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THE ARTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE 2024 FUTURES AWARDS £65,000 prizes awarded at ceremony in London

Images and press kits: <http://tinyurl.com/nhh6mdam>

The Arts Foundation announce the five recipients of The Arts Foundation Futures Awards £10,000 Fellowships as:

Jazz Composition: Daniel Casimir

Regenerative Design: Rhea Thomas

Short Documentary Film: Cherish Oteka

Theatre Writing: Tatenda Shamiso

Visual Art: Rebecca Bellantoni



The five winning Fellows were revealed at an Award Ceremony on 28 February 2024 at the Purcell Room, Southbank Centre, featuring a special welcome address from British playwright, [Roy Williams](#) and the premiere performance of [John Barber's](#) new choral composition, F*ck/Dystopian Loneliness.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards support the UK's most promising artists and creatives at a pivotal moment in their career, providing £65,000 in unconditional grant

funding, awarding five transformative £10,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

Jazz Composition Fellow: Daniel Casimir

[Daniel Casimir](#) is a composer, producer and bassist. He released his debut album “Boxed In” in 2021. The album merges the sound of ‘New UK Jazz’ with classical orchestration and was named ‘Top Albums for 2021’ by Vinyl Factory. The album also saw Daniel being named “Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year” by Jazz FM. Daniel’s latest project, “Balance” will be released by Jazz re:freshed in June 2024.

The Jazz Composition Award jury member Soweto Kinch, Saxophonist, composer, poet, MC, and producer, who presented the award said: *“Daniel Casimir is an extraordinary musician and bandleader - not only envisaging new grand work but who has already created an impressive body of material. As someone on the cusp of developing new pathways to both jazz and classical music, I’m certain Daniel’s unique compositional approach and the time to develop his orchestral writing will yield some groundbreaking results.”*

Regenerative Design Fellow: Rhea Thomas

[Rhea Thomas](#) is a transdisciplinary designer and climate innovator. Rhea’s extensive work in biomaterials includes Seasprout, a material utilising prawn waste from the seafood industry to make fertilising seed trays; and Shrimpak, an alternative to single-use food packaging made from Chitosan - a sugar derived from the outer skeleton of shellfish. Rhea has been selected to be a part of the World Design Organization, Young Designers Circle for 2023-25 with the World Design Congress being hosted in London in 2025 on the theme, Design for Planet. She is also set to take part and showcase her work at the Surface Design Show 2024 and Milan Design Week 2024.

The Regenerative Design Award was presented by Arts Foundation trustee, Virginia Hodge who said, *“Rhea Thomas’ work is most compelling, both the rigour and presentation of her work are outstanding. Rhea has a really strong understanding and was able to articulate very clearly the environmental and social benefits of her design interventions.”*

Short Documentary Film Fellow: Cherish Oteka

[Cherish Oteka](#) is a documentary filmmaker who is passionate about telling universal stories through the lens of often erased communities. In 2022 Cherish won a BAFTA for Best Short Film in the 2022 BAFTA Film Awards and was recently named a Breakthrough Creator by Vimeo. Cherish has recently finished shooting her first feature-length documentary about the Gay Games, exploring the athletes and the organisers as they attend and celebrate a much-needed space for LGBTQ+ affirming competition.

The Short Documentary Film Award jury member Clare Sillery, Head of Commissioning BBC, Documentaries, who presented the award said: *“In Cherish Oteka I think we have found, a compelling and visionary documentary filmmaker. As a self-starter who already produces and directs their own work, we are thrilled to fuel Cherish’s focus and fire as an outstanding creative practitioner.”*

Theatre Writing Fellow: Tatenda Shamiso

[Tatenda Shamiso](#) is a London-based writer, director, theatre-maker and musician with origins from Zimbabwe, Belgium, the United States and Switzerland. He recently won the Emerging Talent Award at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2023 for his performance in NO ID. Tatenda is currently working on two new plays and developing a television adaptation of his solo show. He also recently joined the *For Black Boys* company as Associate Director at The Garrick Theatre. The play, *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy*, [runs until 4 May 2024](#).

The Theatre Writing Award jury member Vicky Featherstone, previously Artistic Director of the Royal Court, who presented the award said, *“Tatenda’s work and belief stood out among a really talented group of artists. What struck me was the careful balance of accomplishment, joy and hard won experiences and I am so excited to see where he will go next. This award hopefully gives him some time to choose those next steps.”*

Visual Art Fellow: Rebecca Bellantoni

[Rebecca Bellantoni](#) is an artist who draws from everyday occurrences and abstracts them. She works across moving image, installation, performance, photography, textiles, printmaking, sculpture, sound-text, and ceramics. Bellantoni’s recent projects include *Condition the roses, accept the vision. C.R.Y (REVISED)*, Tate Britain, London (2023); *La Position de l'Amour*, CNAC Magasin, Grenoble (2023); *In the house of my love*, Brent Biennial, London (2022); *Frieze Live London* (2021). Rebecca’s debut institutional solo exhibition will open at the [De La Warr Pavillion](#) in Bexhill on Sea on 22 June 2024.

The Visual Art Award jury member Adelaide Bannerman, Curatorial Director of Tiwani Contemporary, who presented the award said, *“Rebecca Bellantoni’s movements and gestures in public and private space have intrigued me for some time now. I find her meditations raw, complex and compelling which belies her works’ outward ordinariness.”*

The awards mark over 30 years of the Arts Foundation’s support for independent artists in the UK since it was founded in 1993, and whose alumni include eminent artistic practitioners, such as Wayne McGregor, Ali Smith, Asif Kapadia, Rufus Norris, Carol Morley and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of The Arts Foundation said:

“From blending jazz with classical music, making regenerative seed trays, to telling important stories about identity and place - the creative ingenuity, determination and focus of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Fellows never ceases to amaze us. The UK is host to so many extraordinary artistic practitioners, but as a result of over a decade of austerity measures, I think the arts and cultural sector is starting to ask itself important questions about how to best support independent artists and freelancers. We’re really proud to have been championing this area of work and supporting the livelihoods of creatives for over 30 years. We have no doubt all the artists and fellows will have a significant impact on our shared cultural life.”

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2024 Shortlisted Artists included:
Jazz Composition: Romarna Campbell, Jas Kayser and Luca Manning
Regenerative Design: William Eliot, Aurélie Fontan and Emma Money
Short Documentary Film: Jessica Bishopp, Rosie Morris and Kateryna Pavlyuk
Theatre Writing: Safaa Benson-Effiom, Laurie Motherwell and Yomi Şode
Visual Art: Dan Guthrie, Alexi Marshall and Rafał Zajko.

You can explore the work of all the Fellows and the Shortlisted Artists on The Arts Foundation website: artsfoundation.co.uk

Press Pack & Images

Fellow Artist Images can be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/5a4pyzbv>

The Full Press Pack and Artist Bios can be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/nhh6mdam>

Media Enquiries

For all enquiries and interviews please contact:
Mary Jane Edwards, Director, The Arts Foundation
press@artsfoundation.co.uk / +44 (0) 7969 029 656

Notes to Editors

BIOGRAPHIES

Jazz Composition Fellow: Daniel Casimir

[Daniel Casimir](#) is a composer, producer and bassist. Daniel graduated from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in 2012 and completed a Masters at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in 2015. In 2016, Daniel released his debut EP, “Escapee” with the label, Jazz re:freshed. The album received a 5-star review from the Evening Standard. Following the success of “Escapee”, Daniel performed internationally and released a joint album with vocalist Tess Hirst entitled, “These Days” in 2020. Daniel went on to release his debut album “Boxed In” in 2021. The album merges the sound of ‘New UK Jazz’ with classical orchestration and was named ‘Top Albums for 2021’ by Vinyl Factory. The album also saw Daniel being named “Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year” by Jazz FM.

Daniel’s latest project, “Balance” will be released by Jazz re:freshed in June 2024. The album continues the ethos from his previous work and merges a full big band made up of leading figures from the UK Jazz scene, with a string section from the London Contemporary Orchestra.

The Jazz Composition Award is supported in partnership with the PRS Foundation, and the independent jury members were Gilles Peterson, DJ, Broadcaster, and founder of Brownswood Recordings; Sheila Maurice-Grey, Musician and band leader of Kokoroko; and Soweto Kinch, Saxophonist, composer, poet, MC, and producer.

Regenerative Design Fellow: Rhea Thomas

[Rhea Thomas](#) is a transdisciplinary designer and climate innovator. She is passionate about tackling complex problems and creating holistic solutions that catalyse system-level change, rooted in a human and planet-centric approach to merge design, technology, and behavioural sciences. Rhea's extensive work in biomaterials includes Seasprout, a material utilising prawn waste from the seafood industry to make fertilising seed trays; and Shrimpak, an alternative to single-use food packaging made from Chitosan - a sugar derived from the outer skeleton of shellfish. Tackling marine noise pollution, Decibel is a modular hexagonal seastone oyster pod structure on which kelp is grown to create a natural sound barrier, while simultaneously serving as a regenerative marine permaculture system. Rhea holds a joint MA/MSc in Global Innovation Design from the Royal College of Art & Imperial College London. She is also an advocate for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and has been recognised as a Goalkeeper by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for her contributions towards the 2030 agenda.

Rhea has been selected to be a part of the World Design Organization, Young Designers Circle for 2023-25 with the World Design Congress being hosted in London in 2025 on the theme, Design for Planet. She is also set to take part and showcase her work at the Surface Design Show 2024 and Milan Design Week 2024.

The independent Jury members were Prof. Alex de Rijke, a founding Director of dRMM and Broadcaster; Prof. Mirella Di Lorenzo, Professor of Biochemical Engineering and Associate Dean International for the Faculty of Engineering and Design, Bath University; and Sarah Ichioka, Urbanist, strategist, curator and writer, who said:

“Rhea Thomas stood out for demonstrating a range of innovative yet practical design solutions to real-world issues, from upcycling food waste into biodegradable horticultural containers to mitigating sound pollution in the ocean.”

Short Documentary Film Fellow: Cherish Oteka

[Cherish Oteka](#) is a documentary filmmaker who is passionate about telling universal stories through the lens of often erased communities. They have worked with a range of well-known brands and broadcasters including BBC One, Tate, Stonewall, SBTU, London Live, BBC Digital and The Guardian. Cherish has been selected on well-respected talent schemes including London Film Festivals' NETWORK@LFF, Sheffield Documentary Festival Doc/Next and The Grierson Trusts' Doc Lab. In 2016, Cherish won UKTV's Rising Star Award. The following year they also won the Best Documentary Award at the Movie Screen and Video Awards. In 2022

Cherish won a BAFTA for Best Short Film in the 2022 BAFTA Film Awards and was recently named a Breakthrough Creator by Vimeo.

Cherish has recently finished shooting her first feature-length documentary about the Gay Games, exploring the athletes and the organisers as they attend and celebrate a much-needed space for LGBTQ+ affirming competition.

The Short Documentary Film Award is supported in partnership with the David Collins Foundation, and the independent jury members were Louisa Dent, Managing Director, Curzon; Clare Sillery, Head of Commissioning BBC, Documentaries; and Raul Niño Zambrano, Artistic Director, Sheffield Doc Fest who added:

“Cherish Oteka is a thoroughly deserving recipient of this award and already brings exceptional craft and storytelling documentary film. Cherish spoke very clearly about the pursuit of joy as a form of activism in their work, but also the pressures to tell stories from the margins for mainstream audiences. Such pressures can be difficult to navigate, especially in these times, so as a jury, we are hugely excited about the potential of the Fellowship to support Cherish to invest in themselves.”

Theatre Writing Fellow: Tatenda Shamiso

[Tatenda Shamiso](#) is a London-based writer, director, theatre-maker and musician with origins from Zimbabwe, Belgium, the United States and Switzerland. Tatenda's writing was most recently performed at the Royal Court Theatre, where *NO I.D.* transferred for a limited three-week run. He has also written, directed and performed in productions at the National Theatre, Young Vic Theatre, Almeida Theatre, and a variety of fringe spaces throughout the UK. Tatenda trained at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he is a guest lecturer in the Theatre and Performance Department. He recently won the Emerging Talent Award at the Evening Standard Theatre Awards 2023 for his performance in *NO ID.*

Tatenda is currently working on two new plays and developing a television adaptation of his solo show. He also recently joined the For Black Boys company as Associate Director at The Garrick Theatre. The play, *For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When The Hue Gets Too Heavy*, [runs until 4 May 2024](#).

The independent jury members were Alice Birch, Playwright and Screenwriter and past Arts Foundation Fellow for Playwriting in 2014; Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre; and Dzifa Benson, Arts Journalist, Dramatist who added:

“Our winning fellow Tatenda Shamiso’s work immediately stood out because it manages to be very truthful to who they are while encompassing a universality that is striking, engaging and vital for the world we live in today.”

Visual Art Fellow: Rebecca Bellantoni

[Rebecca Bellantoni](#) is an artist who draws from everyday occurrences and abstracts them. She works across moving image, installation, performance, photography, textiles, printmaking, sculpture, sound-text, and ceramics. Through these mediums, Rebecca investigates the layered lens of Black women's writing (fiction and nonfiction), psychogeography, philosophy, religion and spirituality and their aesthetics. She gently prises apart the concept of the accepted/expected 'real' and the experiential 'real'; looking at how these removed borders may offer sanative experiences. Her practice is an ongoing entanglement with the layers of experience and often uses auto/biographical stories as a foundation. Bellantoni's recent projects include Condition the roses, accept the vision. C.R.Y (REVISED), Tate Britain, London (2023); La Position de l'Amour, CNAC Magasin, Grenoble (2023); In the house of my love, Brent Biennial, London (2022); Frieze Live London (2021); Aggregates, Ausstellungsraum Klingental (Switzerland, 2021); Coalition of Care, PUBLICS (Helsinki, Finland, 2019); La Manutention, Palais de Tokyo (Paris, France, 2019; in collaboration with Rowdy SS).

Rebecca's debut institutional solo exhibition will open at the [De La Warr Pavillion](#) in Bexhill on Sea on 22 June 2024.

The Visual Art Award is supported by the Yoma Sasburg Estate and the independent jury members were Adelaide Bannerman, Curatorial Director of Tiwani Contemporary; Maria Fusco, Writer and Professor of Interdisciplinary Writing, University of Dundee; and Zadie Xa, Artist who added:

"I was instantly drawn to Rebecca Bellantoni's work, which deftly traverses across the mediums of performance, installation, sculpture, ceramics, film and sound/text. We found Rebecca's material focus on the ubiquitous objects of our daily lives compelling- inspiring conversations about ownership and belonging and grappling with the politics of geography and place."

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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 £1.8 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 provides five transformative £10,000 fellowships, with all shortlisted artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their artistic practice. Each year the awards focus on broad and innovative art forms across Craft, Design, Film, Literature, Music, New Media, Performing Arts, and Visual Arts.

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), Sarah Kane (1998), 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).

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2024 are supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, PRS Foundation and The Yoma Sasburg Estate.

www.artsfoundation.co.uk

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About Roy Williams

Roy Williams began writing plays in 1990 and is now one of the country's leading dramatists. In 2000 he was the joint-winner of The George Devine Award and in 2001 he was awarded the Evening Standard Award for Most Promising Playwright. He was awarded the OBE for Services to Drama in the 2008 Birthday Honours List and was made a fellow of The Royal Society of Literature in 2018.

Roy Williams' work in theatre includes *Death of England*, *Death of England: Delroy*, *Death of England: Closing Time* (all co-written with Clint Dyer), *Baby Girl*, *Slow Time* and *Sing Yer Heart Out for the Lads* for the National Theatre; *Sucker Punch* (Olivier Award nomination for Best Play and joint winner of the Alfred Fagon Award), *Fallout*, *Clubland* and *Lift Off* at the Royal Court. *Days of Significance* for the RSC; *Wildfire*, *Local Boy*, *The Firm* and *The Fellowship* at Hampstead Theatre. *Out West* and *Absolute Beginners* at Lyric Hammersmith; *The No-Boys Cricket Club* and *Kingston 14* at Stratford East; and *Soul: The Untold Story of Marvin Gaye* for Hackney Empire at the Royal & Derngate.

His work for TV and film includes *Death Of England: Face to Face* (BAFTA nomination for Best Single Drama) *Soon Gone: A Windrush Chronicle* (BAFTA nominated for Best Short Form Programme), *Fallout*, *Babyfather*, *Offside* and *Fast Girls*. Radio includes *The Likes of Us*, *The Midwich Cuckoos* (adaptation), *Faith Hope & Glory*, *Bess Loves Porgy* and eight series of *The Interrogation*.

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About The David Collins Foundation

The David Collins Foundation was set up in memory of the late designer David Collins to honour his legacy and celebrate his love of the Arts. Since its creation in 2016, the Foundation

has partnered with the Arts Foundation to support artists across multiple disciplines, including furniture design, poetry and animation.

<https://www.davidcollins.studio/foundation/about-the-david-collins-foundation>

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About PRS Foundation

Since 2000 PRS Foundation has given more than £44 million to over 8,500 new music initiatives. 9 out of 12 Mercury Prize 2022 nominees had received PRS Foundation support (including the winner Little Simz) and the charity has supported BRITS, RPS, AIM and Ivors Award-winners.

PRS Foundation supports outstanding talent from all backgrounds, covering the whole of the UK and all genres, with grantee success stories including Little Simz, Wolf Alice, Dave, Sam Fender, Years & Years, AJ Tracey, Anna Meredith, Yola, Glass Animals, Ezra Collective, Jade Bird, Ghetts, Shiva Feshareki, Sarathy Korwar, Floating Points, Nadine Shah, The Fanatix, Imogen Heap, IDLES, Kae Tempest, Kojey Radical and Emily Burns.

Widely respected as an inclusive, collaborative and proactive funding body, PRS Foundation supports an exceptional range of new music activity through direct grants to music creators and through support for pioneering organisations, including venues, festivals, promoters and other talent development organisations. PRS Foundation founded the Women Make Music fund, co-founded global gender equality initiative, Keychange and most recently launched the POWER UP initiative to tackle anti-Black racism in music.

www.prsfoundation.com

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About The Yoma Sasburg Estate

Born in Amsterdam Yoma Sasburg was a professional ballet dancer. She married the prolific film composer Edward Clifton Parker and later trained as a sculptor under David Weekes becoming a founder member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. Gifted by her daughter Roselyn in 2010, the Yoma Sasburg legacy has supported a variety of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Fellowships for sculpture, installation art, live performance art and visual art.

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THE
DAVID COLLINS
FOUNDATION

