

Ellie Brennan
Just What Yer Wantin'
Wool, Canvas
2019

"My piece for More T'North is a traditional latch hook rug, made by knotting short lengths of wool through a sturdy canvas. I made this rug to depict my order at the chippy, chips and gravy with mushy peas on the side. I'm interested in utilising traditional textile techniques (such as rag rugging, punch needle and weaving) and applying them to modern subject matter. I was introduced to rug making by my Nana Molly, who's from Northern Durham. I'd like to think that by using her techniques and some of my own I manage to pay homage to the wonderful textile culture of the North, whilst making something contemporary and relatable. In terms of subject matter, food is my main inspiration, I love takeaway motifs and menus, and I'm obsessed with learning about regional specialities, such as the Middlesbrough parmo, and Preston's butter pie. I'm hugely influenced by things such as packaging, signage, weird textures and meme culture. This piece was an exploration of comfort food, both in a physical and visual sense."



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Where in the North of England are you based?

Based in Manchester, but originally from Middlesbrough

What does living in The North mean to you?

To me, living in The North is something I'm incredibly proud of. To me it means knowing what it's like to live within friendly communities where it's normal to say hi to whoever's about, where a trip to the shops means seeing at least 3 people your mam knows and a typical Friday night as a teenager was spent trying to get served in the local. It's much more than just a place to live, being Northern is an attitude that you adopt from a young age, due to the government's habit of ignoring large areas of the North, and the North/South divide. The Northern attitude of hard work and perseverance is what I love the most, probably leftover from times of industry, but still pushing Northern folk to consistently be better.

What inspires you?

I'm hugely influenced by things such as packaging, signage, weird textures and meme culture. I'm interested in utilising traditional textile techniques and applying them to modern subject matter.