



**MAGGIE
COOPER**
BASKET MAKER
— EST. 1988 —



Educator. Innovator. Maker.

Maggie Cooper has been making baskets and studying the ancient art of basketmaking for nearly four decades. She is one of the foremost artists in this craft working in Britain today.

Maggie works with locally-sourced materials in search of English forms. Her work includes large-scale art installations in public spaces, reconstructing historical functional baskets, and commissions for repairs and specialist basketworking.

'I am fascinated by the way in which an old and sustainable craft that leaves no mark behind it can always be refashioned for functional use and artistic creativity. I create heritage baskets based on the research of old techniques. I specialise in fruit and harvest baskets as well as animal baskets, traps, cages and hives. Creatively, I enjoy using these time-honoured designs as a stimulus for making contemporary baskets and modern art-works.'

Maggie began her training in Birmingham and now lives in the East Midlands in the traditional heart of the basket-making industry.

Collaboration Opportunities



Commissions

Sculptures & installations of all sizes using locally-sourced willow



Workshops

Teaching basketry techniques to all ages throughout Britain



Talks

For public and/or academic audiences on the history of basket-making



Consultations

Expert advice and research on basketry items and their historical uses



Teaching, talks & consultations

A significant part of Maggie's time is spent running workshops and passing on her knowledge about this old English craft at country fairs.

She has received several grants from the Arts Council to conduct training for other artists and has taught workshops in basketry techniques at various city and county councils, as well organizations such as Nottingham Trent University, the National Centre of Craft and Design Sleaford and the Attenborough Nature Reserve.

She is regularly requested to give talks and carry out consultations regarding the history of basketry and her expertise is sought after by academic institutions. She recently gave expert advice on the discovery of a basketry item at a Bronze Age burial in Whitehorse Hill, Somerset, and for an archaeological quarry find by University of Leicester, Archaeology Services.

Maggie is currently writing a history of basketmaking in the East Midlands.

See this [video](#) of Maggie talking about the importance of Castle Donington in the history of basket-making, and demonstrating how to make a typical Castle Donington basket.

Public exhibitions & commissions

Maggie is known for her small- and large-scale sculptures, particularly 'willow horse'. Her work has been commissioned and exhibited at art galleries, festivals, fairs and estates across Britain.

Out of the old techniques, Maggie creates figurative and conceptual pieces of art that have been on display at public venues, either within landscapes or inside buildings. These include National Trust woodlands, Catton Hall, Renishaw Hall, Holkam Hall, Leicester Cathedral, Lichfield Cathedral, Matlock Mining Museum, and London Mansion House and Monument.

She regularly exhibits at Chatsworth Country Fair and RHS Chatsworth where she has had collaborations with notable flower and garden designers such as Jonathan Moseley and Paul Hervey-Brookes.

In early 2020, Maggie was invited to take part in the 450th Anniversary of the Company of Basketmakers in London.

Awards & memberships

Maggie was awarded Freedom of the City of London in 1997 and became a yeoman member of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers in 2014. She is a member of the Basketmakers' Association UK.

Featured In



Testimonials

"A fabulous day with a very competent tutor" *K. & J. Lakeside Arts Centre Nottingham*

"You interpreted perfectly my vision of the shape of the structure for the marble tazza and it worked perfectly. It was a pleasure to collaborate with you on the event and I hope we are able to work together on some other future projects".
Florabundance Chatsworth Sculpture Gallery - Jonathan Moseley, Flower Designer