



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**5 January 2023**

The Arts Foundation announce the Shortlisted Artists for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2023.

The twenty artists shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2023 have been announced across five award categories: Bio Design, Dance Theatre, Digital Art, Electronic Music and Place Writing.

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.

The awards mark 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, Asif Kapadia, Ali Smith, Rufus Norris and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

The five winning Fellows receiving £10,000, will be revealed at an Award Ceremony on 23 February 2023, presented in partnership with Leeds 2023: Year of Culture. Kully Thiarai, Creative Director and CEO of Leeds 2023 and Arts Foundation Trustee, said:

*"Leeds 2023 is thrilled to be hosting the prestigious Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2023, which has become an industry marker for future artistic excellence across wide-ranging art forms. We look forward to celebrating and welcoming extraordinary artists from across the UK to the city."*

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of the Arts Foundation said:

*"The ingenuity and breadth of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2023 Shortlisted Artists is hugely energising. Unfortunately, we are still navigating a difficult period for the cultural sector; most keenly felt by our independent artists and freelancers. Now, more than ever the opportunity afforded by the Arts Foundation Futures Awards in recognising and financially supporting the livelihoods of artists and creatives feels so vital and urgent."*

## **The Bio Design Award Shortlist**

Jesse Adler  
Thora Arnardottir  
Malu Luecking  
Louise Lenborg Skajem

The Bio Design Award champions forward-looking designers and creative practitioners working with biomaterials, with the capacity to restore, renew or revitalise the environment, and is supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation. The independent Jury members are Natsai Audrey Chieza, Founder and CEO of Faber Futures; Leonie Bell, Director of V&A Dundee; and Sarah Wigglesworth, Founder of Sarah Wigglesworth Architects, who said:

*"All of the designers showed huge commitment and purpose in their research which is changing our response to the natural world. Often starting with a natural product or condition, these designers seek new uses and applications for these self-generating resources that could mean we touch the planet more lightly."*

## **Dance Theatre Award Shortlist**

Mele Broomes  
Maiya Leeke  
Krystal S. Lowe  
Akeim Toussaint Buck

The Dance Theatre Award focuses on dancers, dance-makers and choreographers, exploring movement and the body, and practitioners that push the boundaries of how dance is shared with audiences and a wider public. The award is supported in partnership with The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund. The Jury members are Florence Peake, Artist, Dancer, and Choreographer; Toni Racklin, Head of Theatre and Dance at The Barbican, and Cassa Pancho MBE, Founder and Artistic Director of Ballet Black, who said:

*"I was so pleased to be asked to be on the panel for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2023 for Dance Theatre. It was a privilege to be able to see work from a really diverse group of artists. This kind of award is vital to those who aren't supported by a well-funded organisational infrastructure to get the time and space mentally and financially to be able to focus on their art."*

## **Digital Art Award Shortlist**

Uma Breakdown  
GLOR1A  
Emily Mulenga  
Nye Thompson

The Digital Art Award focuses on artists engaging critically with technology and digital infrastructure and interrogating their impact on society and is supported by the Yoma Sasburg Estate. The Jury members are Stephanie Hankey, Executive Director and Co-founder of Tactical Tech; Mark Leckey, Artist; and Antonio Roberts, Birmingham-based Artist & Curator, who said:

*“It was an honour to be on the jury for the Digital Art Award. I was excited to see artists explore the many facets of screen-based digital art, with work ranging from interactive storytelling, and avatar-based fiction, to 3D virtual worlds. It is equally exciting to see artists exploring digital art beyond the screen, working with experimental hardware and code.”*

### **Electronic Music Award Shortlist**

Elizabeth Bernholz (Gazelle Twin)  
Kate Carr  
Gwen Siôn  
Iceboy Violet

The Electronic Music Award supports conceptual and experimental music artists recasting the boundaries between music genres. The Jury members are Fink, Music Artist, Producer and Founder of R'COUP'D Records; Gaika, Artist; and Nemone Metaxas, DJ & Broadcaster, who said:

*“It was an absolute privilege to be on the jury for this year's Arts Foundation Futures Awards. I was blown away by the creativity, diversity and talent across the award especially given the bleak landscape of the last few years. It has not been easy to be an independent electronic music producer in the UK with the COVID-19 pandemic hitting an industry hard through lockdowns, studio and venue closures and loss of income across the board. Emerging independent artists need support now more than ever. We felt our four shortlisted artists create new possibilities in electronic music through their conceptualisation, building of new instrumentation, production and performance leading to groundbreaking sounds which we feel will endure whilst pushing the boundaries of the genre even further. “*

### **Place Writing Award Shortlist**

Phoebe Boswell  
Aida Edemariam  
Gaia Holmes  
Saira Niazi

The Place Writing Award supports writers with a practice focused on writing about the spirit of place. The independent Jury members are Eric Ngalle Charles, Author and PhD. Researcher, at King's College London, Anita Sethi, Writer, Broadcaster, and Journalist; and Claire Armitstead, Author and Associate editor, culture, Guardian, who said:

*“I read all the applications for the awards with both delight and surprise to find so many*

*writers so lit up by the consideration of "place"; and so imaginative in their responses to the challenges it represents. Our shortlist reflects the strength and variety of those responses, and also offers a mouthwatering glimpse of the futures that all four promise."*

You can explore the Shortlisted Artists' work on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on 23 February 2023.

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## Press Pack & Images

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

## Media Enquiries

Mary Jane Edwards, Director, The Arts Foundation  
[press@artsfoundation.co.uk](mailto:press@artsfoundation.co.uk) / +44 (0) 7969 029 656

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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 £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 £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), Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (2006), and more recently, Simon Fujiwara (2009), 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 2023 are supported in partnership with: The David Collins Foundation, The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund and The Yoma Sasburg Estate.

[www.artsfoundation.co.uk](http://www.artsfoundation.co.uk)

Instagram: [@the\\_arts\\_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/the_arts_foundation)

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

#### 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](http://www.davidcollins.studio/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/](http://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.

#### About LEEDS 2023

LEEDS 2023's ambition is to deliver a transformational year of creative experiences connecting and benefiting people now and into the future.

The planned programme will celebrate and transform the City's identity locally, nationally and internationally – creating a lasting legacy of economic and social impact.

LEEDS 2023 is run by the [Leeds Culture Trust](#), an independent charity set up in 2019 by Leeds City Council as part of its Culture Strategy and as a response to the cancellation of the UK's participation in the [European Capital of Culture](#) competition.

Leeds City Council recognises in a number of its key strategies the difference culture and creativity can make to a city and its citizens, and is the principal funder of LEEDS 2023. [www.leeds2023.co.uk](http://www.leeds2023.co.uk)

LEEDS 2023 is supported by [Arts Council England](#) and [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#).

THE  
DAVID COLLINS  
FOUNDATION

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**LEEDS 2023** YEAR OF  
CULTURE