Saica's paper recycling mill in Manchester. The ink is homemade, Oak Gall ink which is an incredibly lightfast natural ink made by crushing Oak Galls and mixing them with water and rust. Oak galls are small growths found on oak trees which are caused by a parasitic wasp, they can be used to make a light fast black ink made from tannic acid and ferrous sulphate.

Unlike the more realistic drawings in the entrance space, this series shows non-functional ladders, where one is

broken, one is twisted and the other is a loop. They aim to question ideas around linear progress, disrupting mantras like 'onwards and upwards' or other capitalistic signs of growth and development.

Video

Travel Plans, 2024

2min 36sec

This video sketch depicts images associated with progress and time. Throughout the film, calls to action are matched to corresponding visuals which have contributed to Jo's research around the ideas of the exhibition.

Thanks to Anna Barrett, Eleanor Duffin, Huma Mulji for voice over and Paul Blakemore for technical support.

Live Broadcast

Watch Jo Lathwood at work through our live broadcast from the Lowry's workshop. This feed reveals the hidden functional spaces within the building and shows how artists and technicians work to build installations.

Manifesto

Jo Lathwood wrote this manifesto in 2020 as a checklist for her own practice, and she has tried to apply it to all of her art commissions and make things more sustainably. The manifesto has three bullet points at the bottom which is an invitation for others to add or alter it, and to encourage an open conversation. The manifesto is freely available on Lathwood's website (www.jolathwood.co.uk) and there are copies to takeaway in the gallery space.