



# The Arts Foundation Futures Awards

## PRESS RELEASE

15 November 2021

### The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2022 for Animation: Finalists Announced

The Arts Foundation announce the four finalists of The Arts Foundation Futures Awards (AFFA) 2022 for Animation, supported by The David Collins Foundation.

**Savinder Bual, Sophie Koko Gate, Mary Stark and Petra Szemán** have been selected from a long list of nominated artists as finalists for the £10,000 Arts Foundation Futures Award 2022 in Animation.

This new award explores expanded and experimental animation as art practice. Seeking out bold concepts and innovative uses of this diverse medium, the award supports creatives for whom animation is a key part of their artistic process and means of expression.

The AFFA 2022 Animation Judges are time-based media artist, Birgitta Hosea; Irish Director, Johnny Kelly; and artist, animator and curator, Edwin Rostron, who says:

*"The four finalists' work demonstrates the great range and breadth of contemporary animation practice in the UK, and that the art form continues to exist in vibrant and exciting ways both on and beyond the screen. Animation is a way of thinking as much as it is a set of processes, and each of the four artists has pursued highly individual and original ways of thinking about animation."*

**Savinder Bual** is fascinated by the mechanics and illusory qualities of cinema and early animation. She says, "We live in a time where physical things are disappearing. This has drawn me to juxtapose tangible everyday materials with the relative immateriality of video." Holding an MA in Photography from the RCA, when making her work, Savinder imagines herself to be a cinema pioneer from the 18th and 19th centuries. This period of engineering advancements and mechanical inventions was inextricably linked to new ways of seeing as a form of colonial control, from navigating the seas to the 24-hour clock replacing the sun as a marker of time. Savinder explores the interplay between the moving and the still, creating work that sits between the pre-cinematic and the digital.

**Sophie Koko Gate** works in the 'untouched territory' that lies between experimental and mainstream animation. She sees her practice as a parallel existence that runs alongside ours, creating strangely familiar characters that live on behind the scenes, ageing and changing design with the films telling stories, evoking a feeling or simply to escape. Her film *Half Wet* (2015) explores ideas around ageing – specifically the loss of water or evaporation of one's self as we

near death. Sophie adds, 'I wish animation could give off scent. 'Half Wet' would be the smell of a hot country crossed with your ex-lovers deodorant'.

Rochdale based artist, **Mary Stark's** journey to complete her PhD in 2020 began while studying Embroidery at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her films today respond to the history of terminologies, techniques and apparatus from textile practice adopted by filmmaking in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and the forgotten women who worked in the cutting rooms of early cinema. Her work For Delia (2016) responds to the archive of Delia Derbyshire, the pioneering figure in British electronic music behind the theme tune of Doctor Who. The 1400 foot 35mm film print translates her hand-drawn graphic scores into sprocket holes, splicing tape, fingerprints, dust specks, scribbles, scrawls, typewritten text, scraps of fabric, lace and thread, alluding to an absent female body.

Gateshead-based animator **Petra Szemán** is heavily influenced by the early filmography of Japanese director Makoto Shinkai, and watching the works of Hungarian experimental animators such as Marcell Jankovics while growing up in post-communist Hungary. In 2018-2020 they were awarded a MEXT Research Scholarship to fund two years of research and development in Tsukuba, Japan, where they began reworking the 'hero's journey' structure with the principles of the gaiden, a nonlinear narrative used in manga and anime that translates to mean '(out)side story'.

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2022 supports and celebrates artists for both their work to date and future development. The recipient of the £10,000 award for Animation will be announced along with awards in four other artforms (Materials Innovation, Music for Change, Theatre-Makers, and Visual Arts) at a celebration event in late January 2022 - with all finalists receiving £1,000 awards towards their artistic practice.

Iain Watson, Chief Executive Officer, David Collins Studio, and Trustee of The David Collins Foundation added:

*"I am delighted that The David Collins Foundation has been given the opportunity to support The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2022 for Animation. David supported artists across all mediums throughout his life, both professionally, through site-specific commissions and collaborations for David Collins Studio's projects, and in his personal life, as the collection at his home, made clear. He loved working with artists and always found the creative interchange of ideas hugely inspiring and rewarding. The Animation artists show such artistic ingenuity, and we look forward to supporting their creative journey at a timely moment in their career."*

You can meet The Arts Foundation Futures Award 2022 Animation finalists, at a special screening and Q&A event as part of the London International Animation Festival on Friday 3 December 2021 at The Horse Hospital, London. To book tickets, please visit The Horse Hospital [website](#).

To find out more about the artists and all AFFA 2022 finalists, please visit The Arts Foundation [website](#).

-

## INFORMATION

For all enquiries and interviews please contact:

Mary Jane Edwards, Interim Director, The Arts Foundation

[info@artsfoundation.co.uk](mailto:info@artsfoundation.co.uk) / +44 (0) 7969 029 656

The AFFA 2022 Animation Press Pack and Artist Images\* can be viewed [here](#).

*\*Please ensure all imagery and photographs use the credits supplied.*

-

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### About The Arts Foundation

The Arts Foundation is a registered charity that supports individual artists and creatives in the UK with no strings attached financial support. Since 1993 the Arts Foundation has given nearly £2 million to creatives across the spectrum of the Arts.

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards (AFFA) gives out five £10,000 fellowships every year, with all finalists each receiving £1,000. These are awarded based on past work and enable future development. Each year the awards focus on both broad and innovative art forms, across Craft, Design, Film, Literature, Material Innovation, Music, New Media, Performing and Visual Arts, and aim to highlight lesser-known areas of creative practice and include emerging multidisciplinary artists.

The contribution of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards to the Arts in the UK is demonstrated by its past Fellows, many of whom have 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), and Bethany Williams (2020).

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

Instagram: [@the arts foundation](#)

Twitter: [@Arts Foundation](#)

Facebook: [@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.

[www.davidcollins.studio/foundation](http://www.davidcollins.studio/foundation)

-

## EVENT LISTINGS INFORMATION

Event: LIAF 2021: Meet the finalists! The Arts Foundation Futures Award 2022 for Animation  
Date: Friday 3 December 2021  
Venue: The Horse Hospital, Colonnade, London WC1N 1JD  
Doors: 5:45 pm (Event starts promptly at 6 pm)  
Tickets: £8.00 General Admission; £6.00 Concessions

Ticket Booking Link:

[www.thehorsehospital.com/events/liaf-awards](http://www.thehorsehospital.com/events/liaf-awards)

London International Animation Festival Event Page:

[www.liaf.org.uk/2021/10/liaf-2021-meet-the-finalists-the-2022-arts-foundation-futures-award-for-animation/](http://www.liaf.org.uk/2021/10/liaf-2021-meet-the-finalists-the-2022-arts-foundation-futures-award-for-animation/)

This special, one-off event will include the chance to see selected works from the diverse practices of the four finalists of the prestigious Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2022 for Animation: Savinder Bual, Sophie Koko-Gate, Mary Stark and Petra Széman.

The artists will introduce in person, a curated programme of their work, and discuss their respective influences and creative processes exploring expanded and experimental animation as art practice. The event will conclude with a guided Q&A, hosted by art writer and publisher Jamie Sutcliffe.

About London International Animation Festival

The London International Animation Festival proudly showcases the whole spectrum of creative animation, showing that animation is for everyone. Founded in 2003, LIAF aims to dispel the popular misconception that animation is just cartoons for kids by screening the broadest possible range of intelligent, entertaining and provocative current films on offer from all around the world as well as retrospectives and specialised sessions from countries and animators who don't normally elicit such attention. LIAF's annual Festival includes gala premieres, retrospectives, Q&A's with filmmakers, workshops, audience voting, and the Best of the Festival screening.

[www.liaf.org.uk](http://www.liaf.org.uk)

Twitter: [@londonanimation](https://twitter.com/londonanimation)

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

For London International Animation Festival Enquiries, please contact:  
Nag Vladermersky, Festival Director  
[info@liaf.org.uk](mailto:info@liaf.org.uk)