

## London Craft Week at Coal Drops Yard

*8–12 May*



An example of the special indigo dye that Japanese collective BUAISOU are known for.

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New for 2019, King's Cross shopping district Coal Drops Yard joins London Craft Week for its fifth edition, presenting a wide-ranging programme of workshops, installations, events and experiences over the five day festival.

Opened to the public on 26 October 2018, Coal Drops Yard has become the retail centrepiece of the new King's Cross development. Home to a curated selection of more than 50 emerging and established brands, most with craftsmanship at their heart, the Thomas Heatherwick-designed destination is a natural location for London Craft Week events.

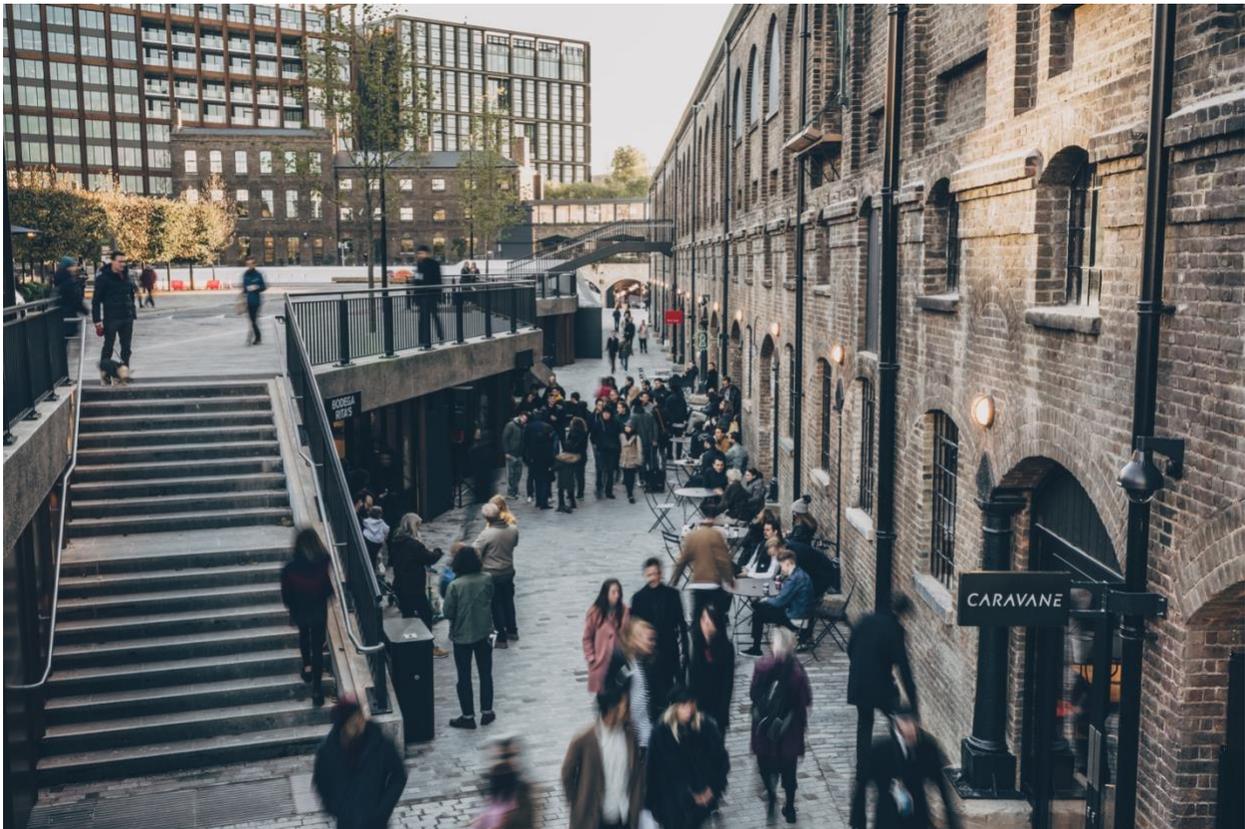
# COMPANY, PLACE

Orchestrated by cultural programmer Vickie Hayward of Company, Place, Coal Drops Yard is presenting a curated a flagship series of public projects featuring Japanese indigo collective BUAISOU and resident art/design hub STORE Store, as well as an array of supporting events hosted by Coal Drops Yard brands and businesses.

Ranging from fabric-dyeing workshops, candle-making masterclasses and knife-sharpening demonstrations, to exhibitions of British ceramics and chocolate tastings, the Coal Drops Yard craft programme will transform the area into a celebration of making across multiple disciplines. Alongside opportunities to venture behind the scenes and discover the people and processes behind the resident retailers' crafted products, the programme includes specially commissioned installations and workshops exclusively for London Craft Week.

For the first time since its opening, Coal Drops Yard presents an opportunity for visitors to explore the space as more than a place to browse and buy, giving them privileged access to leading craftspeople and encouraging hands-on interaction with the makers and materials behind the beautiful objects in CDY shops.

The disciplines on show range from traditional craft practices such as candle-making to modern-day techniques such as printing with electricity; and the makers include both British icons such as Tom Dixon, Granby Workshop and Kitchen Provisions, and international artisans such as Le Chocolat Alain Ducasse.



View of the crowds at Coal Drops Yard.

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## CDY @ LCW Highlights

For London Craft Week 2019, Coal Drops Yard's cultural consultant Vickie Hayward commissioned Japanese artisan-farmer collective **BUAISOU** (pronounced 'boo-i-saw') to produce an installation of huge, hand-dyed indigo flags that will be displayed throughout the week.

BUAISOU's name honours the villa in which statesman Jiro Shirasu ('the first Japanese man who wore American jeans') lived. Based in Tokushima prefecture, the small artisan-farmer collective has perfected the 700-year-old art of making Japanese Awa indigo – one of the most difficult-to-produce dyes in the world. The lengthy process of creating the dye follows the traditional method of fermentation of sukomo (composted indigo leaves), wood ash, water, shell ash and wheat bran, mixed in traditional Japanese indigo vats. In Japan, this process is known as Jigoku date – literally meaning 'making hell'. BUAISOU's dyemakers apprenticed under a sixth-generation sukomo master to acquire the skills necessary to revive two of Tokushima's heritage crafts – indigo farming and dyeing – and produce their distinctive and coveted 'Japan Blue'.

*"We're really excited to be part of London Craft Week for the first time, and to be showcasing BUAISOU's astonishing crafted colours. The Coal Drops Yard installation of naturally indigo-dyed flags with roketsu-zome technique will communicate the complexity of the Jigoku date process and the beauty of our indigo. We're really looking forward to seeing it in place, as well as having the chance to discover the contemporary craft cultures of the UK."*

– Kakuo Kaji, BUAISOU founder

BUAISOU's four artisan farmer-dyers will be journeying from Japan to Coal Drops Yard to present their installation and lead a series of 'Indigo Hands' workshops in KIOSK N1C, the sole UK stockist of BUAISOU's clothing and homeware range, to offer people audience a taste of hell, and a hands-on insight into the making of this unique dye.

Taking inspiration from BUAISOU's flag installation, the community-driven artist, architect and designer association **STORE Store** is hosting a series of fabric-dyeing workshops in its CDY store, all hosted by leading UK artists and designers and each exploring a different dyeing technique:

- Unit Lab lead a drop-in **Electro-Colour workshop**, demonstrating how to use custom circuit board and organic red dye extracted from cabbage juice to print a patterned T-shirt or tote.
- Artists **Marianne Wie and Zoë Burt** host a **natural dyeing workshop** using locally sourced colours from bio-waste from London cafés (such as avocado stones and onion skins) and heritage dye plants such as madder and weld to colour a cotton bag.
- Material designer **Claire Felicity Miller** hosts a drop-in **cochineal workshop** teaching visitors how the insect-derived dye can be used to create red colours from rose to crimson.
- Immaterial Art Lab's **Helena Nora Vitola-Jones** leads a meditative workshop on **mark making and flow** using ink developed from lily pollen.

*STORE Store is the in-house design school at Coal Drops Yard, it's a collection of designers and architects who are really pushing processes forward. Many have invented their own materials and machinery and are making products*

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*you won't find anywhere else. What they offer in terms of workshops is unlike most other spaces – it's the radical CDT class you wish you'd had at school."*

–Vickie Hayward, Coal Drops Yard



Hands on look at BUAISOU dyeing fabrics.



Behind the scenes look at BUAISOU working with a process known as Jigoku date – literally meaning 'making hell'

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## Elsewhere at Coal Drops Yard...

East London candle, incense and chocolate experts **Earl of East** invite the public to try their hand at creating delicately perfumed, hand-poured candles and Japanese bath salts.

**Granby Workshop**'s architectural ceramics experts showcase a new collection of 10 everyday ceramic vessels in their distinctive aesthetic. The collection will be available to buy from the pop-up exhibition at Kiosk N1C space.

Deptford's **iyouall Store** comes to Coal Drops Yard with 'A Curated Makers' Showcase', including origami cups by ceramicist Ray G Brown, brass pencil sharpeners by Høvel and wooden vases from By.Obie.

**Kitchen Provisions** invite the public to partake in a two-hour workshop on traditional whetstone knife-sharpening, and will also be demonstrating sharpening techniques in store on 11–12 May.

**Le Chocolat Alain Ducasse** reveals the secrets of making exceptional chocolate with a one-off presentation and tasting of Parisian chocolate, single-origin and flavoured ganaches and pralinés à l'ancienne.

**LPOL** (aka Katy and John Maskell Bell) tell the sensory story of their minimalist modern British bags, via an installation incorporating film, fabric and tools.

**Tom Dixon** explores the benefits of the botanical in 'Glow', a series of talks and events exploring the roles of plants in design spaces, including a two-hour workshop with Botanical Boys on how to build a Kilner jar terrarium.

Visit [londoncraftweek.com](https://londoncraftweek.com) for more event details and the full London Craft Week programme.

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View of objects made at Granby Workshop, by Assemble.



Workshops taking place at Coal Drops Yard.

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## **About Company, Place**

Set up in spring 2018 by Vickie Hayward, Company, Place develops cultural programming, events, collaborations, partnerships and all-round enlivenment for brands and spaces. Vickie has 20 years' experience in events and exhibitions, most recently as Global Head of Culture, Partnerships and Programming for Atelier Ace, in which she oversaw experiential marketing strategy for new developments and existing properties across the Ace Hotel and Sister City brands. The aim of Company, Place is to offer thoughtful advice on programming and partnerships to help embed brands and spaces into communities and break into territories beyond the expected. Current projects include Coal Drops Yard and Manchester's soon-to-be-launched Cultureplex at Ducie Street Warehouse.

[company-place.com](http://company-place.com)

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## **About London Craft Week**

London Craft Week is a not-for-profit organisation dependent on the support of sponsors and partners. London Craft Week is particularly grateful to its Headline Sponsors dunhill and James Purdey & Sons, as well as long-standing partners and supporters: Cadogan, Coal Drops Yard, Grosvenor Britain and Ireland (Mount Street and Pimlico Road), The Conran Shop, the Italian Trade Agency, the Crown Estate, LOEWE and St James's.

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