

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL

FASHION TRUST

PRESS RELEASE

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BFC FASHION TRUST ANNOUNCES ITS 2017 GRANT RECIPIENTS

The British Fashion Council (BFC) is pleased to announce that its charitable initiative BFC Fashion Trust has awarded grants totalling **£450,000** between eleven designers; the largest donation by the trust to date. New recipients for 2017 are **Edeline Lee, Georgia Hardinge, Isa Arfen, Sharon Wauchob** and **Teatum Jones**. Previous recipients who continue to receive funding this year are **Eudon Choi, Fyodor Golan, Huishan Zhang, Marques'Almeida, Osman** and **Rejina Pyo**.

The BFC Fashion Trust was founded in February 2011 to offer selected designers mentoring and financial support to promote the art and business of fashion. As part of the structured mentoring programme in 2017 designers will benefit from legal advice from Taylor Wessing, and Livia Firth and her team at Eco-Age will be mentoring on sustainability and industry best practice. The philanthropic programme is developed in partnership with Co-chairs Tania Fares and Sian Westerman, along with the BFC, and the Fashion Trust Advisory Committee.

Tania Fares and Sian Westerman said: *"Supporting the development of such a strong group of designer businesses reflects the core aim of the BFC Fashion Trust, and is the most rewarding part of the initiative. We are incredibly proud of what the BFC Fashion Trust, with the help of its wonderful members and partners, has achieved so far and look forward to continuing to nurture the incredible pool of talented designers in the UK."*

Caroline Rush CBE, CEO British Fashion Council, commented: *"The generosity of the BFC Fashion Trust supporters is always remarkable, and I am delighted that we are able to support these eleven deserving designers for the year ahead. By providing financial as well as mentoring support the BFC Fashion Trust continues to help secure the future stability of these designer businesses in contributing to our growing industry."*

In addition to the grant awards, the BFC Fashion Trust operates a Graduate Traineeship Programme which offers graduates 12-month paid placements with a British based designer. The programme has the dual benefit of allowing graduates to gain insight and experience and for the designer's business to benefit from additional support. Previously partnered brands include E.Tautz, Erdem, House of Holland, J.W.Anderson, Mary Katrantzou and Roksanda Ilincic.

Since its inception in 2011 the BFC Fashion Trust has awarded over £1.5m to 33 designer businesses to help with critical business support such as developing websites, ecommerce platforms and bricks & mortar stores. The BFC Fashion Trust is part of a group of BFC business support initiatives and charities aimed at supporting British designers and businesses from school level to emerging talent, and future fashion start-ups through to new establishment and global brands.

The BFC Fashion Trust would like to thank Megha Mittal, Founder Patron, for her generosity in hosting the BFC Fashion Trust Grant Recipients event at her home. The BFC would also like to thank Carmen Busquets for her generosity, support and time as the BFC Fashion Trust Benefactor and to all of those who generously support the Fashion Trust.

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Previous years' recipients of grants and pro bono mentoring include Christopher Kane, Emilia Wickstead, Erdem, Gareth Pugh, Huishan Zhang, Mary Katrantzou, palmer//harding, Peter Pilotto, Rejina Pyo, Roksanda Ilincic and Sophia Webster in providing invaluable support to each developing business. As part of the BFC Fashion Trust's fundraising activities a cultural programme of events is curated to offer its 140 members an insight into the global fashion landscape. The BFC Fashion Trust Advisory Committee includes Alison Goldberg, Christopher Suarez, Belma Gaudio, Danielle Ryan, Deborah Brett, Desiree Bollier, Felicia Brocklebank, Helen David, Joanna Przetakiewicz, Karen Ruimy, Kate Haslett, Kim Hersov, Lady Carol Bamford, Leon Max, Marie-Anya Shriro, Megha Mittal, Michelle Yeoh, Mounissa Chodieva, Narmina Marandi, Natalie Livingstone, Nicoletta Fiorucci, Rachel Yeoh, Rana Tabiat, Sian Westerman, Sofia Barattieri, Tania Fares, Terry de Gunzburg, Wendy Yu and Yassmin Ghandehari. The Fashion Trust is a registered Trust within the charity BFCVDF, registered in England and Wales: 1139079.

The British Fashion Council

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and businesses globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its Foundation, BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include BFC Fashion Film sponsored by River Island; BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund and NEWGEN. The BFC supports Boden's Future British initiative. The BFC also runs and owns charities including the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, the BFC Fashion Trust and the BFC Education Foundation. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, LONDON show ROOMS, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Week Festival and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.