

PRESS RELEASE
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COLLECT 2018

The International Art Fair for Contemporary Objects returns to the Saatchi Gallery

22–25 February 2018

At a time when the world has woken up to the visionary creativity of contemporary craft and when – with craft skills making a £3.4bn contribution – its importance to UK economy has never been more explicit, the **Crafts Council** is delighted to announce the return of **Collect** to London's **Saatchi Gallery** for its 14th edition in February 2018.



*(Left) Yellow & Grey Undulating Vessels by Ashraf Hanna represented by Cavallero Finn.
(Right) Elliptical Woven Chair by Isabelle Moore represented by Craft Scotland.
Photography: Jake Curtis. Art direction: Hana Al Sayed.*

An annual highlight of Europe's creative calendar since 2004, Collect brings together **34 galleries** from **four continents** for a celebration of making, extraordinary in both scale and scope. Museum-quality works and installations from hundreds of the most talented makers in the UK, USA, South Korea, Japan, France, Norway, Italy, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden will offer visitors and collectors a multidisciplinary overview of the people, processes, materials and ideas defining international craft in 2018.

From the makers sustaining and enhancing historic craft techniques to experimental artists breaking material boundaries and pioneering new processes, Collect provides an immersive and wide-ranging snapshot of what craft means today, and a glimpse of what it might become in the future.

Selected by a panel of experts, including Rainald Franz, Curator of Glass and Ceramics for the MAK in Vienna; collector and independent jewellery expert Joanna Hardy; Damien Whitmore, Chief Creative and Marketing Officer for Phillips; and chaired by Annie Warburton, Creative Director of the Crafts Council, the roster of galleries exhibiting includes Collect stalwarts who have participated since the first edition and returning galleries who debuted in 2017, with 30% of the galleries making their first ever appearance at Collect.

Collect Open, the ever-popular showcase for craft experiments, concept-driven objects and exploratory installations, returns with a fresh selection of convention-challenging makers hand-picked by acclaimed designer **Jay Osgerby**, Head of Exhibitions & Collections for the Crafts Council Annabelle Campbell and Project Curator for Collect Open Julia Ravenscroft. And, after its inaugural appearance in 2017, the Collect Spotlights programme returns to the fair, giving selected galleries the opportunity to present experimental works in imaginative ways that intrigue, provoke, challenge and excite visitors as they pass through the aisles.

‘The contemporary craft sector has never been more dynamic or forward-thinking. In studios and workshops across the world, we are seeing boundaries tested, conventions challenged and new materials capturing the imaginations of makers. To bring so many of the most skilled talents and world-leading galleries from Britain and beyond together under one roof is always a privilege, but to do so at a time when craft is seizing more attention than ever is truly exciting.’

– **Rosy Greenlees**, Executive Director, Crafts Council

THE GALLERIES

Hailing from across the world – Paris to Portland, Scotland to Seoul – **34 galleries** present objects from **250 artists and makers**, showcasing works in ceramics, furniture, jewellery, textiles, sculpture, metalwork and more. Some, such as the Sarah Myerscough Gallery and Joanna Bird Contemporary Collections, have shown at Collect for every one of the fair’s 14 editions and others (approximately 30%) are appearing at Collect for the first time. The Goldsmiths’ Fair – the annual showcase of British goldsmithing and silversmithing talent – takes its first ever stand at Collect in 2018; and one featured gallery, the Dorset-based craft champion Guilded, marks its first ever appearance at a UK show.

‘Collect is a world leader in presenting contemporary galleries who show work that is both beautiful and intriguing – always raising stimulating questions and exploring innovative concepts. To be among these pioneers of both craft skill and thinking is a privilege and a thrill.’

– **Peter Ting**, founder – Ting-Ying Gallery, exhibiting at Collect for the first time

As ever, this year’s fair will showcase work from the frontiers of material investigation, featuring fusions of fish leather and ancient oak from Kari Furre, and pewter and acrylic from Joel Parkes (both of **Guilded**); Harry Morgan’s pairings of concrete and glass (**Craft Scotland**); as well as South Africa’s **50 Golborne** presenting the Ubuhle women’s collective interweaving of Czech glass beads into their black-fabric *ndwangos*.

This gallery selection also features a strong focus on two craft disciplines currently under the global spotlight: ceramics and glass.

Ceramic highlights include:

- Belgium's **Spazio Nobile** gallery presents the solo work of Piet Stockmans, who has spent the last 40 years exploring the versatility and vulnerability of porcelain.
- New-to-Collect gallery **Oxford Ceramics** draws upon its roster of well-established artists with a selection of contemporary ceramic ware incorporating materials such as wood and glass.
- UK/China crossover gallery **Ting-Ying Gallery** explores the cultural legacy of Blanc de Chine and the contemporary pieces currently made in Dehua County, Fujian Province.
- **Cynthia Corbett** selects ceramic finalists and alumni from the Young Masters Maylis Grand Ceramics Prize, including the next generation of ceramic artists from the Royal College of Art.
- Italy's **ESH Gallery** makes its Collect debut with a showcase including pieces by the important ceramic Japanese artist Sueharu Fukami.

Glass highlights include:

- One of the world's most prestigious centres for the study and development of glass as an art form – Scotland's **North Lands Creative** – makes its Collect debut.
- The radical blown glass of Swedish artist Fredrik Nielsen is on show with **Widell Projects**.
- Leading US producer of art and architectural glass **Bullseye Projects** presents a wide-ranging selection of kiln-blown work.
- Long-standing Collect exhibitor **London Glassblowing** shows work by the exciting new artist Monette Larsen, winner of the Emerging Artist's Residency Prize at the 2017 British Glass Biennale.



*(Left) Rope necklace by Lucie Gledhill represented by Bishopsland Educational Trust.
(Right) Desire by Louis Thompson represented by London Glassblowing.*

Photography: Jake Curtis. Art direction: Hana Al Sayed.

COLLECT SPOTLIGHTS

Following the success of its introduction in 2017, Collect Spotlights returns to offer selected galleries the opportunity to present experiment-driven displays that make thoughtful interventions to the visitor's journey around the galleries, while reaffirming Collect's commitment to contemporary approaches and practices.

Collect 2018 will see four galleries presenting Spotlights:

1. **Designer Bookbinders** presents works by artist-bookbinder **Annette Friedrich**, inspired by the writings of Virginia Woolf
2. **jaggedart** will showcase the work of porcelain installation artist **Valeria Nascimento**
3. **Ting-Ying Gallery** presents work from ceramic artist **Jiang Yanze**.
4. **Vessel Gallery** presents work from glass sculptor **Elliott Walker**

COLLECT OPEN

Picking up the mantle from last year's selector Faye Toogood, **Jay Osgerby** has chosen **12** makers representing the cutting edge of UK craft. From the bold abstract tapestries and figurative embroidered portraits of Emily Jo Gibbs to the site-specific work created by ceramicist Alison Cooke from historic clay excavated from London's building sites, Collect Open 2018 provides an opportunity for contemporary makers to challenge perceptions of art and craft and gives a platform to the fresh ideas, materials and concepts set to shape the evolution of craft in the UK.

'Collect every year gives us an insight into international craft culture, and for me Collect Open is one of the most dynamic parts of the fair. This year I'm pleased to have been part of the team that have chosen the 12 makers and works for 2018, I hope that it'll prove to be one of the most thought-provoking selections yet.'

– **Jay Osgerby**, Co-Founder, Barber & Osgerby

COLLECT TALKS

There will be a three-day programme of talks and events (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) will see leading international voices from the worlds of craft, design, art, architecture and fashion explore the evolving role of craft in all sectors of society.

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Collect 2018 is delighted to announce associate sponsorship from the Loewe Foundation, which was established by the eponymous fashion and leathercraft brand to preserve and promote creativity and heritage in artistic fields including art and craft.

Fellow sponsors include luxury tea company Newby Teas, as the Talks Sponsor for a second year and logistics experts Ebiss Fine Art Logistics. The Collect team are also delighted to announce a new partnership with Kit Kemp, interior designer, founder of Firmdale Hotels and nurturer of new talent, who is supporting one of the year's Collect Awards with a commission-based prize and will be hosting a salon in the run-up to the fair.

Notes for editors | COLLECT 2018

Dates

Thursday 22 February to Sunday 25 February, 2018

Press view

10am, Thursday 22 February

Location

Saatchi Gallery
King's Road
London SW3 4RY

Opening times

Thursday 22 February	12noon – 7pm
Friday 23 February	11am – 9pm
Saturday 24 February	11am – 6pm
Sunday 25 February	11am – 6pm

Tickets

Early-saver tickets for Collect 2018 are available now, via [Eventbrite](#).
Ticket prices start at £16.

Collect Galleries

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| 1. 50 Golborne | 18. Joanna Bird Contemporary Collections |
| 2. Bishopsland Educational Trust | 19. Katie Jones |
| 3. Bullseye Projects | 20. Korea Craft Design Foundation |
| 4. Cavaliero Finn | 21. London Glassblowing |
| 5. Collection Ateliers D'Art De France | 22. MADEINBRITALY |
| 6. Craft Scotland | 23. maison parisienne |
| 7. The Cynthia Corbett Gallery | 24. North Lands Creative |
| 8. Designer Bookbinders | 25. Officine Saffi |
| 9. ESH Gallery | 26. Oxford Ceramics Gallery |
| 10. Galerie Marzee | 27. Ruthin Craft Centre |
| 11. Galerie Dutko | 28. Sarah Myerscough Gallery |
| 12. Galleri Format Oslo | 29. Spazio Nobile |
| 13. Gallery S O | 30. Tansey Contemporary |
| 14. Goldsmiths' Fair | 31. Thalen & Thalen |
| 15. Guided | 32. Ting-Ying Gallery |
| 16. I-CERA by Gallery LVS & LVS Craft | 33. Vessel Gallery |
| 17. jaggedart | 34. Widell Projects |

A full gallery line-up will be released in the coming months.

collect



Presented
by the
Crafts Council

Collect Open Artists

Selected by Jay Osgerby

1. Alison Cooke
2. Donna Brennan
3. Emily Jo Gibbs
4. Forest + Found
5. Hannah Robson
6. Jilly Edwards
7. Juliette Bigley
8. Katrin Spranger
9. Lee Borthwick
10. Mella Shaw
11. Alison Lowry
12. Sue Paraskeva
13. West Dean Tapestry Studio

Full details of Collect Open artworks and installations are to come.

About the Crafts Council

Leading innovation in making across the UK, the Crafts Council is the country's foremost authority on contemporary craft in all its forms. Founded in 1971, its role as guardian and champion of national craft practice has evolved to include exploring and enabling new possibilities, making methods and technologies. Having played a pivotal role in the development of some of the UK's most accomplished and respected makers, the Crafts Council is devoted to finding and empowering new talent across the craft sector, creating platforms for emerging makers to show their work, forging connections between people and industries, and providing practical and inspirational resources to support the careers of our next generation of makers.

craftscouncil.org.uk

Huge thanks to our sponsors; the Loewe Foundation, Newby Teas and Firmdale Hotels.

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For more information about **Collect 2018** and the **Crafts Council**, please contact **Jodi Moss** at jodi@zetteler.co.uk or on **07910 705147**.



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