

Migrating Birds

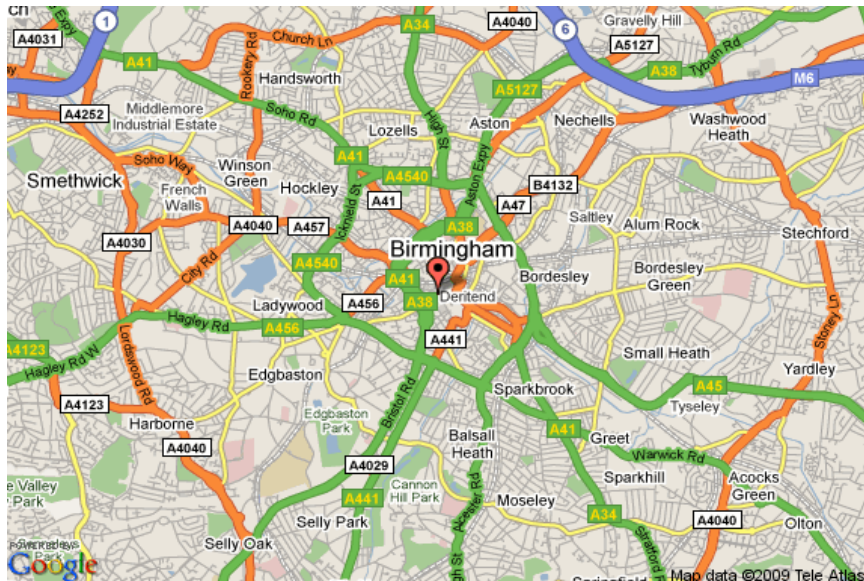
Shelanu: Women's Craft Collective



Inspiration

This range takes inspiration from the women's experience of migrating to Birmingham.

The project developed ideas of batch production initially explored during the Routes to Trade project.



Range development

The project was launched to create a more commercial, largely batch produced range which the collective could sell through craft fairs and gallery shops.

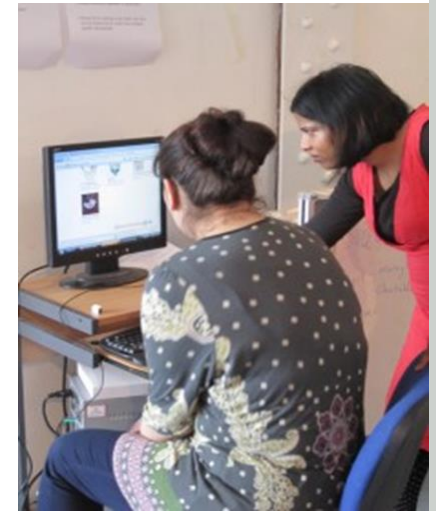
The process began with each member experimenting with different bird designs in sheet copper.



First Stages

Shelanu worked with Birmingham based jeweller Rita Patel to develop the new range.

As part of the development they tested different enamel powders at different temperatures and times to see what effect and colours they brought out. They also researched different birds and experimented with wire.



Product Development

Alongside the enamel jewellery, Shelanu made branches from copper wire, to make individual wall pieces on canvas.

Throughout the project the members worked together to improve their enamel skills.



Designs

Initially the group experimented with different bird designs individually.

From these they chose three designs to have wire cut to make the product range, following a period of market research.

The bird shapes were wire cut in the Jewellery Quarter.



Production

The group worked together to finish the range.

Following the wire cutting, every item had to be filed by hand, enamelled and then the fixings were added.

The silver pieces were plated in the Jewellery Quarter.



This more commercial range launched at Rugby Art Gallery and Museum in 2013. It has also been sold through other galleries and museums on a sale and return basis, as well as at craft fairs.

The income from selling Migrating Birds has funded more Shelanu sessions and new materials.

