

THE DAVID COLLINS FOUNDATION PRESENTS
CONVERGENCE
AN EXHIBITION CURATED BY ELLEN E. JONES
FOR LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2025

[The David Collins Foundation](#) was created in 2016 to commemorate the late David Collins, his work, his passion for the arts, his love of beauty, and his ever-curious mindset for all things innovative and new. Through its partnership with [The Arts Foundation](#), The Foundation has supported talented artists and designers across a range of artistic mediums, allowing them space to focus on the development of their practice since 2017.

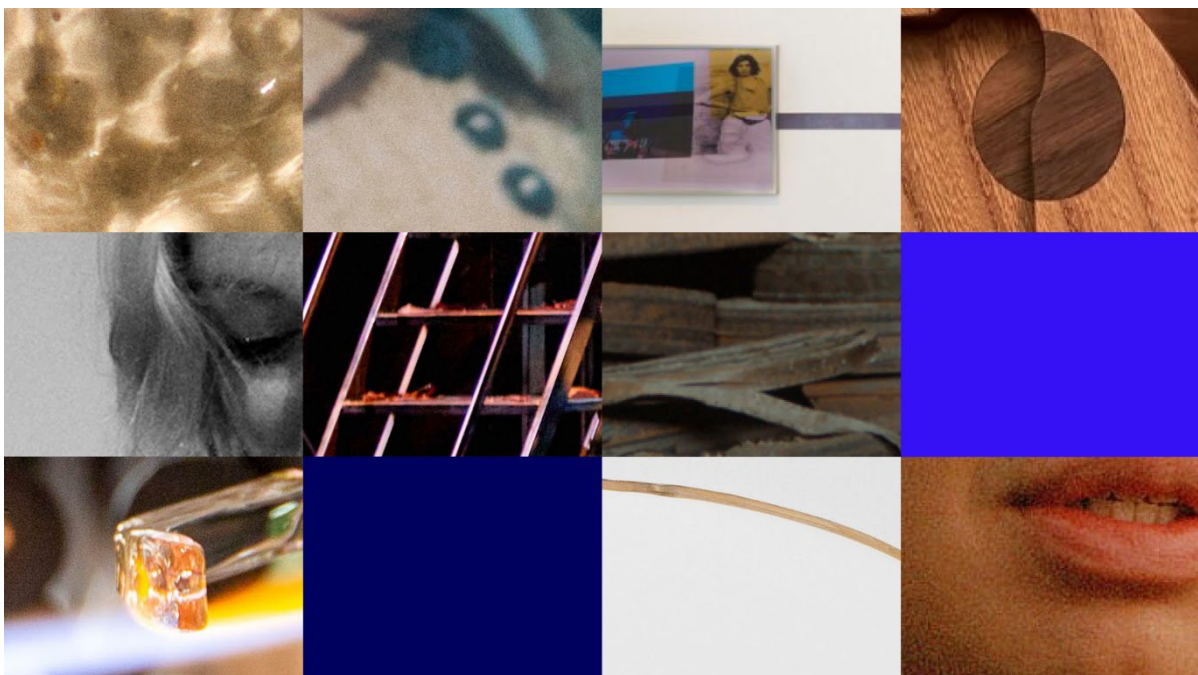
The exhibition, *Convergence*, curated by broadcaster, author and journalist [Ellen E. Jones](#) celebrates the work of eleven artists supported through this partnership between the two foundations. Taking place in the fortieth year of David Collins Studio, the exhibition also reflects on the enduring influence of Collins' creative vision and his commitment to nurturing talent.

The exhibition features a multi-media presentation by artists Ayo Akingbade and Savinder Bual, designers Aura Murillo, Louise Lenborg Skajem and Jochen Holz, Max Frommeld and TK Hay, poets Ella Frears and Will Harris, and filmmakers Cherish Oteka and Onyeka Igwe.

The works presented showcase a broad spectrum of contemporary arts practice and Jones's curation creates a dialogue across generations and disciplines, reflecting on legacy while drawing out the connections and creative possibilities between the works in the present.

Convergence has been designed by the London-based studio [Bibliothèque Design](#) and will be held at [The Lavery](#), South Kensington, as part of London Design Festival 2025 and Brompton Design District.

Curator Ellen E. Jones says "I see my role as curator as something akin to a host or facilitator, entrusted with helping to bring together a group of extraordinary guests for a moment of shared connection. In this imagined gathering, the guests are the works themselves, each one representing an artist the late David Collins once met, admired, and was moved by. My hope is to arrange them so that a conversation begins to take place, until the room feels alive with connection."



Iain Watson, Chair of The David Collins Foundation and CEO of David Collins Studio, says: "*Convergence* reflects the spirit of The David Collins Foundation over the past eight years - supporting artists and designers across varied disciplines in partnership with The Arts Foundation. In this, The Studio's 40th anniversary year, the exhibition feels a particularly meaningful way to celebrate David's memory and the legacy of curiosity and cultural passion that continues to guide us. We are thrilled to have Ellen E. Jones curate this body of work, uniting diverse narratives and creative mediums into a powerful collective story."

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of The Arts Foundation, says: "*Convergence* is a powerful reflection of what can happen when artists are given the time and space to develop their vision. Our long-term partnership with The David Collins Foundation has allowed us to nurture extraordinary talent across disciplines, and this exhibition is a celebration not only of their artistic practice but of David Collins' enduring spirit of creativity, curiosity and generosity. We are honoured to continue our shared commitment to supporting artists at such a vital stage in their careers with The David Collins Foundation."

EVENT INFORMATION

11 – 19 September 2025

The Lavery, 4 Cromwell Place, London SW7 2JE

thelavery.co.uk / [@TheLavery](https://www.instagram.com/TheLavery)

Thursday 11 September: 10:00 – 19:00

Friday 12 September: 10:00 – 21:00

Saturday 13 September: 10:00 – 19:00

Sunday 14 September: 10:00 – 16:00

Monday 15 September: 10:00 – 19:00

Tuesday 16 September: 10:00 – 19:00

Wednesday 17 September: 10:00 – 19:00

Thursday 18 September: 10:00 – 21:00

Friday 19 September: 10:00 – 13:00

MEDIA CONTACTS

For further press information, high-res images, and story opportunities please contact:

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ABOUT THE DAVID COLLINS FOUNDATION

The David Collins Foundation was created in 2016 to commemorate David Collins, his work, his passion for the arts, his love of beauty, and his ever-curious mindset from all things innovative and new. The Foundation's board of trustees comprises his friends and colleagues. The David Collins Foundation seeks to support talented artists and designers at pivotal points in their careers across a diverse range of artistic mediums, allowing them the space to focus on their research and develop their practice.

Website / [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com) / [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com)

ABOUT THE ARTS FOUNDATION

The Arts Foundation is a registered charity that supports individual artists and creatives in the UK with unconditional financial fellowships through the Arts Foundation Futures Awards. Since 1993, the Arts Foundation has awarded over £2 million to the most promising artists in the UK at a pivotal moment in their careers to enable them to concentrate on their creative development, experiment, and realise their artistic potential. The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards provide five transformative £20,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The vital contribution of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards to the arts in the UK is demonstrated by its past Fellows, many of whom are regarded as contemporary pioneers and have gone on to become leaders in their respective art forms, including: Wayne McGregor (1994), Alice Oswald (1996), Joy Gregory (1996),

Sarah Kane (1998), Hannah Starkey (2000), Asif Kapadia (2001), Ali Smith (2001), Rufus Norris (2002), Carol Morley (2003), Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (2006), and more recently, Simon Fujiwara (2009), Sam Lee (2011), Alice Birch (2014), Hollie McNish (2015), Evan Ifekoya (2017), Holly Hendry (2019), Onyeka Igwe (2020), Klein (2020), and Bethany Williams (2020).

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#) / [LinkedIn](#)

ABOUT ELLEN E. JONES

Ellen E Jones is the author of *Screen Deep: How Film and TV Can Solve Racism* and *Save the World* (winner of the 2025 Kraszna-Krausz Book Award) and the co-host of Screenshot on BBC Radio 4 (named Broadcasting Press Guild's Best Radio Presenter of 2025). She regularly writes on culture for newspapers including The Guardian, The Observer, and magazines including Empire, Elle and Esquire. Recent interviewees include Mike Leigh, Sir Steve McQueen and Munroe Bergdorf.

[Instagram](#)

FEATURED ARTISTS

AURA MURILLO AND LOUISE LENBORG SKAJEM

Resting Reef is a death care startup that redefines how we honour loved ones through an environmentally conscious memorial service. Founded by graduates from the Royal College of Art and Imperial College London, Aura Murillo and Louise Skajem, the sustainable venture transforms cremated ashes into living ocean reefs that regenerate marine ecosystems.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

AYO AKINGBADE

Ayo Akingbade is an artist, writer and filmmaker. She works predominantly with film and installation addressing themes of power, urbanism and stance. Akingbade engages with the fluid boundaries between the self and the other by gathering local and cultural experiences in intimate and playful interpretations. Her work has often documented experiences of rapid social change in London, where she was born and raised.

[Website](#)

CHERISH OTEKA

Cherish 'Chez' Oteka is a BAFTA award winning documentary filmmaker who is passionate about telling universal stories through the lens of often erased communities.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

ELLA FREARS

Ella Frears is a poet based in London. She has been shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize, the Sky Arts Breakthrough Artist of the Year Award, and The Forward Prize for poetry twice. She was a Royal Literary Fund Fellow at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and has held residencies and fellowships for the Tate Gallery, the National Trust, Royal Holloway University physics department, John Hansard Gallery, the Dartington Trust's grade II listed gardens, 16 motorway service stations, the number 17 bus in Southampton, and Exeter University's environmental history department. Ella hosts chat and music show *Tears for Frears* on Soho Radio. Her books *Shine, Darling* (2020), and *Goodlord* (2024) are out with Corsair and her collaborative poetry card game *The Poetry Fruit Machine*, is forming with Rough Trade Books.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

JOCHEN HOLZ

Born in 1970 in Germany, Jochen Holz is a London-based master glass maker. Specialised in lampworking, Holz transforms high quality glass tubes into one-off glassware, bespoke objects, jewellery, and neon

light sculptures. By letting the process and materiality of molten glass play a central role in his practice, a high level of spontaneous decisions and intuition are present in his design.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

MAX FROMMELD

Born and raised in a south German town called Ulm in the early 80s, Max moved to London in 2004. He pursued a BA in Product and Furniture Design followed by an MA in Design Products at the Royal College of Art in 2011. Since then, he has been crafting his own space where design, art and craftsmanship intersect. Since 2023, he has made the little town of Inverness in California his permanent home, allowing him to immerse himself in the landscapes and creative energy of the Bay Area. Max won the Furniture Design prize by The Arts Foundation in 2017, the first Futures Award category supported by The David Collins Foundation.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

ONYEKA IGWE

Onyeka Igwe is an artist and researcher specialising in moving image. Her practice figures sensorial, spatial and counter-hegemonic ways of knowing. Recent solo exhibitions include at Peer, London; (2024); MoMA PS1, New York (2023); Highline, New York (2022); LUX, London; (2021) and Jerwood Arts, London (2019). Recent group exhibitions have been held at Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool; Nigeria Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia, Venice; Lagos Biennial, Lagos (2024); The Common Guild, Glasgow and South London Gallery, London; (2023). Igwe's works are part of the British Film Institute Collection and The Arts Council Collection (UK). She was nominated for the MaxMara Artist Prize for Women 2022-24, awarded the 2021 Foundwork Artist Prize, 2020 Arts Foundation Futures Award for Experimental Short Film and was the recipient of the Berwick New Cinema Award in 2019. Igwe will present a solo exhibition for Art Now, Tate Britain in September 2025.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

SAVINDER BUAL

Savinder Bual (she/her) is an artist whose practice explores the interplay between the moving and the still. Bual's work has been screened and exhibited widely, including Turner Contemporary, Artangel, Peer Gallery, Standpoint, Caraboo Projects, CCA Glasgow, Whitstable Biennale, Bristol Beacon, Manchester International Festival and The Crafts Council.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

TK HAY

TK is an award-winning theatre designer based in London. He is the Arts Foundation Futures Fellow for Theatre (2025), supported by the David Collins Foundation. He was Best Designer at the Stage Debut Awards (2022) and won the Linbury Prize for Stage Design (2019). He trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and was a recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council Scholarship (2016). He has designed set and costumes for productions both in the UK and internationally.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)

WILL HARRIS

Will Harris is a London-based writer. He is the author of the poetry books [RENDANG](#) (2020) and [Brother Poem](#) (2023), both published by Granta in the UK and Wesleyan University Press in the US, and the essay [Mixed-Race Superman](#) (Peninsula Press) which came out in 2018. He has won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. He co-translated Habib Tengour's [Consolatio](#) (Poetry Translation Centre) with Delaina Haslam in 2022, and helps facilitate the Southbank New Poets Collective with Vanessa Kisuule. [Siblings](#), a conversation between Jay Bernard, Mary Jean Chan, Will Harris and Nisha Ramayya, was published by Monitor Books in February 2024.

[Website](#) / [Instagram](#)