

PRESS RELEASE Embargoed until 9.00 PM, 17 February

**THE ARTS FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE 2025 FUTURES AWARDS
£115,000 prizes awarded at ceremony in London**

The Arts Foundation announce the five recipients of The Arts Foundation Futures Awards £20,000 Fellowships as:

Dance: Charlotte Mclean
Design: Kaye Song
Film: Tina Pasotra
Theatre: TK Hay
Visual Art: Leo Robinson



[Images and Press Kits](#)

The five winning fellows were revealed at an Awards Ceremony on Monday 17 February at Kings Place, London, featuring a welcome address from renowned choreographer Siobhan Davies and a live jazz performance from Daniel Casimir, the Arts Foundation's Jazz Composition Fellow of 2024.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards support the UK's most promising artists and creatives at a pivotal moment in their career, providing £115,000 in unconditional grant funding, awarding five transformative £20,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The Arts Foundation announced it had doubled its grant-giving this year to ensure its work continues to have the same life-changing impact and responds to inflation, the ongoing cost of living crisis and low artist income precarity experienced across the contemporary arts in the UK. The increase in the fellowship award sees the foundation become one of the UK's largest unconditional funders of individual artists, unique in its support across art forms - from Dance, Design, Film, Literature, Music, and Theatre to Visual Art.

Dance Fellow: Charlotte Mclean

[Charlotte Mclean's](#) choreographic practice draws from tradition, having competed in Scottish Highland Dance throughout her childhood. Her artistic ethos is rooted in community values, intersectional feminism and rest as a political act. Charlotte's first solo show, *And*, was received to critical acclaim at The Place London after a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe. Her latest work, *Futuristic Folktales* was co-commissioned by The Place London and Tojo Theatre Bern. After a successful tour of Scotland, it joined the Made In Scotland Showcase at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2024.

Charlotte's latest show, *not for glory*, made with Jack Anderson, and in collaboration with Malin Lewis will be previewed on 27 April 2025 at Dance Base, Edinburgh as part of Pomegranates Festival, hosted by the Traditional Dance Forum Scotland. Charlotte will also premiere a new work entitled, *spit*, in collaboration with Giuliana Beya Dridi at Tojo Theater, Bern on 11-13 September 2025.

The Dance Award supported choreographers who are expanding the medium of choreography and developing original works. Jury member, Arts Foundation Ambassador and Choreography Fellow 1992, **Sir Wayne McGregor CBE**, said:

"Charlotte Mclean's practice took my breath away - it was a revelation! Charlotte uses her choreography as a vehicle to engage with the sociopolitical world around her in such an energetic and rigorous way. She has compelling and clearly articulated ideas for the future, envisaging new models and ways of working with other collaborators from both in and outside of the dance world that I am so curious to follow. It is a privilege to award Charlotte this year's increased Fellowship of £20,000, she is a truly deserving artist and someone who we all felt would continue to create magic in their work for many years to come"

Design Fellow: Kaye Song

[Kaye Song](#) is an architectural designer who studied at the University of Cambridge and the Bartlett School of Architecture. Her projects explore both the physical and emotional complexities of human landscapes. Kaye is a member of the art and architecture collective,

Assemble, and the co-director of [Flimsy Works](#) - a design studio making spaces that connect communities to the natural environment, developing designs closely with end-users and self-builders. Kaye is currently focused on projects that make green spaces more accessible; on low-carbon, light-touch construction methods that work in tandem with the shifting nature of the natural environment and its use.

Kaye is also developing an approach to make salt marshes more accessible through architectural interventions, exploring the role local communities have to play in landscape restoration. According to the RSPB, 85% of English salt marshes have been lost over the past two centuries due to their enclosure into agricultural land- restoring salt marshes presents an opportunity to potentially capture over 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, making a substantial impact in the fight against climate change.

The Design Award championed contemporary designers with a focus on sustainability working across a broad range of disciplines, from product, material or industrial design to architectural practices. Jury Member and Creative Director of Universal Design Studio, **Satoshi Isono**, said:

"I am delighted to award the Arts Foundation Fellowship to Kaye Song. As a jury, we felt the experimental work developed under Flimsy Projects has strong potential to influence the architecture and design sector, embracing low carbon and light touch construction methods that engage with communities. I could clearly envision how the award would support her to move towards testing the scale of self-build and flexible structures that have a dynamic and sustainable relationship with landscape."

Film Fellow: Tina Pasotra

[Tina Pasotra](#) is a filmmaker, director and artist based in Cardiff, Wales. She directed and co-wrote her debut narrative short film, *I Choose*, in 2020, which was nominated for Best Short Film BAFTA Cymru 2021. Tina was writer in residence for 5 Acts Productions ITV between 2022 and 2024, developing two original TV Pilot scripts. Tina's work and research have also received support from Arts Council Wales, British Council, Wales Arts International, Ffilm Cymru Wales, BFI Network, BBC Wales and C4, and she is a member of BAFTA Connect.

The Film Award supported film directors working in any genre of fiction filmmaking, focusing on independent and inventive storytellers. Jury member and film Director and Screenwriter, **Joanna Hogg** said:

"Tina Pasotra's work has an emotional quality which enables her to explore different realities, geographies and temporalities with such depth, tenderness and care. As a jury, we are thrilled to award the £20,000 Fellowship to Tina, she is a vital voice and a promising filmmaker. We hope this substantial resource will propel her forward to realise her clear ambitions for the future, full of exploration, play and the unknown!"

Theatre Fellow: TK Hay

[TK Hay](#) is a UK-based Singaporean theatre designer whose designs simultaneously comfort and disturb. TK's approach to design is informed by the geographical, social, and cultural contexts of each theatrical work, through which he aims to ensure the relevance and legibility of his designs across every genre of performance. TK trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and has designed for various theatres across the UK, including the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre, Wales Millennium Centre, York Theatre Royal and Bush Theatre.

TK is currently designing for *Scenes from a Repatriation* at the Royal Court Theatre, opening on 25 April until 24 May 2025, and *The PEA and the Princess* at the Polka Theatre, which opened on 15 February, running until 30 March 2025.

The Theatre Award championed theatre designers developing innovative sets or production designs for theatrical presentation. Jury member and CEO of Shakespeare's Globe, **Stella Kanu**, who presented the award, said:

"The aesthetic of TK Hay's work stands out among his peers. It is visually captivating and his carefully crafted designs have an ability to communicate to the viewer the journey of the performance before the actors even step on stage. TK is a deserving recipient of the Arts Foundation Fellowship, and we have no doubt that this will propel him to the next phase of his career and enable him to make an important contribution to the sector as a whole."

The award is supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, with development support from The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund.

Visual Art Fellow: Leo Robinson

[Leo Robinson](#) lives and works in Glasgow. His work constructs speculative systems of knowledge and ritual through the lenses of religion, psychoanalysis, and diasporic experience. With the creation of maps, diagrams, games, ritual objects and music, Leo introduces new networks of symbols as means to understand our connections to both inner and outer worlds. In 2023, Leo completed a research and production residency at G.A.S. founded by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, supported by Tiwani Contemporary. His work has been exhibited in major institutions such as; the London Mithraeum, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff and The Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow.

The Visual Arts Award includes artists working in any area of the visual arts, including installation, sculpture, photography, sound, painting and cross art-form practice. Jury Member and Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Projects, The National Gallery, **Priyesh Mistry** said:

"Leo Robinson's work is visually absorbing and thought-provoking in how we think about our spiritual lives and our imperial histories. Through his assembled installations he connects multiple traditions from such a broad range of cultures across time and geography, projecting a vision for a more optimistic, interrelated and joyous future. We are absolutely delighted to

award the Fellowship to Leo, and as a jury, we hope it will be transformative and help him achieve a new scale and depth of work.”

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 reimagining Highland Dance, politically charged set design, and climate-positive architecture, to sharing layered stories about identity and belonging- the creative ingenuity, determination and focus of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Fellows always inspire us. We’re really proud to increase our support for independent artists this year and champion the livelihoods of creatives. We have no doubt all the artists and fellows will have a significant impact on our shared cultural life.”

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2025 Shortlisted Artists included:

Dance: Shanelle ‘Tali’ Fergus, Charlotte Mclean and Anthony Matsena

Design: Ellie Birkhead, Jacob Marks and Lawrence Parent

Film: Luna Carmoon, Naqqash Khalid and Fridtjof Ryder

Theatre: Peter Butler, Ethan Cheek and Khadija Raza

Visual Art: Exodus Crooks, Mani Kambo and Raheel Khan

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](#).

The Full Press Pack and Artist Bios can be viewed [here](#).

Media Enquiries

For all enquiries and interviews please contact:

press@artsfoundation.co.uk

Notes to Editors

FULL ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Dance Fellow: Charlotte Mclean

Charlotte Mclean's choreographic practice draws from tradition, having competed in Scottish Highland Dance throughout her childhood. She seeks to dissect this traditional form to uncover its queerness and foster a more accessible pathway for current and future generations to engage with the medium.

Charlotte's artistic ethos is rooted in community values, intersectional feminism and rest as a political act. Her practice also amalgamates joy and self-celebration, having co-founded two movement bands: 'badbodychaoscode' and 'Die Berner Band'. Charlotte's first solo show, *And*, was received to critical acclaim at The Place London after a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe. It has since toured internationally and across Scotland, England and Wales, as part of the Rural Touring Dance Initiative. Her latest work, *Futuristic Folktales*, was co-commissioned by The Place London and Tojo Theatre Bern and toured Tramway Glasgow and The Space Dundee, before joining the Made In Scotland Showcase at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2024.

Charlotte performs for independent companies in the UK and internationally, including Barrowland Ballet and Eva Recacha Productions. She also teaches at London Contemporary Dance School, Barbara Bortoli Ballet Schule and worked as an associate centre assistant at the Royal Ballet School.

Charlotte's latest show, *not for glory*, made with Jack Anderson and in collaboration with Malin Lewis, will be previewed on 27 April 2025 at Dance Base, Edinburgh, as part of Pomegranates Festival, hosted by the Traditional Dance Forum Scotland. Charlotte will also premiere a new work entitled, *spit*, in collaboration with Giuliana Beya Dridi at Tojo Theater, Bern, on 11-13 September 2025.

Design Fellow: Kaye Song

Kaye Song is an architectural designer, who creates spaces that tell stories. Her projects explore both the physical and emotional complexities of human landscapes. Material reuse, flexible structures, working with dynamic landscapes, and collaborative construction processes are central elements of her design process. Kaye's projects use pragmatic and playful means to think through the way that design impacts the environment at multiple scales, as well as the communities that are served. Kaye is currently developing projects that make green spaces more accessible; on low-carbon, light-touch construction methods that work in tandem with the shifting nature of the natural environment and its use. She achieves this through designing new spaces that allow communities to use their existing resources in order to build and take ownership of their own spaces.

Kaye is also developing an approach to make salt marshes more accessible through architectural interventions, exploring the role local communities have to play in landscape restoration. According to the RSPB, 85% of English salt marshes have been lost over the past two centuries due to their enclosure into agricultural land- restoring salt marshes presents an opportunity to potentially capture over 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually, making a substantial impact in the fight against climate change.

Alongside her practice, Kaye is the co-director of Flimsy Works, a design studio making spaces that connect communities to the natural environment, developing designs closely with end-users and self-builders. Kaye is also a member of the art and architecture collective, Assemble. Kaye studied architecture at the University of Cambridge and the Bartlett School of Architecture, was nominated for the RIBA Bronze Medal and was awarded the RIBA Eastern Region Prize.

Film Fellow: Tina Pasotra

Tina is a filmmaker, director and artist based in Cardiff, Wales. Tina's first film commission, *But Where Are You From?*, 2017, for C4/Random Acts in association with Big Dance Shorts India, was featured at the Science Museum's Illuminating India event and has screened at festivals across the UK and India. She directed and co-wrote her debut narrative short film, *I Choose*, in 2020, which was nominated for Best Short Film BAFTA Cymru 2021 and selected for Network@LFF's flagship talent development programme at the heart of the BFI London Film Festival. Tina completed a trainee director scheme at Bad Wolf in 2020, shadowing BAFTA-winning director Farren Blackburn for the Sky One series, *A Discovery of Witches*. In 2020/2021, she was selected and mentored by Charlie Covell through Dancing Ledge/ITV New Talent Scheme.

Tina was also the writer in residence for 5 Acts Productions ITV between 2022 and 2024, where she developed two original TV Pilot scripts. Her recent artistic projects include a collaboration with the National Botanic Garden of Wales. Including *Bloom*, a self-directed residency, and a week-long residency for black and brown female creatives titled *Mycelium*. In theatre, Tina has worked on projects with and received research and development support from National Theatre Wales. Tina's work and research have received additional support from Arts Council Wales, British Council, Wales Arts International, Ffilm Cymru Wales, BFI Network, BBC Wales and C4, and she is a member of BAFTA Connect.

Theatre Fellow: TK Hay

TK is a UK-based Singaporean theatre designer whose designs simultaneously comfort and disturb. The primary impetus behind TK's work is sociopolitical and influenced by the civil and political climate of his country of origin. TK's approach to design is informed by the geographical, social, and cultural contexts of each theatrical work, through which he aims to ensure the relevance and legibility of his designs across every genre of performance. TK has designed for various theatres across the UK and in Singapore, including the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre, Wales Millennium Centre, York Theatre Royal, Theatre by the Lake, Stephen Joseph Theatre, Bush Theatre, Wild Rice, and the Esplanade.

In addition to design work, TK has delivered workshops to young people at the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre and the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. He was also a mentee on the inaugural iteration of Projekt Empower, a mentorship programme for migrant theatre-makers in the UK. TK won Best Designer at the Stage Debut Awards in 2022 and the Linbury Prize for Stage Design in 2019 for his work on *An Adventure* at the Octagon Theatre,

Bolton. He trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and was a recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council Scholarship in 2016.

TK is currently designing for *Scenes from a Repatriation* at the Royal Court Theatre, opening on 25 April until 24 May 2025, and *The PEA and the Princess* at the Polka Theatre, which opened on 15 February, running until 30 March 2025.

Visual Art Fellow: Leo Robinson

Leo Robinson lives and works in Glasgow. Leo graduated from the Manchester School of Art in 2016. In his work, Leo constructs speculative systems of knowledge and ritual through the lenses of religion, psychoanalysis, and diasporic experience.

With the creation of maps, diagrams, games, ritual objects and music, Leo introduces new networks of symbols as means to understand our connections to both inner and outer worlds. His work often suggests a future or parallel civilization in which these belief systems have been reconstructed from fragments, through acts of hybridity and reappropriation, as a form of healing from the legacies of colonial displacement and erasure.

In 2023, Leo completed a research and production residency at G.A.S. founded by Yinka Shonibare CBE RA, supported by Tiwani Contemporary. Recent solo exhibitions include DREAM-BRIDGE-OMNIGLYPH, London Mithraeum, London, UK; On Exactitude, Indigo+Madder, London, UK, 2023; The Infinity Card, Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, UK, 2022; Theories for Cosmic Joy, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK, 2019.

Recent group exhibitions include; Polymythologies, Tiwani Contemporary, London, UK; The Trembling Museum, The Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow, UK, 2023; To The Edge of Time, KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium, 2021; Antechamber, Quench, Margate, UK, 2021; Bathing Nervous Limbs, Arusha Gallery, Edinburgh, UK, 2021; tender spots in hard code..., Arebyte, London, UK, 2021.

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), 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 2025 are supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, The Yoma Sasburg Estate, and with development support from The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund.

www.artsfoundation.co.uk

Instagram & Threads: [@the_arts_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/the_arts_foundation)

X: [@Arts_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Arts_Foundation)

Facebook: [@theartsfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/theartsfoundation)

Linkedin: [TheArtsFoundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/TheArtsFoundation)

—

AWARD CEREMONY BIOGRAPHIES

About Siobhan Davies

Siobhan Davies DBE is a renowned British choreographer who rose to prominence in the 1970s. Davies was a founding member of London Contemporary Dance Theatre and in 1982 joined forces with Richard Alston and Ian Spink to create independent dance company Second Stride. Founding Siobhan Davies Dance in 1988, she works closely with collaborating artists to ensure that their own artistic enquiry is part of the creative process. By 2002 she moved away from the traditional theatre circuit and started making work for prestigious Art Institutions including ICA, Victoria Miro, Whitechapel, The Barbican, Turner Contemporary. Davies applies choreography across a wide range of creative disciplines including visual arts and film. In 2006 she commissioned a lottery-funded building [Siobhan Davies Studios](#) designed by Sarah Wigglesworth which became a home for many dancers and choreographers to work and study often alongside other artistic disciplines. In 2020 she retired from the studios. In 2016 she became Associate Professor at the Centre for Dance Research (CDaRE) at Coventry University. Following her CBE, Davies was awarded a Damehood in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours and is an Ambassador and past trustee of the Arts Foundation.

—

About Daniel Casimir

[Daniel Casimir](#) is the Arts Foundation Jazz Composition Fellow 2024. He is an influential figure within the UK Jazz scene, having performed in several countries and with a vast discography. In a significant milestone in his career, Daniel released his debut album “Boxed In” in 2021. The album blends the sound of ‘New UK Jazz’ with classical orchestration, showcasing Daniel’s artistic evolution. “Boxed In” was met with critical acclaim, earning the

title of 'Top albums for 2021' by Vinyl Factory, an exclusive performance and radio interview on BBC Radio 3, and "Editor's Choice" in Jazzwise. It also led to Daniel being named "Jazz Instrumentalist of the Year" by Jazz FM and "Album of the Year" by the Parliamentary Jazz Committee, solidifying his position as a rising star in the jazz world.

Continuing his innovative approach, Daniel's latest project, "Balance" builds on the success of his album "Boxed In". This venture merges a full big band, comprising leading figures from the UK Jazz scene, with a string section from the esteemed London Contemporary Orchestra.

For the Awards Ceremony, Daniel played bass with his band: Binker Golding, Saxophone; James Copus, Trumpet; James Beckwith, Keys; and Jamie Murray, Drums.

—

PARTNER BIOGRAPHIES

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.

www.davidcollins.studio/foundation/about-the-david-collins-foundation

About The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund

The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund was set up to honour the brilliant theatre, ballet and opera designer Maria Björnson who died in 2002. Her best-known design was for the Phantom of the Opera for which she received a plethora of awards, although she designed for many other organisations including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet, Glyndebourne Opera, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera, Sydney Opera, La Scala, in the West End and on Broadway. The fund also supports artistic enterprises, arts-related activities and individual artists in the UK.

www.mbmf.org.uk/

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.



THE
DAVID COLLINS
FOUNDATION

MARIA BJÖRNSON
MEMORIAL FUND