

the design circle



the
DESIGN
MUSEUM

autumn / winter
programme 2025



welcome

Dear friends,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the Design Museum's autumn/winter season, one that feels especially significant as we look both to the months ahead and to our transformative plans for the future.

We are excited for our two standout exhibitions this season. *Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s* captures the electric energy of London's legendary nightclub, a space that fueled a generation of creative inspiration. Alongside it, *Wes Anderson: The Archives* offers a rare glimpse into the distinctive worlds of one of cinema's most important storytellers.

Beyond the galleries, our events will open doors to places rarely seen. Highlights include a visit to Arch Model Studios, the puppet-makers behind Anderson's films, a tour of Voysey House, the historic home of Sanderson Design Group, and an evening of cocktails at Tramp nightclub with designers Campbell-Rey.

This season also marks an important milestone in our long-term vision. Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we will begin developing plans for a major transformation of our permanent gallery in time for the museum's 40th anniversary. The funding will allow us to embark on a wide-ranging consultation and development phase, ensuring the collection remains dynamic, accessible and reflective of the fast-changing design landscape. It is the first step in our ambitious *Transformation 2029* strategy, and we thank National Lottery players for making this possible.

Meanwhile, the momentum of the past year continues to inspire us. From record-breaking attendance at *Tim Burton* to the bold perspectives of *More than Human*, it has been a remarkable journey. We are also delighted to welcome Nancy Hitzig, our new Director of Development & Strategic Partnerships, whose expertise will help us build on this success.

As ever, I want to thank you for your support, which enables us to champion the transformative power of design, and I look forward to welcoming you this autumn and winter.

Tim Marlow OBE
Director and Chief Executive

autumn winter exhibition programme

Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s

20 September 2025 – 29 March 2026

Behind a door in a Covent Garden side street, the Blitz club was the place where 1980s style began. Inspired by everything from David Bowie, the punk and soul scenes, to continental cinema and cabaret culture, the brightest young talents of their generation came together to revolutionise fashion, music and design, turning a niche club night into a launchpad for global superstardom. The scene launched the careers of many stars, including chart-topping performers Spandau Ballet, Visage,

Boy George and Marilyn as well as a long list of designers, artists, filmmakers and writers.

Developed in close collaboration with some of the leading 'Blitz Kids' who were there, the exhibition will feature over 250 items, ranging from clothing and accessories, design sketches, musical instruments, flyers, magazines, furniture, artworks, photography, vinyl records and rare film footage.



Wes Anderson: The Archives

21 November 2025 – 26 July 2026

Explore Wes Anderson's distinctive cinematic world in the first major retrospective of his work, produced in collaboration with la Cinémathèque française.

This landmark exhibition will chart the evolution of Wes Anderson's films from early experiments in the 1990s to recent productions as well as collaborations with key long-standing creative partners. Explore the design stories behind award-winning and iconic films such

as *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, *Isle of Dogs* and more. Over 600 objects will bring together the director's meticulous craft of filmmaking. The Design Museum has been granted unprecedented access to Wes Anderson's personal archives, which the filmmaker has built up over three decades. This is the first time most of these objects will be displayed in Britain.

design circle events

september

Studio Visit

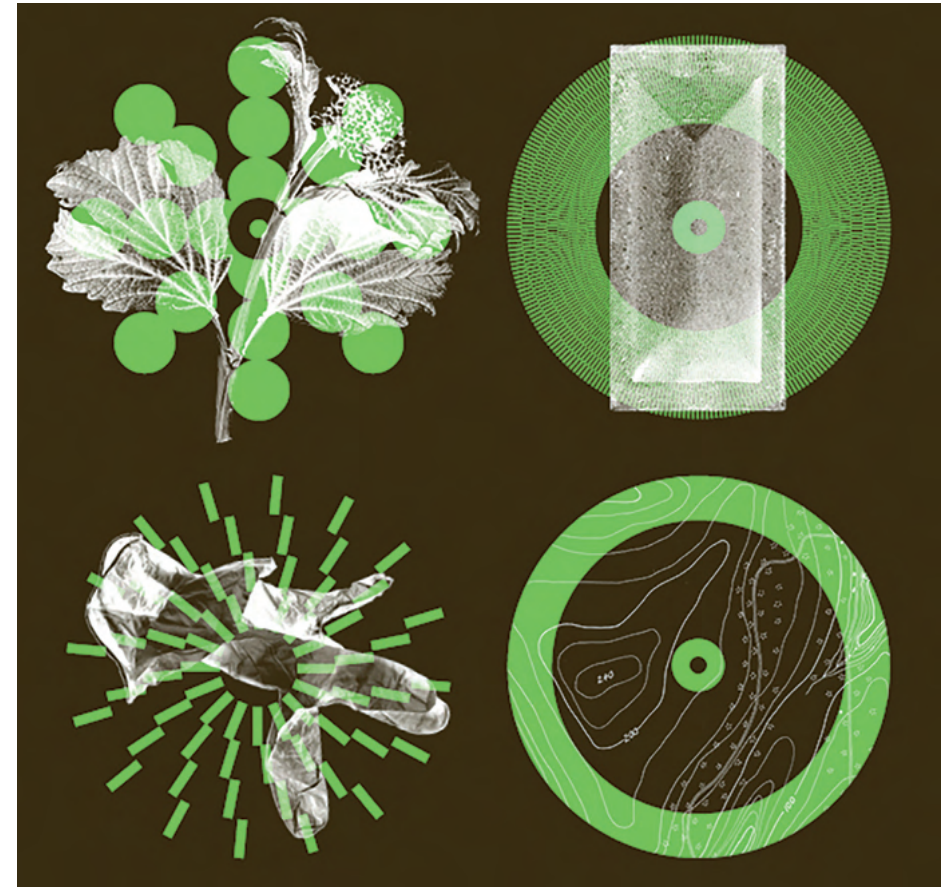
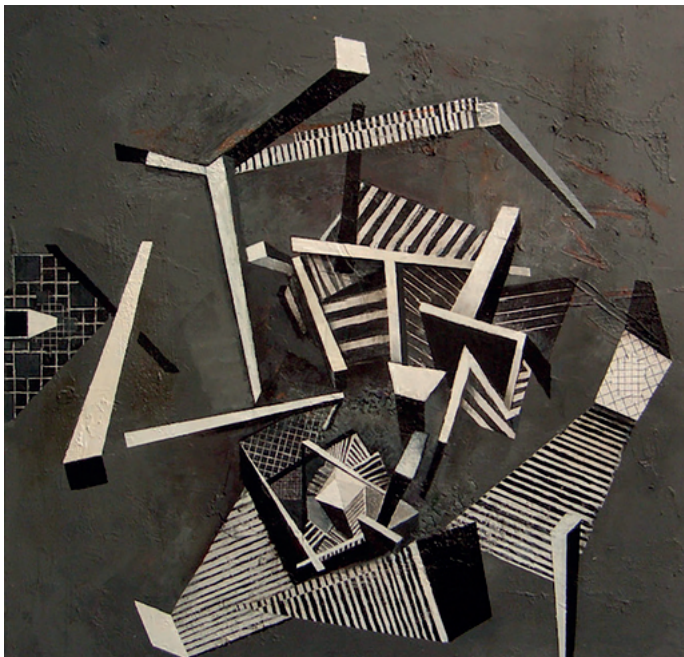
Anthony Whishaw RA

Wednesday 10 September

10:00 – 11:30

Anthony Whishaw RA is a British painter known for his abstract and figurative paintings. Born in 1930, he studied at Chelsea School of Art and the Royal College of Art. His extensive career spans seven decades, with the artist exhibiting his work in solo shows at the ICA, Kettle's Yard and more, as well as participating regularly in the Whitechapel Open and the Hayward Annual. He became a Royal Academician in 1989.

We have been given a rare and special opportunity to visit Anthony Whishaw's studio - a visit that will mark one of the last chances to see his creative space, as he will be leaving his studio and home of the past 60 years in the coming weeks. This will be an opportunity to gain an insight into his creative process and view his works in situ. The tour will be led by his daughter and studio manager, Zoe Whishaw, who will provide insight into both the artist's practice and the history of his studio in Kensington.



Opening Reception

Tools for Transition

Thursday 11 September

18:00 – 20:00

We are delighted to invite you to celebrate the opening of *Tools for Transition*, a new display curated by Future Observatory, the Design Museum's national research programme for the green transition.

Tools for Transition presents four Green Transition Ecosystem research projects from across the UK that are driving change in housing, healthcare, local planning and resource management. Together,

these projects highlight how scalable, design-led research can be translated into practical tools to transition into a greener future.

The display will be open until August 2026.



Design Circle First Look
Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s
Wednesday 17 September
18:15 – 19:00

As a member of the Design Circle, enjoy a first look at our major exhibition, *Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s*. Journey back to the club where the careers of the decade's biggest music stars were made and experience a sensory extravaganza of music, flamboyant fashion, pioneering art, film and graphic design.

Join us before the full exhibition opening reception for an exclusive preview and the chance to see the show before anyone else. Exhibition Curator, Danielle Thom, will provide an exclusive tour of the show and be on-hand to offer key insights.

Opening Reception
Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s
Wednesday 17 September
19:00 – 22:00

Join us for the official opening reception, hosted by museum Director and Chief Executive, Tim Marlow, to celebrate the opening of *Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s*.

october

Curator's Tour

Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s

Friday 3 October

09:00 – 10:00

You are invited to the museum for a special morning viewing of *Blitz: the club that shaped the 80s*, with the exhibition curator Danielle Thom. The exhibition explores the story of the Covent Garden nightclub that brought together a generation of young creatives and inspired the New Romantic movement.

The Blitz scene helped launch the careers of many, from performers such as Spandau Ballet, Visage, Boy George, and Marilyn, to designers, artists, filmmakers, and writers including couture milliner Stephen Jones, Game of Thrones costume designer Michele Clapton, DJ and fashion writer Princess Julia, and BBC broadcaster Robert Elms. Through fashion, music, and art, the exhibition reflects how the club left a lasting mark on London's cultural landscape.



Conran Lecture 2025

Tuesday 7 October

19:00 – 22:00

We are delighted to invite you to this year's Conran Lecture, created in honour of our founder Sir Terence Conran, this annual event celebrates design in all of its forms and the impact it has on the world today. This year we are very pleased to welcome Sir John Hegarty, Co-Founder and Creative Director of BBH London and The Business of Creativity, for a conversation with Tim Marlow.

Together, they will explore Hegarty's creative process and his profound impact on brand building and culture-defining advertising over the past three decades.

Join us for the 2025 edition of the Conran Lecture to hear from one of the most iconic names in advertising, followed by a canapé and drinks reception.

Visit

Sanderson Design Group

Friday 10 October

10:00 – 12:00

Sanderson Design Group is a world-renowned luxury interior furnishings company, founded in 1860 by Arthur Sanderson. In 1902 it opened its factory at Voysey House in Chiswick, which today serves as the headquarters of Sanderson Design Group, housing the design studios of Sanderson, Morris & Co., and Zoffany, alongside an extensive historical archive.

Deeply rooted in British design heritage, the company is celebrated for preserving classic traditions, especially those of the Arts and Crafts movement. It has been central to reviving Morris's legacy, adapting his designs for modern interiors while honouring their original ethos.

Our visit will begin with a guided tour of the Showroom, focusing on the Morris & Co brand. Jodie Cooper, Sanderson's Head Designer, will share the brand's history and latest projects. We will then tour Voysey House, with its Arts & Crafts original features, before concluding in the archive.





Private Tour

PAD London

Thursday 16 October
11:00 – 12:00

Founded in 2007 by Parisian antique dealer Patrick Perrin, PAD London is the only fair in the UK exclusively dedicated to historical and contemporary design. Prominent international galleries from major cities across Europe, North America and Asia come together to offer an exceptional panorama of the most coveted and iconic works available on the market today.

Join us for an exclusive guided tour of PAD with arts and design writer Caroline Roux and gain insight into selected highlights of this year's fair.

We also have a limited number of passes available for self-guided access to PAD London. Please contact the team if you would like to receive one.

november

Visit

Tramp Nightclub

Tuesday 11 November
19:00 – 20:30

Set in the vibrant heart of Mayfair, Tramp is a legendary private nightclub which has been a staple of London's nightlife scene since opening its doors in 1969. Founded by Johnny Gold, the club was loved by everyone from the Royal Family to the A-list.

Over the years, the club attracted celebrities including The Beatles, Mick Jagger, Joan Collins, Princess Diana and Elizabeth Taylor. It's reputation was built on glamour and discretion, a place where celebrities could let their hair down without the usual paparazzi attention.

In 2024, Tramp underwent a major renovation, with the interior designed by the design studio Campbell-Rey, founded by Duncan Campbell and Charlotte Rey. Campbell-Rey drew inspiration from the club's rich history and the opulence of the 1970s and 1980s.

We will begin the evening with a welcome cocktail, followed by a conversation with Charlotte and Duncan about their design vision and inspiration for the iconic club. Danielle Thom, Curator of *Blitz: The Club That Shaped the 80s*, will also join us to explore Campbell-Rey's vision as well as the past and present of this legendary London hotspot.





Design Circle First Look
Wes Anderson: The Archives
 Wednesday 19 November
 18:15 – 19:00

As a member of the Design Circle, enjoy an exclusive preview of our unmissable exhibition, *Wes Anderson: The Archives*. Delve into Wes Anderson's extensive archive and discover over 600 objects that will bring together the director's meticulous craft of filmmaking. Highlights include a candy-pink model of the *Grand Budapest Hotel*, the vending machines from *Asteroid City*, and the FENDI fur coat worn by Gwyneth Paltrow as Margot Tenenbaum in *The Royal Tenenbaums*.

Exhibition Curators, Johanna Agerman Ross and Lucia Floriana Savi, will provide a private tour of the show and will be on-hand to offer key insights.

Opening Reception
Wes Anderson: The Archives
 Wednesday 19 November
 19:00 – 22:00

Join us for the official opening reception, hosted by museum Director and Chief Executive, Tim Marlow, to celebrate the opening of *Wes Anderson: The Archives*.

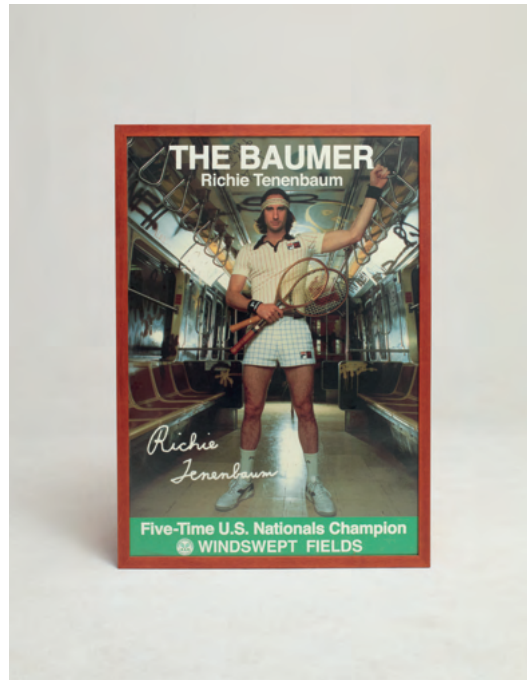
Curator's Tour

Wes Anderson: The Archives

Friday 28 November

09:00 – 10:00

You are invited to the museum for a special morning view of *Wes Anderson: The Archives* with exhibition Curators, Johanna Agerman Ross and Lucia Floriana Savi. This will be an opportunity to enjoy an in-depth tour of this unmissable show and hear how the exhibition was developed for the Design Museum. From the melancholic charm of *The Royal Tenenbaums* to the youthful adventure of *Moonrise Kingdom*, discover how Anderson's unique vision and dedication to detail have created some of the most visually and emotionally compelling films of recent times.



december

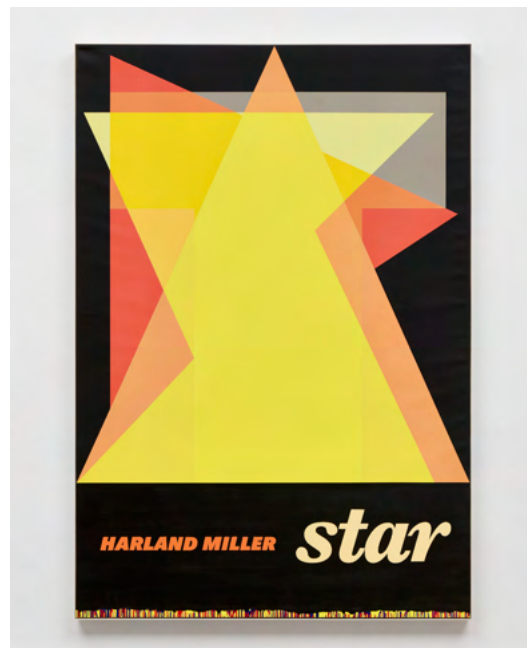
Opening Reception

Harland Miller at the Design Museum

Tuesday 9 December

19:00 – 22:00

Join us to celebrate the opening of *Harland Miller at the Design Museum*, a new exhibition in the Johannes and Helene Huth Gallery and Mezzanine which will explore the renowned artist and author's multifaceted approach to art and design. Two interrelated displays will be featured, inspired by typography in design: monumental paintings from Miller's celebrated 'Letter Paintings' series alongside a vibrant hang of smaller works on paper from the series. This will be our last patrons' event of 2025, so join us to raise a glass and celebrate the year and look forward to the one ahead.



january

Private tour

PLATFORM: Bethan Laura Wood

Wednesday 14 January

09:00 – 10:00

Join us at the museum for an out-of-hours tour of PLATFORM, personally led by Bethan Laura Wood.

Bethan is a London-based multi-disciplinary designer, her work is characterised by material investigation, artisan collaboration and a passion for colour, detail and decoration.

She is fascinated by the connections we make with the everyday objects that surround us and, as a collector herself, likes to explore what drives people to hold onto one particular object while discarding another. During the tour, we will gain an insight into her creative process and discover more about her practices that shape her distinctive approach.



Studio Visit

Arch Model Studio

Wednesday 28 January

11:00 – 12:30

We're thrilled to invite you to Arch Model Studio in East London, founded by renowned model-maker, Andy Gent. With over 25 years experience in puppet making, set building and character creation, Andy is best known for creating puppets for Wes Anderson's films including the *Isle of Dogs* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*. His extensive credit list also includes collaborating with Tim Burton on *Corpse Bride* and Henry Sellick's *Coraline*, along with creating hundreds of TV adverts.

During our visit, we'll go behind the scenes to discover the fascinating process of puppet making - from concept and design to modelling, manufacturing and rigging. Andy will share insights into his career and design process, and we will have the rare opportunity to view some of his incredibly detailed creations up close.



february

Studio Visit

Heatherwick Studio

Tuesday 10 February
10:00 – 11:30

Join us for an exclusive visit to multi-award-winning design and architecture practice Heatherwick studio, and explore prototypes, creative development objects, models and furniture, and learn more about their latest projects and creative approach.

The studio's new King's Cross home Making House contains a display of models and objects spanning the studio's 30-year history, including a full-scale model of the rear of the well-known London bus, detailed exhibition models and prototypes of unusual lift buttons.



a message from our new Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships



I could not be more excited to join the Executive Team at the Design Museum and have been a great admirer of its programme for many years. The Museum's work through the Future Observatory examining and exploring the Green Transition, was especially interesting to me thinking about sustainability in all its forms. My career has always been about approaching the idea of 'sustainability' as a verb, not a noun, and encompasses how it aligns with funding alongside climate action. I look forward to working with the team and driving results in the months and years ahead. It is a banner year to join the organisation with exceptional visitor numbers, exhibition acclaim and a growing membership base and community of supporters, and it is a testament to the team and Design Museum community of partners and supporters.

Before coming to the Design Museum I was the Director of Programmes & Income at Stonewall, an LGBTQ+ human rights charity, known for its work advocating and resulting in policy change for the rights and freedoms for LGBTQ+ people. As a team, we spent much of the last year and a half in close consultation with government on key issues facing the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the general public, and leading the organisation's workplace inclusion programmes, collaborating with over 500 organisations globally.

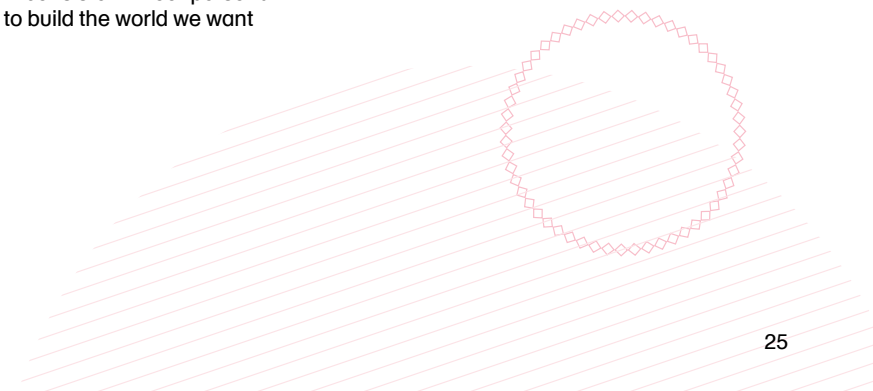
In my time at Stonewall, the CEO, COO and I were at the forefront of the global rollback of funding for LGBTQ+ causes and the seismic corporate shift away from Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Coming into this role at the Design Museum, my work at Stonewall reaffirmed my belief that our actions, leadership and support in the cultural sector matters more than ever, and most importantly, we must remain consistent in our personal commitments to build the world we want to live in.

Design has such a vital role to play in this conversation around civic participation and championing inclusion within and beyond the Museum walls, research and touring exhibitions and I am particularly excited for our Autumn events and the opportunity to connect with those who support and uplift our work.

Previously, I also worked as Head of Philanthropy at Tate, and it was in my experience working there that I truly saw the impact art, architecture and design can have to help us discover partners and answers to issues we urgently need in more and more challenging times and how everyone can take part.

On behalf of the entire Executive Team and the Development Team, thank you all for your support and I hope to see you in person this Autumn.

Nancy Hitzig, MIM
Director of Development
and Strategic Partnerships



Design Circle giving levels

We have three levels of support within the Design Circle; Benefactor, Fellow, Patron. Everyone who joins the Design Circle makes a vital contribution to the museum's work, and your ongoing support is hugely appreciated.

We are a growing community of like-minded individuals and we're always delighted to welcome new friends on board. If you know someone who might enjoy being part of the Design Circle, do invite them along to an event as your guest to find out more.

Design Benefactor

£10,000
(£800 benefit, plus £9,200 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Benefactor offers you the opportunity to build a close relationship with the museum, with exclusive access to private events and specially organised trips in addition to everything we offer our Fellows. You will also have the chance to have your support for the museum recognised against an exhibition or programme of your choice, where possible.



Nancy Hitzig
Director of Development and Strategic Partnerships
nancy.hitzig@designmuseum.org



Stefanie Woodford
Head of Philanthropy
stefanie.woodford@designmuseum.org



Sarah Fitzpatrick
Philanthropy Executive
sarah.fitzpatrick@designmuseum.org

Design Fellow

£5,000
(£400 benefit, plus £4,600 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Fellow offers a more exclusive level of access to the museum and its team. Enjoy tours of private collections, access to international trips with the Director and the chance to spend time with some of the most creative designers and architects in the world.

Design Patron

£1,000
(£200 benefit, plus £800 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Patron offers behind-the-scenes access to the museum and to events such as curator-led tours, talks and studio visits.

legacy giving

The Design Museum was founded by Sir Terence Conran in 1989 with the purpose of promoting awareness of design in education, industry, commerce and culture. 35 years on, we continue to share the transformative potential of design with the broadest possible audience.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can take your place in the unfolding history of design and help us celebrate a world in which design helps people and the planet to thrive, for generations to come.

Planned giving helps us to continue our work creating inspiring exhibitions, championing design's role in the green transition and nurturing the designers of tomorrow.

If you would like to make a lasting impact, please contact us on patrons@designmuseum.org to discuss leaving a gift in your Will.

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Design: Steers McGillan Eves

art & design fairs

Design Circle members have the opportunity to receive tickets and VIP access to a number of the world's most prestigious art and design fairs both nationally and internationally. Please register your interest early by contacting the Design Circle team.

PAD London

14 – 19 October 2025

Frieze London / Masters

15 – 19 October 2025

Paris Photo

13 – 16 November 2025

Collect Art Fair

27 February – 1 March 2026

Thank you for your support.

To book your place at a Design Circle event or
to register your interest, please contact us:

patrons@designmuseum.org

the Design Circle