



The Arts Foundation Futures Awards

PRESS RELEASE

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The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2026 for Visual Art Shortlist Artists Announced

The Arts Foundation announces the four Shortlisted Artists of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2026 for Visual Art, one of the UK's leading fellowships for artists.

Mark Corfield-Moore, Zein Majali, Jesse Pollock, and Shaquéelle Whyte have been shortlisted for the prestigious £20,000 Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2026 for Visual Art.



Image credit: Kunsthall Stavanger, Mark Corfield-Moore, 2024

The Visual Art Award supports groundbreaking artists working across a broad range of visual arts and interdisciplinary art form practices, including painting, drawing, sculpture, photography and artist moving image.

The independent Jury members are Simeon Barclay, Artist; Eva Langret, Director, Frieze London; and Sook-Kyung Lee, Professor, The University of Manchester, who said:

“All the artists on the Visual Art Award shortlist, Mark Corfield-Moore, Zein Majali, Jesse Pollock and Shaquélle Whyte, impressed with their remarkable work, deep commitment to their practice and dedication to learning and evolving. These artists really capture a sense of true artistic purpose and momentum. I hope the acknowledgement of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards will propel the artists forward at this critical moment in their respective careers.”

Jury member Eva Langret added:

“All the artists shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2026 for Visual Art are exceptional practitioners with impressive and distinct respective trajectories to date. It’s not an easy time to be a visual artist in the UK, but all their work has a depth and urgency to it. They have such clear visions for the next stage of their growth and development of their practice, and we hope this recognition enables them all to continue to expand the scope of their ideas and production.”

Mark Corfield-Moore

Mark Corfield-Moore was born in 1988 in Bangkok, Thailand and currently lives and works in Hastings, UK. Describing himself as a painter who utilises textile techniques, in his practice, Mark reflects on his Thai and British heritage to investigate themes of transience and cultural memory. Eschewing and repurposing the ancient art of ikat, a weaving technique he learnt in Thailand, his distorted and glitchy imagery is a recollection and recreation of personal and collective histories. Mark is interested in the poetic potential of language, particularly through the lens of cultural and intergenerational difference. Situated between textile and image, memory and materiality, his paintings make tangible questions of identity, translation, and diasporic inheritance. Mark graduated from the Royal Academy Schools in 2018. Recent solo shows include: *We Speak Chicken*, Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2024-25); *We Speak Chicken*, Goldsmiths CCA, London (2024); *Cheetah Girl*, Devonshire Collective, Eastbourne (2023); *Other Follies and Picnics*, Alzueta Gallery, Barcelona (2022) and *Neither Here Nor There*, Cob Gallery, London (2021).

Zein Majali

Zein Majali is a Jordanian-Palestinian sound and visual artist whose work explores the collision of technology with a rapidly evolving political landscape, with an interest in a post-colonial and globalised Middle East. Her work examines sense-making in the wake of narrative collapse, brought on by the disorienting effects of digital life. Her practice spans audiovisual performance, moving image, sound, sculpture, and computational processes. She works with found material, synthetic imagery, and live sound, often developing projects as modular systems that shift between installation, performance, and online circulation. Her

work has been presented at institutions including the V&A, Somerset House Studios, Showroom, Ibraaz, and the ICA. Majali completed an MA in Contemporary Art Practice at the Royal College of Art in 2022 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Tufts University. Formerly an engineer, she turned to artistic practice out of an urgency to archive and examine accelerated cultural and political shifts in the Arab world. She will participate in the 2026 edition of the Biennale de l'Image en Mouvement in Tunis.

Jesse Pollock

Jesse Pollock's sculptural practice is rooted in the exploration of material, tradition, and the contradictions of contemporary rural life. Working primarily with cast and sheet aluminium, he distorts and reconstructs familiar objects—flowers, skulls, ladders, and flagons—through cutting, welding, and sandcasting. His process transforms rigid metal into fluid, patchwork forms that appear both ancient and futuristic, their powder-coated surfaces gleaming like relics of an unknown past or dystopian future. Jesse's work is a meditation on the human condition, simultaneously addressing nostalgia, mortality, and the stark realities of modern life. By referencing objects embedded in the British pastoral imagination, he interrogates the tension between romanticised national identity and the harsher truths of class struggle, industrialisation, and political division. Jesse has shown large-scale public work as part of *Sculpture in the City* (2021), and presented a solo show with Steve Turner LA and duo exhibitions with George Rouy at Hannah Barry Gallery in London and the Material Art Fair in Mexico City. Jesse's upcoming group show at Gallery Hioco Delany, Antwerp, will open 23 May - 21 June 2026.

Shaquéelle Whyte

Shaquéelle Whyte (b. 2000, Wolverhampton) lives and works in London. He received a BA in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art (2022) and an MA at the Royal College of Art (2023). In his paintings, Whyte presents imagined spaces imbued with a sense of ambiguity that interrogate the human condition, all the while exploring the material qualities of the medium. Loosely rendered, energetic brushwork and an expansive approach to composition are hallmarks of the artist's practice. Although non-linear, narrative plays a central role in Whyte's work, which sees him carry certain motifs over from one painting to the next. In April 2026, he will have his first institutional solo exhibition at Wolverhampton Art Gallery. Other recent and upcoming solo exhibitions include Pippy Houldsworth Gallery, London (2024; 2025) and White Cube, Hong Kong (2026). He is currently included in *Roots in the Sky* at HOME Manchester, curated by Tunji Adeniyi-Jones.

The Arts Foundation has a long history of supporting visual art, and Mary Jane Edwards, Director of The Arts Foundation, says:

"The four shortlisted visual artists demonstrate exceptional creative ambition and originality, each pursuing a distinctive and highly considered approach to making work. At a pivotal stage in their careers, they are developing practices that challenge conventions, engage critically with the world around us, and contribute meaningfully to the evolving landscape of

contemporary visual art. Through this recognition, we seek to support their continued experimentation and long-term artistic development.”

Jury Member Simeon Barclay added:

“The shortlisted artists for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards for Visual Art are all vivid and vital examples of the breadth of contemporary practice across the UK. Mark Corfield-Moore’s work continues to impress. His technical mastery and execution break new ground. Every element of his work, material, aesthetic, and cultural, feels precise and intentional. His pieces communicate exactly what he sets out to achieve, and his recognition by major institutions and collectors speaks to that. He is an artist of remarkable clarity and ambition.

Zein Majali’s work feels incredibly vital and forward-looking. I can clearly see the horizons and possibilities in her practice; it’s contemporary, grounded in both the personal and the communal, and deeply aware of the political and technological landscape we live in. Her background in engineering gives her a unique underpinning, allowing her to utilise tools that are both commonplace and highly specialised. There’s a real sense that she’s building towards something transformative in how technology and art intersect. I was struck by Jesse Pollock’s clarity of purpose in his work. He reimagines the rural landscape through a lens that is both historical and sharply contemporary. His approach to the machinery and production processes that shape and scar the land is poetic, ironic, and often humorous. This isn’t earnest environmentalism - it’s something rawer, more imaginative. He’s tackling issues often overlooked by others, with a distinctive voice and a clear sense of direction. There’s a real energy and originality in his vision. Shaquéelle Whyte is a confident, assured artist. Someone completely in command of his practice. It’s clear he knows exactly what he’s doing and where he’s headed.”

The winning Fellow, receiving £20,000, will be revealed at an Award Ceremony on 2 February 2026, with all Shortlisted Artists awarded £1,000 towards their artistic practice.

You can explore the Shortlisted Artists' work on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on 2 February 2026.

The Visual Art Award is supported by the Yoma Sasburg Estate.

Press Pack & Images

The Visual Art Shortlist Press Pack and Images can be viewed [here](#).

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2026 Press Pack can be viewed [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 2026 are generously supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, The Adrian Brinkerhoff Poetry Fund of the Sidney E. Frank Foundation, and The Yoma Sasburg Estate.

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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.

