

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL EDUCATION FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FASHION MA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The British Fashion Council Education Foundation was set up to establish pathways through education and into employment for exceptionally talented people studying BA and MA fashion courses.

The recipients of the BFC Education Foundation MA Scholarship 2015 are promising students from three disciplines who have already excelled in their BA degrees. We are delighted to congratulate:

Benny Andaloo from Central Saint Martins (CSM) will study the MA Fashion Menswear course at CSM

Gabriella Sardena from Manchester School of Art will study the MA Fashion Textiles course at CSM

Shaun Harris from Kingston will study the MA Fashion Womenswear course at the Royal College of Art (RCA)

The BFC Education Foundation is a registered charity and is dependent upon the generosity of the companies and individuals funding scholarships at both BA and MA levels. With fees for a BA home student now running at £27,000 (without counting the cost of rent, living and materials) it is ever-more acutely important to support the most promising talent through the additional expense of taking an MA, for which fees are set at around £9,500.

The scheme is funded by donations from Coach, Marks & Spencer, Net-a-Porter and Eiesha Bharti Pasricha. This project has also been partly supported by HM Government with Employer Ownership funding through Creative Skillset.

Previous winners of the scholarship include **Aitor Throup** in 2004 and **Erdem Moralioglu** in 2002. Aitor Throup is now an acclaimed British menswear innovator with his own company and is creative

consultant at G-Star. Erdem went on to win the inaugural BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund and the Womenswear Designer of the Year award at the 2014 British Fashion Awards.

Aitor Throup commented: *'The BFC have long been committed to supporting young talent from their earliest stages through its Education Foundation. I was honoured to receive one of the scholarships for my own Masters degree at the Royal College of Art, and was equally honoured to be asked by Sarah Mower and the BFC to be on the panel to help select this year's recipients. We saw an incredible amount of talent and it's encouraging to know that the support has gone to such deserving candidates. I wish them all success with their studies and their careers. We are all excited about their future and I'm looking forward to following their progress.'*

Sarah Mower MBE, who is co-president of the BFC Education Pillar with **Meribeth Parker**, said: *'With the news that UK fashion colleges are some of the top in the world, it is more important than ever that we are able to support the exceptionally talented students who would otherwise be significantly held back, or deterred, by the high cost of fees and living expenses attached to studying fashion. The trustees are extremely grateful to every donor who has stepped forward to support the Foundation. Their contributions alleviate individual student debt and allow talent to develop. In the long term, they will underpin the vibrancy of British fashion culture and ensure the success of the UK's fashion industry in the future. I'd also like to thank Aitor Throup and Janet Lance Hughes for bringing their expertise to the judging panel.'*

Applications were open to graduating students from member colleges of the BFC's Colleges Council. Eleven shortlisted applicants were interviewed by a judging panel consisting of **Aitor Throup**, designer; **Clara Mercer**, BFC Head of Communications; **Janet Lance Hughes**, artist and former Head of Fashion Design and Communication at CSM; and **Sarah Mower MBE**, American Vogue journalist and BFC Ambassador for Emerging Talent.

- ENDS -

For more information please visit www.britishfashioncouncil.com/education

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Editor's notes

British Fashion Council

The British Fashion Council 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 business 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 the BFC Fashion Film sponsored by River Island; BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund supported by Vertu; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund; NEWGEN sponsored by TOPSHOP and NEWGEN MEN sponsored by TOPMAN. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Collections Men, LONDON show ROOMS, the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Weekend and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry: the British Fashion Awards.

2014 MA Recipients

Emmeline Kellett (Knitted Textiles MA at RCA), Grace Weller (Fashion Womenswear MA at CSM) and Taja Bokek (Fashion Womenswear MA at RCA)

BFC Education Foundation

The BFC Education Foundation, previously named the Princess of Wales Charitable Trust, was originally set up to provide MA scholarships for British graduate fashion design students and has now been extended to include support to students on foundation and BA degree courses.

Colleges Council

The BFC Colleges Council was founded by the BFC in 1993 to create an interface between education and industry. The BFC Colleges Council is a membership programme that represents the leading fashion departments in universities and colleges throughout the UK. The purpose of the BFC Colleges Council is to provide opportunities for students to become involved in the industry through various activities including events, seminars and competitions.

Member Colleges: Arts University Bournemouth; Bath Spa University; Birmingham City University; Buckinghamshire New University; Carmarthen School of Art; Central Saint Martins; De Montfort University; Edinburgh College of Art; Glasgow School of Art; Kingston University; London College of Fashion; Manchester Metropolitan University; Manchester School of Art; Middlesex University; Northbrook College; Norwich University of the Arts; Nottingham Trent University; Ravensbourne College of Design & Communications; Royal College of Art; Sheffield Hallam University; University for the Creative Arts Epsom; University for the Creative Arts Rochester; University of Brighton; University of East London; University of Huddersfield; University of Leeds; Northumbria University; University of Salford; University of South Wales; University of Westminster; Winchester School of Art