



The Arts Foundation Futures Awards

PRESS RELEASE

10 February 2025

The Arts Foundation will announce the five recipients of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards £20,000 Fellowships in London on 17 February 2025.

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 awards mark over three decades 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, Asif Kapadia, Ali Smith, Rufus Norris, Carol Morley and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

Featuring a special welcome address from the renowned choreographer Siobhan Davies, the Awards Ceremony will take place on Monday 17 February at Kings Place in London. The evening will also include a live jazz performance by Daniel Casimir (Jazz Composition Fellow, 2024) and his quartet band.

The award ceremony will celebrate the brilliant and innovative practices of the twenty Shortlisted Artists across this year's categories of Dance, Design, Film, Theatre and Visual Art. Filmmaker, Asif Kapadia and jury members will announce the recipients of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards: Holly Blakey - Choreographer and Director and Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Artistic Director & co-CEO, Dance Umbrella; Sarah Douglas, Design Agent, Consultant & Advisor; Stella Kanu, CEO of Shakespeare's Globe; and artist, Sinta Tantra.

You can explore the work of all the Shortlisted Artists on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on Monday 17 February 2025, from 7.00 pm.

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of the Arts Foundation said:

"The creative ingenuity and breadth of contemporary art practice showcased by the artists shortlisted for the 2025 Arts Foundation Futures Awards is both energetic and inspiring. We

are so pleased to be able to increase our support for independent artists this year amidst the growing financial pressures faced across the cultural sector in the UK. No-strings-attached funding of this nature is vital to strengthen creative practice, but also affirm our belief in the transformative power of art."

Dance Award Shortlist

Charlotte Edmonds
Shanelle 'Tali' Fergus
Anthony Matsena
Charlotte Mclean

The Dance Award supports choreographers who are expanding the medium of choreography and developing original works. The independent Jury members are Holly Blakey, Choreographer & Director; Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Artistic Director and co-CEO at Dance Umbrella; and Sir Wayne McGregor CBE, Choreographer and Director and Artistic Director of Studio Wayne McGregor who said:

"The industry is so fortunate to have The Arts Foundation Futures Awards. It was so apparent from reading about the artists' work that independent practitioners need awards like this just to survive. All the Shortlisted Artists for the Dance Award have a rawness, honesty and beautiful fragility in their practice. As a jury, we are thrilled to support their immense creativity, focus and drive. I also want to extend an enormous thank you to the Arts Foundation for their continued support of artists in this simple, clear and compelling way."

Design Award Shortlist

Ellie Birkhead
Jacob Marks
Lawrence Parent
Kaye Song

The Design Award champions contemporary designers with a focus on sustainability working across a broad range of disciplines, from product, material or industrial design to architectural practices. The independent Jury members are Sarah Douglas, Design Agent, Consultant & Advisor; Prof. Adrian Lahoud, Dean, School of Architecture and Fellow at the Royal College of Art; and Satoshi Isono, Creative Director, Universal Design Studio who said:

"It has been brilliant to discover such strong and varied creative designers through the Arts Foundation Futures Awards. Each of the shortlisted practitioners, Eleanor Birkhead, Jacob Marks, Lawrence Parent and Kaye Song has developed intricate approaches, methodologies, and a distinct design sensibility. I am excited to see where their careers take them."

Film Award Shortlist

Luna Carmoon
Naqqash Khalid
Tina Pasotra
Fridtjof Ryder

The Film Award supports film directors working in any genre of fiction filmmaking, focusing on independent and inventive storytellers. The independent Jury members are Claudia Yusef, Commissioning Executive at BBC Film; Peter Suschitzky, Cinematographer and Photographer; and Joanna Hogg, Director and Screenwriter who said:

“What excites me as a creative is an artist that has places to go, and wants to delve into themselves through their art. This is what makes the Arts Foundation Futures Awards so special, it facilitates space for young independent practitioners to experiment and take risks. All the work of the shortlisted filmmakers, Luna Carmoon, Naqqash Khalid, Tina Pasotra and Fridtjof Ryder have a palpable and infectious energy. I am hugely excited to follow their respective journeys in film and see what they do next.”

Theatre Award Shortlist

Peter Butler
Ethan Cheek
TK Hay
Khadija Raza

The Theatre Award champions theatre designers developing innovative sets or production designs for theatrical presentation. Supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, with development support from The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund. The independent Jury members are Anna Fleischle, Production Set and Costume Designer; Stella Kanu, CEO of Shakespeare’s Globe; and Production & Technical Director, The National Theatre, Paul Handley who said:

“This year’s shortlist for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards for Theatre is exemplary. Each of the creatives’ practices holds a robust combination of the personal and political. I was taken by Peter Butler’s ability to convey astute social commentary with intellect without sacrificing art and Ethan Cheek’s extremely mature approach and body of work. TK Hay’s ambitious portfolio is both rigorous and generous, and Khadija Raza has navigated the industry with resilience, determination and artistic precision. All of the designers are generating inventive work under enormously difficult constraints, both from an industry and cost of living perspective. As a jury, we were all enormously impressed by their ingenuity and commitment to the art form.”

Visual Art Award Shortlist

Exodus Crooks
Mani Kambo
Raheel Khan
Leo Robinson

The Visual Art Award includes artists working in any area of the visual arts including installation, sculpture, photography, sound, painting and cross-art-form practice. The Visual Art Award is supported by The Yoma Sasburg Estate. The independent Jury members are Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator of Liverpool Biennial; Sinta Tantra, Artist; and Priyesh Mistry, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Projects, The National Gallery, who said:

“It’s been such a pleasure to join the jury of this year’s Arts Foundation Futures Awards for Visual Art. All the shortlisted artists are at such exciting points in their careers. Exodus Crooks has a wonderfully unique and generous way of holding and creating space for audiences while reflecting on themes of received knowledges through the matriarchal lineage. Mani Kambo’s fascinating practice explores and reassesses the layered history of symbols and what they come to represent within our interconnected world. I was also taken by Raheel Khan’s experimentation and how he uses sound and sampling techniques to explore different personal and societal histories. Leo Robinson’s installations are unique in his questioning of heritage, combining disparate cultural traditions and philosophies to create hybrid surreal worlds that are both mythological and magical.”

You can explore the Shortlisted Artists' work on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on 17 February 2025 from 7.00 pm.

Press Pack & Images

Award Ceremony [Images](#)

The full Press Pack and Artist Images can be viewed [online here](#).

Media Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

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

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About Siobhan Davies DBE

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.

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About Daniel Casimir

Daniel Casimir 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.

Daniel will play bass with his band: Binker Golding, Saxophone; James Copus, Trumpet; James Beckwith, Keys; and Jamie Murray, Drums.

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Award Partners

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 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.

Development Support Partner

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/



THE
DAVID COLLINS
FOUNDATION

MARIA BJÖRNSON
MEMORIAL FUND