

PRESS RELEASE

21 September 2026

Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Catherine Goodman, Simon Schama, Ali Smith and Turner Prize 2026 Nominee Tanoa Sasraku among Leading Artists and Cultural Figures donating works for Charity Auction in Aid of The Arts Foundation in the UK, funding £20,000 Fellowships for Independent Artists.

A charity auction taking place this autumn, including an online sale, a dinner and live auction at Toklas, and a selection of works presented at Sotheby's as part of the house's October Contemporary Day Auction, will support the UK's leading unconditional grant programme for independent artists. All donated artworks will be auctioned in support of Arts Foundation's prestigious fellowship programme, the Arts Foundation Futures Awards.



Antony Gormley, *Draw*, 2025 © the artist

Antony Gormley, Anish Kapoor, Catherine Goodman, Joy Gregory, Claudette Johnson and Tanoa Sasraku, shortlisted for this year's Turner Prize, are among the artists donating work to a series of autumn auctions in aid of The Arts Foundation, the charity that has quietly underwritten the early careers of British artists for more than three decades.

Highlights

Highlights include Gormley's *Draw* (2025) and Kapoor's *Omo* (2019), alongside work by Catherine Goodman, Allison Katz, Florian Meisenberg, Marcus Coates and Harley Weir. A rare first edition of *Free Love* (1995), signed by Ali Smith, (Short Story Writing Fellow, 2001) also features, alongside a range of unique experiences, dinner with Simon Schama; a private curator-led tour of Renoir and Love at the National Gallery with tea for six; an evening at the Royal Opera House hosted by Kevin O'Hare CBE, Director of The Royal Ballet, with dinner and tickets to Sir Wayne McGregor's MADDADDAM; coffee with Asif Kapadia (Film Directing Fellow, 2001); dinner and a movie with Carol Morley (Documentary Making Fellow, 2003); a private dining experience at Jackson Boxer's Dove restaurant; a highland dance workshop with Charlotte McLean (Dance Fellow, 2025); and a tour of Quench Gallery in Margate by artists, Lindsey Mendick (Visual Art Shortlist, 2020) and Guy Oliver.

Key Dates

Online Auction: 21 September to 5 October

Online bidding opens on Monday 21 September, running through to Monday 5 October, with proxy bidding available on the night of the live auction.

Dinner and Live Auction: Monday 5 October

Online auction sales culminate in a celebratory dinner on Monday 5 October at Toklas Restaurant, with special performances by Daniel Casimir (Jazz Composition Fellow, 2024) and a DJ set by Nemone Metaxas (BBC Radio 6).

Sotheby's Public View: 9 - 15 October, 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2AA

Sotheby's Contemporary Day Auction: 16 October

Selected artworks will go on public view at Sotheby's on Friday 9 October, presented as part of the house's October Contemporary Day Auction on Friday 16 October.

Artists Supporting Artists

A number of the donating artists are former Fellows, giving work to a programme that supported them at an early stage in their career. They include Ali Smith (Short Story Writing, 2001), the late Jane Harris (Painting, 1995), Joy Gregory (Photography, 1996), Asif Kapadia (Film Directing, 2001), Carol Morley (Documentary Making, 2003), Sam Lee (Music, 2011), Jochen Holz (Craft, 2018), Joanna Pocock (Environmental Writing, 2021), Savinder Bual (Animation, 2022), Ken Grant (Photography, 1993), Alex Hartley (Arts in the Elements, 2015), Holly Hendry (Experimental Architecture, 2019), Perminder Kaur (Sculpture, 1998), Love Ssega (Music, 2022), Tanoa Sasraku (Visual Art, 2021), and Charlotte McLean (Dance, 2025).

Tanoa Sasraku, who is shortlisted for the 2026 Turner Prize for *Morale Patch* at the ICA and will show at MIMA, Middlesbrough, from 26 September, said:

"The Arts Foundation Fellowship transformed my career as a visual artist in myriad ways. From the effect that such a substantial and sudden injection of capital had on my mental wellbeing,

providing me for the first time since leaving home with a solid financial safety net, to the sense of validation and boost in confidence that the accolade of becoming a Fellow has afforded me."

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of The Arts Foundation, said:

"The Arts Foundation funds artists' potential, not just achievement. Every year we watch what unconditional support does for an artist, not just the money, but the permission it gives them to take risks they couldn't otherwise afford. There is a distinct stage in an artist's development, early in their career, when the work is fully formed, but the infrastructure required to sustain it is not, at which a single unrestricted investment can fundamentally alter their career trajectory. This fundraising event exists because of the generosity of artists and creatives who once needed exactly that kind of support themselves, and are now giving it forward. We are so grateful for their generous contributions and really excited to bring the event to fruition this Autumn."

Saadi Soudavar, Chair of the Board, added:

"The Arts Foundation is one of the very few organisations in the UK that funds individual artists directly, across every artistic discipline, without conditions. At a moment when independent artists face growing structural pressures, our model of unconditional support matters more than ever. We are delighted to be working in partnership with Sotheby's this year to grow our community of supporters who share the conviction that artists shape our cultural life in profound ways."

Background

Founded in 1993, The Arts Foundation has awarded over £2 million to some of the most promising artists in the UK at pivotal moments in their careers, enabling them to concentrate on their creative development, experiment freely, and realise their artistic potential.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards provide vital unconditional grant funding, awarding five transformative £20,000 Fellowships across artistic disciplines, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The Foundation recently doubled its Fellowship Award in response to inflation, the ongoing cost of living crisis and the low-income precarity facing artists across the contemporary arts sector. The move made the Foundation one of the UK's largest unconditional funders of individual artists across art forms.

Its alumni include Sir Wayne McGregor, Ali Smith, Sir Rufus Norris, Asif Kapadia, Carol Morley, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye and the late Sarah Kane, alongside the new generation of artists whose work the Foundation champions today.

The auction comes as direct funding for individual artists remains scarce; most public and private funds in the UK are routed through institutions and project grants rather than to artists themselves.

How to participate

To find out more about the online auction and how to bid, visit artsfoundation.co.uk/fundraising-auction

Tickets to the dinner and live auction are available by invitation. To find out more, contact info@artsfoundation.co.uk

To learn more about the artists The Arts Foundation has supported to date, please visit artsfoundation.co.uk

Media Enquiries & Images

[Images online](#)

Contact: Millie Hamilton millie@artsfoundation.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Participating Artists and Organisations

Donating artists and organisations include Oreet Ashery, Barbican, Lydia Blakeley, Jackson Boxer, Savinder Bual, Gordon Cheung, Marcus Coates, Martyn Cross, Ben Edge, Max Frommelt, Catherine Goodman, Glastonbury, Abdunnasser Gharem, Globe Theatre, Antony Gormley, Ken Grant, Joy Gregory, Jane Harris, Alex Hartley, Holly Hendry, Jochen Holz, Claudette Johnson, Anish Kapoor, Allison Katz, Perminder Kaur, Vann Kwok, Sam Lee, Lightroom, Maison Diptyque, Ahmed Mater, Charlotte Mclean, Meadow, Florian Meisenberg, Carol Morley, Athier Mousawi, National Gallery, Mary Norden, Erin O'Keefe, Joanna Pocock, Ronnie Scott's, Royal Ballet, Tanoa Sasraku, Simon Schama, Ali Smith, Smythson, Love Ssega, Sinta Tantra, Suzanne Treister, Harley Weir, and Westwell Wines.

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), Bethany Williams (2020) and Tanoa Sasraku (2021).

www.artsfoundation.co.uk

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

Twitter: [@Arts_Foundation](#)

Facebook: [@theartsfoundation](#)

LinkedIn: [TheArtsFoundation](#)

About Sotheby's

Established in 1744, Sotheby's promotes access and ownership of exceptional art and luxury objects through auctions, private sales and retail. Our deep expertise across 70 selling categories is supported by a leading technology platform and a global network of specialists spanning 40 countries. Selling categories include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewellery, Watches, Wine and Spirits and Design, as well as collectible cars and real estate through RM Sotheby's and Concierge. Sotheby's Financial Services is a leading art lender and provides capital solutions for collectors around the world, having originated more than \$12 billion in loans since its inception. Sotheby's new global headquarters is now open at the iconic Breuer building at 945 Madison Avenue in New York City.

sothebys.com

Sotheby's