

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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## Press Release

**For all press enquiries, please contact:**

Yasmin Ozkan, Press Manager (Visual Arts), [yasmin.ozkan@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:yasmin.ozkan@southbankcentre.co.uk)

Megan Edwards, Press Officer (Visual Arts), [megan.edwards@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:megan.edwards@southbankcentre.co.uk)

**Images are available to download [here](#)**

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This document is also available in Welsh. Please email [press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:press@southbankcentre.co.uk)

## Hayward Gallery Touring announces curator and cities for landmark 10th edition of British Art Show

*British Art Show 10* will open in Coventry and then tour to Swansea, Bristol, Sheffield and Newcastle Gateshead



Ekow Eshun, credit Zeinab Batchelor.

Today, Hayward Gallery Touring announces **Ekow Eshun** as curator of *British Art Show 10*. Opening in **Coventry** in September 2026, *British Art Show 10* will tour to **Swansea, Bristol, Sheffield** and **Newcastle Gateshead**. The tenth edition marks the first time the exhibition will travel to five cities across the UK in its most extensive presentation to date.

*British Art Show* is the largest and most significant recurring exhibition of contemporary art in the UK. It is developed and produced by Hayward Gallery Touring, the UK's leading contemporary art organisation producing touring exhibitions, which is part of the Southbank Centre.

*British Art Show 10* is part of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations, which will take place across 2026 both at the Southbank Centre in London and in art galleries, concert halls and arts centres in towns and cities across all four nations of the UK.

*British Art Show* launched in 1979 and takes place every five years. Over the past four decades, the exhibition has reached over 2.3 million people, highlighted new trends in contemporary art and reflected a changing Britain. Themes explored have ranged from the geopolitical to the personal, the changing nature of British identity, popular culture, the impact of technology on human existence, and more.

The show is unmatched in its national scope and has introduced many of the UK's most significant artists to millions of people across the country, including David Hockney, Bridget Riley, Lucian Freud, Frank Bowling, Paula Rego, Mary Kelly, Frank Auerbach, Mona Hatoum, Cornelia Parker, Anish Kapoor, Rachel Whiteread, Sonia Boyce, Sarah Lucas, Jeremy Deller, Tracey Emin, Hew Locke, John Akomfrah and Michael Armitage.

Under the vision of Ekow Eshun, *British Art Show 10* will provide a vital overview of the most exciting art produced in the UK during the past five years. Eshun is renowned for his leading curation with critically acclaimed projects including: *In the Black Fantastic* (Hayward Gallery); *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure* (National Portrait Gallery); and *We Are History* (Somerset House).

*British Art Show 10* will tour to multiple sites in each of the five cities:

- **Coventry:** The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Mead Gallery, Coventry University.
- **Swansea:** Glynn Vivian Art Gallery, Elysium Gallery, GS Artists, Mission Gallery, Volcano Theatre.
- **Bristol:** Arnolfini, Spike Island, Bristol Museum, RWA Bristol.
- **Sheffield:** Millennium Gallery, Graves Gallery, Site Gallery, Yorkshire Artspace, Arts Catalyst.
- **Newcastle Gateshead:** Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Newcastle Contemporary Art, Laing Art Gallery and Shipley Art Gallery.

As a major part of Hayward Gallery Touring's programme, *British Art Show* continues its work of partnering with a range of regional venues to broaden cultural access, with its most recent edition drawing around 40% first-time visitors to local art spaces.

**Ekow Eshun, Curator of *British Art Show 10***, says: "It is a great honour to be appointed curator of the British Art Show, an exhibition that has long played a pivotal role in shaping and reflecting the discourse of contemporary art in the UK. I am thrilled by the opportunity to engage with artists whose practices speak powerfully to our time, and to craft a show that invites reflection, provokes dialogue, and expands the ways we engage with art in Britain today."

**Brian Cass, Head of Hayward Gallery Touring**, says: "Over its almost 50 year history British Art Show has been unrivalled in its artistic ambitions and national reach, each edition engaging with the most significant art of its time. Ekow Eshun has an extraordinary track record of making exhibitions that shape the conversation about art and culture and we are looking forward to the new perspectives

he will bring to *British Art Show 10*, and working with our partners to expand the exhibitions reach and relevance for audiences in Coventry, Swansea, Bristol, Sheffield and Newcastle Gateshead."

**Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre**, says: "The Southbank Centre was born as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951 - a nationwide celebration and 'beacon of change' showcasing the best in arts, technology and science; a look to a future filled with hope and optimism. As we near the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary, we have sought real inspiration from the spirit of the Festival of Britain and the *British Art Show* is a quintessential example of this; presenting exciting and innovative artists that speak to our time to audiences across the country. We're thrilled to be taking the *British Art Show* to more people and cities than ever before, collaborating with and supporting creative spaces across the UK and opening up contemporary art to as many people as possible."

Further information about the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary programme will be announced in September, but will include a national programme that visits all four nations of the UK, of which the *British Art Show* is part.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Tour details (exact dates and touring venues to be confirmed):**

- Coventry (September 2026)
- Swansea (February 2027)
- Bristol (June 2027)
- Sheffield (October 2027)
- Newcastle Gateshead (March 2028)

**Article credit line:** *British Art Show 10* is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition and will launch in Coventry in September 2026 before touring to Swansea, Bristol, Sheffield and Newcastle Gateshead.  
[southbankcentre.co.uk](https://southbankcentre.co.uk)

### **About Hayward Gallery Touring**

Hayward Gallery Touring is the UK's leading contemporary art organisation producing touring exhibitions. Based at Southbank Centre, Hayward Gallery Touring works with a range of artists, curators, designers and writers to develop curatorial projects and ambitious exhibitions that are often beyond the scope of a single institution.

Hayward Gallery Touring's programme includes *British Art Show*—the largest and most significant exhibition of contemporary art produced in the UK—as well as thematic group shows and monographic exhibitions created for venues including museums, galleries, art centres, libraries, schools, hospitals and other unexpected partners and places.

Hayward Gallery Touring exhibitions are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year.

### **About Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to six Resident Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra,

London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). [www.southbankcentre.co.uk/](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/)

Website: <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk>

Facebook: Southbank Centre

Instagram: @southbankcentre

X (formerly Twitter): @southbankcentre

### **About Ekow Eshun**

Ekow Eshun is a writer and curator. He is Chairman of the Fourth Plinth, overseeing Britain's foremost public art programme, and the former Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London. He has staged acclaimed exhibitions internationally and was awarded the Association for Art History's Curatorial Prize for the landmark exhibition, *In the Black Fantastic* at the Hayward Gallery in 2023. Eshun's writing has been featured in publications including *The New York Times*, *Financial Times*, the *Guardian* and *Vogue*. He is the author of books including, most recently, *The Strangers*, published by Penguin in 2024 and longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize and the Jhalak Prize, and *Black Earth Rising: Colonialism and Climate Change in Contemporary Art*, published by Thames & Hudson in 2025. He was a judge for the Turner Prize 2024 and a member of the jury for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale 2024.

## **Coventry**

### **The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum**

The Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, located in Coventry city centre, is an award-winning cultural destination that celebrates the city's heritage and culture, and represents our diverse communities. The Herbert offers a program of permanent displays and temporary exhibitions.

The Herbert has a record of bringing world-class exhibitions to Coventry, having hosted shows such as the Turner Prize 2021, Daniel Lismore: *Be Yourself Everyone Else is Already Taken*, and *Divided Selves* in collaboration with The British Council. Looking ahead, it is excited to announce that The Herbert will be the first venue for British Art Show 10 in 2026.

The Herbert is also preparing to display more of its stored collections at the Coventry City Centre Cultural Gateway, which is due to open in 2027. This will provide even more opportunities for visitors to engage with Coventry's unique heritage.

Through engaging exhibitions, interactive displays, and a wide range of educational programs and events, The Herbert aims to inspire creativity, promote learning, and encourage a deeper understanding of Coventry's unique heritage.

### **The University of Warwick**

Founded in 1965, the University of Warwick is a world-leading institution known for its commitment to era-defining innovation across research and education. A connected ecosystem of staff, students and alumni, the University fosters transformative learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and bold industry partnerships across state-of-the-art facilities in the UK and global satellite hubs. Here, spirited thinkers push boundaries, experiment and challenge convention to create a better world.

### **Warwick Arts Centre and the Mead Gallery**

Warwick Arts Centre is at the heart of the University of Warwick. It is the largest multi artform arts centre outside London with a concert hall, middle scale theatre, cinemas, studio spaces and the Mead Gallery.

The centre works closely with artists and communities of people to co-create and deliver a year-round programme of events, workshops and projects designed to engage and inspire children, families, young people and adults of all backgrounds.

The Mead Gallery is an exceptional space, formed of three large white cubes. Its programme is driven by enquiry into modern and contemporary art practice and often features new, commissioned work from artists.

Key exhibitions include Phyllida Barlow: STINT, an exhibition of ten new sculptures in 2008; The Indiscipline of Painting in 2012; Rana Begum: Dappled Light in 2022; Katrina Palmer: What's already going on (commissioned work shortlisted for the Freelands Award) in 2023, Phantom Sculpture in 2024, Nicole Bachmann: There are Tides in the Body (commissioned work), 2024, Mao Ishikawa in 2025.

## **Swansea**

### **About Elysium Gallery**

Founded in 2007, elysium gallery is an artist led organisation that encourages pride and participation in local, visual and performing arts in an environment that promotes education, participation, experimentation, freedom, and appreciation in all creative practices.

Currently Wales' largest artist studio provider, elysium is dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative creative community through the celebration of contemporary art and the impact it can have on people's lives. Our mission is to provide a welcoming space where artists, art enthusiasts, and the wider community can connect, inspire, and engage with the transformative power of the arts. For further information, please visit [www.elysiumgallery.com](http://www.elysiumgallery.com)

### **About Glynn Vivian Art Gallery**

Swansea Council's Glynn Vivian Art Gallery plays a vital role in local society and as part of the creative ecosystem across Wales. Through exhibitions, collaborative projects, social engagement, learning, outreach and education we work with local audiences and communities. Our programmes focus on excellence, equality, health and wellbeing, supporting artists and the most vulnerable in our society. We support local artists through exhibitions, awards, acquisitions and employment, as well as bringing some of the world's leading artists to Wales. We present major exhibitions and new commissions, working in partnership with many local, national and international organisations. Our collection of artworks and ceramics belongs to the people of Swansea and forms an important part of the city's cultural memory. Glynn Vivian Art Gallery is an Arts Council of Wales, Arts Portfolio organisation and a part of Plus Tate and Visual Arts Group Wales. Glynn Vivian is part of CELF (National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales), a network of eleven galleries bringing the national collection of contemporary art to communities across Wales, funded by the Welsh Government.

For further information, please visit <https://www.glynnvivian.co.uk/>

### **About GS Artists**

GS Artists, (Galerie Simpson Artists), is a dynamic contemporary art space based in Swansea. Founded in 2014 by artist Jane Simpson, the gallery began as an artist-run studio and has since evolved into a non-profit initiative run by a collective of freelance artists. GS Artists is known for its commitment to supporting emerging and established artists through exhibitions, residencies, and community-focused projects. The gallery fosters dialogue around contemporary issues, often hosting events that explore themes such as sustainability, identity, and social change. Our 9to90 Creative Community is now in its seventh year and is a vibrant, well established community group with weekly classes and multiple exhibitions during each year. Over the last few years GS Artists have worked on several off site projects, including the development of a support network for deaf artists based in Wales and working with the National Museum on de-colonisation of its collections in a project entitled Perspective(s)

For more information visit [www.galleriesimpsonswansea.com](http://www.galleriesimpsonswansea.com) [www.9to90creativecommunity.com](http://www.9to90creativecommunity.com)

### **About Mission Gallery**

Mission Gallery celebrates and supports craft and visual art; we nurture and champion contemporary arts practice that is driven by integrity of intent, is skills based, has an appreciation of materials and consideration for audience. Co-curation is fundamental to our practice, with programmes being developed in collaboration with communities, artists and partners. We deliver artistically ambitious, inclusive exhibition and outreach programmes that are distinctively of Wales, addressing cultural inequalities by providing participation in the arts to those with limited access to them. Housed in a Grade II listed building in Swansea Marina, Mission Gallery is a unique and architecturally beautiful space - a safe space to pursue and enjoy creative practice: for all.

Mission Gallery is part-funded as an Arts Council of Wales portfolio client. We also generate income through fundraising, retail, outreach programmes, venue hires and donations.

For further information please visit [Mission Gallery](http://Mission Gallery)

## **Volcano Theatre, Swansea**

Volcano is an independent theatre production company that also runs a diverse inner-city arts centre in a large former supermarket building in Swansea High Street. We produce ground-breaking original work and distinctive adaptations. Our mission is to be Swansea's radical catalyst for a confident, healthy, and creative culture in Wales. Theatre-making occupies, for us, the centre of a network of practices and relationships rooted in the city of Swansea and branching out through Wales, the UK, Europe, and beyond.

For more information visit [www.volcanotheatre.wales](http://www.volcanotheatre.wales)

## **Bristol**

### **About Arnolfini**

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music. Housed in Bush House, a prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century former warehouse on the city's harbourside, Arnolfini is a pioneering, inspiring public space for arts and learning, offering an innovative, inclusive and engaging experience for all.

Arnolfini has welcomed artists from around world throughout its history – sharing works by Paula Rego, Jannis Kounellis, John Akomfrah, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Peter Doig, Richard Long, Veronica Ryan, Chantal Joffe, Sonia Boyce, Alice Kettle and Frank Bowling, to name just a few - as well as supporting talent from in and around Bristol.

Alongside its main programme, Arnolfini is a centre of everyday creativity and learning, working with a wide range of community and artistic partners, while continuing to explore and develop new collaborations across the city and beyond. Spaces are used regularly by families, schools and colleges, health and wellbeing groups. Through sharing a 63+ year archive of exhibition slides, publications and an extensive artist book collection, Arnolfini celebrates its heritage and the wide-reaching impact the organisation has had since its foundation. The team at Arnolfini strive to honour founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself', welcoming everyone into the accessible space, and inviting engagement, in any number of ways.

Arnolfini has a close partnership with the University of the West of England and is part of its City Campus.

An independent charity (CIO), Arnolfini is supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust. [www.arnolfini.org.uk](http://www.arnolfini.org.uk)

### **About the Royal West of England Academy**

The RWA is a renowned art gallery dedicated to promoting visual arts through exhibitions, education, and collaboration. Situated in the heart of Bristol since 1858, the RWA has a rich history of supporting and showcasing innovative and thought-provoking works by both emerging and established artists. [www.rwa.org.uk](http://www.rwa.org.uk)

### **About Bristol Museum & Art Gallery**

Bristol Museum & Art Gallery is a large free-to-enter museum standing in the heart of Bristol's vibrant city. The museum holds a collection that includes art, archaeology, history, industry, and the natural and wider world. The collection is amongst the UK's finest. Bristol Museum & Art Gallery is part of Bristol Museums, which includes M Shed, The Georgian House Museum, The Red Lodge Museum, Blaise Museum and Bristol Archives.

### **About Spike Island**

Spike Island is an experimental space where art is both created and experienced — a vibrant social hub and one of the UK's leading centres for contemporary art and culture. It has been driven by a spirit of possibility and experimentation, continually asking its audiences 'what if...?' for over 40 years. Today, Spike Island is a pioneering ecosystem of creative communities that's shaping the future of art in Bristol and beyond. Housed in an 80,000 sq ft former tea-packing factory in Bristol's harbourside, Spike Island produces and presents an internationally acclaimed programme of museum-scale exhibitions, new commissions, events and engagement activities – always with free admission and a commitment to broadening access to contemporary art for all.

Spike Island's strength is in commissioning ambitious work by under-represented UK-based and international artists at pivotal moments in their careers. The organisation amplifies the voices of artists, grounded in the belief that art can provoke new thinking, spark curiosity, and inspire a more equitable and generous world view. It



provides vital infrastructure for artistic development and hosts over 70 artists' studios and a dynamic community of creative businesses in fields such as architecture, print, digital, graphic and product design.

As a thriving site for learning, Spike Island supports over 250 young people studying Fine Art and Curating through its partnership with the University of the West of England, and more than 300 artists and creative practitioners benefit from its sector-leading professional development programme. The wider community includes Spike Print Studio (the largest open-access print studio in the South West), Visual Arts South West, Emmeline Café, and Spike Island Exhibition Services.

## **Sheffield**

### **Sheffield City Council**

Sheffield City Council is the local authority serving the city of Sheffield, in South Yorkshire, working to deliver high-quality services and support to residents, businesses, and communities. Committed to transparency, sustainability, and inclusive growth, the Council provides a wide range of essential services including education, housing, waste management, planning, and social care. Through partnership and innovation, Sheffield City Council aims to improve the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit the area. [sheffield.gov.uk/](https://sheffield.gov.uk/)

### **Sheffield Museums**

Sheffield Museums Trust is the independent charity that operates six of the city's leading museums and heritage sites. We care for the city's collections of art, human history, and natural science, alongside the Guild of St George's John Ruskin collection. The Millennium Gallery is one of Sheffield's landmark cultural spaces, bringing the best in art, craft and design to the city. The gallery's wide-ranging temporary exhibition programme showcases national and international art and design alongside the region's remarkable creative talents. The Graves Gallery is the Art Deco home of the city's internationally significant visual art collection, alongside a vibrant programme of regularly changing exhibitions. We thank Sheffield City Council and Arts Council England for their continued support. [sheffieldmuseums.org.uk](https://sheffieldmuseums.org.uk)

### **Site Gallery**

Sheffield's contemporary art space Site Gallery specialises in new media, moving image and performance. Site works in partnership with local, regional and international collaborators to nurture artistic talent and support the development of contemporary art. Site is supported by Arts Council England's NPO Investment Programme and Sheffield City Council. [sitegallery.org](https://sitegallery.org)

### **Yorkshire Artspace**

Yorkshire Artspace is a nationally-recognised home for art in all its forms. They provide high quality, affordable spaces in Sheffield city centre for over 170 artists to think, design, and make their work. Through their active programme of events and exhibitions, Yorkshire Artspace open their doors to show and sell contemporary work by local and national artists. Their artist development programme provides impactful opportunities for artists to test new ideas and develop their creative careers. Yorkshire Artspace is supported by Arts Council England's NPO Investment Programme. [artspace.org.uk](https://artspace.org.uk)

### **Arts Catalyst**

Art's Catalyst's mission is to enable people in South Yorkshire and beyond to engage in creative experiences that increase ecological awareness, encourage positive social action, and open up new ways of learning about the world around us. We activate spaces for people to think differently about the world around them using art to explore social and environmental issues, provoke debate, and test out alternative ways of learning. We collaborate with artists, activists and people with different kinds of knowledge to organise creative projects that respond to social and environmental issues. Our programme often takes place within community spaces, unusual sites and outdoors. [artscatalyst.org](https://artscatalyst.org)

## **Newcastle Gateshead**

### **Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art**

Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art is a major international centre for art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England. It has welcomed over 10 million visitors since opening in July 2002. Baltic presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of temporary exhibitions and events and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.

Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, Baltic houses 2,600 square metres of art space, making it one of Europe's largest dedicated contemporary art institutions. Baltic has presented the work of over 877 artists of 78 nationalities in over 300 exhibitions to date including Joy Labino, Hew Locke, Heather Phillipson, Antony Gormley, Cornelia Parker, Daniel Buren, Lubaina Himid, Steve McQueen, Jenny Holzer, Judy Chicago, Lorna Simpson, Imran Peretta, Huma Bhabha and John Akomfrah.

[www.baltic.art](http://www.baltic.art)

### **Newcastle Contemporary Art (NCA)**

Newcastle Contemporary Art (NCA) is a vibrant, inclusive gallery located within the High Bridge Works building—a hub for creativity in the heart of Newcastle city centre. The organisation champions creative experimentation and critical dialogue, connecting regional practices with national and international conversations. Through an evolving programme of exhibitions, commissions, and events, NCA supports artists and audiences to explore new ideas, challenge conventions, and engage with the social and cultural issues shaping our time.

### **Laing Art Gallery**

Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne is managed by North East Museums on behalf of Newcastle City Council.

It is home to an internationally important collection of art, focusing on British oil paintings, watercolours, ceramics, silver and glassware including works by John Martin, Paul Gauguin, Edward Burne-Jones and William Holman-Hunt. The Gallery holds regularly changing exhibitions of historic, modern and contemporary art, and events including artist and curator talks and family activities. It has a long tradition of hosting significant exhibitions and bringing iconic art to the North East including works by Monet, Van Gogh, Picasso and Leonardo da Vinci's drawings from the Royal Collection in 2016, the Lindisfarne Gospels on loan from the British Library in 2022, and most recently The Fighting Temeraire on loan from the National Gallery as part of the Turner: Art, Industry & Nostalgia exhibition in 2024. [www.laingartgallery.org.uk](http://www.laingartgallery.org.uk)

### **Shingley Art Gallery**

Shingley Art Gallery in Gateshead is managed by North East Museums on behalf of Gateshead Council.

It opened in 1917 with a collection of 504 paintings bequeathed by local solicitor Joseph Shingley. Since then the collection has grown to include nearly 800 paintings and collections of works on paper, decorative art and contemporary craft. The Shingley's art collections were designated as being of national importance in 1998 and include local favourite, William Irving's painting The Blaydon Races.

In 1977 the Shingley began collecting contemporary art made in Britain. Over the last 25 years the venue has become established as a national centre for contemporary craft and has built up one of the best collections outside London, including ceramics, wood, metal, glass, textiles and furniture. [www.shingleyartgallery.org.uk](http://www.shingleyartgallery.org.uk)