

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL | FASHION ARTS FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

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BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL AND ROYAL ACADEMY SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE NEW PROJECT: FASHION ARTS COMMISSIONS

The BFC Fashion Arts Foundation and the Royal Academy Schools are committed to encouraging and nurturing future talent. A new commissioning project will bring together fashion designers and visual artists to collaborate across art forms. The project is called Fashion Art Commissions and will pair graduates from the RA Schools with NEWGEN and NEWGEN MEN designers.

The commission will produce artworks that will form part of an auction at Christie's. The pieces will be on display from the 31st October – 11th November at Christie's King Street gallery and will then be part of an online auction from 22nd November – 1st December. The money raised from the auction will go back into the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, one of the BFC's registered charities.

For the inaugural Fashion Art Commissions there are four pairs:

Agi & Sam and Joe Frazer

Alex Mullins and Amy Petra Woodward

Diego Vanassibara and Victoria Adam

Kit Neale and Jonathan Trayte

Eliza Bonham Carter, Head of the Royal Academy Schools and curator of Fashion Art Commissions said, *'Little did we know when we started out on this collaboration between the Royal Academy Schools and the British Fashion Council what extraordinary works would be produced. The collaborative pairs of artists from the RA Schools and emerging designers have worked together discovering commonalities and divergences in their interests and processes to produce works that are bold, surprising and intriguing.'*

Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive, British Fashion Council said, *'This project is all about bringing together talented creatives from different visual backgrounds. Cross-cultural partnerships help push innovation and creativity and having the fashion and art industries working together allows the participants to share knowledge and practices. The Fashion Art Commissions project at its heart is about creating inspiring and educational content as well as generating funds for future artists and designers.'*

Paola Saracino Fendi, Head of Online Auction, Post-War & Contemporary Art Department, Christie's London added, *'The vibrant dialogue created between the young artists from the RA Schools and the fashion designers has been inspirational. Our vision for digital at Christie's is to put together a selection of artworks that establish a visual conversation with contemporary art and I am thrilled that these emerging young talents have chosen to showcase their new works in the context of our upcoming online auction. The title of the exhibition and auction 'Portfolio' was chosen to highlight the strength of this incredibly diverse selection – it reads like a sketchbook of ideas and I hope viewers find it as forward-thinking and exciting as I do.'*

The Fashion Arts Foundation trustees are Jane Boardman, Valeria Napoleone and Caroline Rush CBE.

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Editor's Notes

Fashion Arts Foundation

The Fashion Arts Foundation is a registered charity, established in 2010. It aims to nurture collaborations and foster relationships between fashion, film, music and art. Through this strategy the BFC aims to highlight London's position as a leading creative capital and reaffirm the UK fashion industry's reputation for innovation. In 2010 the Fashion Arts Foundation, supported by Harper's Bazaar, partnered with Sony to launch an album series entitled 'The Collection for London Fashion Week'. Each season an album was curated by a different designer. As part of the London 2012 Festival the Fashion Arts Foundation launched Britain Creates. The commissioning project paired fashion designers with other visual artists to create major works of art. Designers and artists involved in the project included Gavin Turk, Hussein Chalayan, Mark Titchner, Mat Collishaw, Matthew Williamson, Mary Katrantzou, Paul Smith, Peter Pilotto and Stephen Jones among others. The artworks were exhibited at the Victoria & Albert Museum and auctioned to raise money for the Fashion Arts Foundation. In September 2013 the Fashion Arts Foundation funded an event to support the life-saving work of The Global Fund through a creative partnership with the BFC, Green Carpet Challenge, American Vogue and Red. In 2016 the Fashion Arts Foundation launched Fashion Arts Commissions with the RA Schools, bringing together emerging designers from the NEWGEN and NEWGEN MEN initiatives and graduates from the RA Schools. Trustees of the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation are Jane Boardman and Valeria Napoleone. The registered charity number is: 1147729.

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 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. The British Fashion Council supports Boden's Future British initiative. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, 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 Fashion Awards.

Royal Academy Schools

The RA Schools, headed by the Keeper of the Royal Academy, Eileen Cooper RA, have been an integral part of the Royal Academy of Arts since its foundation in 1768 and is the longest established art school in the UK. The RA Schools offers the only free three-year postgraduate programme in Europe. Current Professors include Michael Landy RA, Chantal Joffe RA, Cathie Pilkington RA, Piers Gough RA, Humphrey Ocean RA, Gerald Libby, Tim Green and Roberto Cipolla. Past students of the RA Schools include JMW Turner RA, William Blake and John Constable RA. More recent alumni include John Hoyland RA, Anthony Caro RA, Paul Huxley RA, Matthew Darbyshire, Rachael Champion, Toby Christian, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Lucy Williams, Hannah Sawtell, Catherine Story, Prem Sahib and Eddie Peake. The Royal Academy Schools is sponsored by Newton Investment Management.

Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts (RA) was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate. The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting and revitalising the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the RA Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit royalacademy.org.uk.

Christie's

Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as international glamour. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in the first half of 2016 that totalled £2.1billion/\$3billion. 2016 marks Christie's 250th anniversary. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Click [HERE](#) to view a short film about Christie's and the 250th anniversary. Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 12 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Mumbai. Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

Participants' Biographies

Agi & Sam

Agi Mdmulla studied Fashion Design at Manchester School of Art while Sam Cotton studied Textiles at University of Lincoln. They first met in 2008 whilst interning for Alexander McQueen before going on to work for other brands such as Karl Lagerfeld and J.W. Anderson. With a strong emphasis on entirely bespoke textiles and humour, Agi & Sam believe that fashion should never be taken too seriously. Agi & Sam are mentored personally by Sir Paul Smith, who keeps regular contact with the duo, and advises on all business ideas. The brand has won awards including the British Fashion Award for Emerging Menswear, the GQ Men of the Year Award for Breakthrough Designer of the Year and the Emerging Designer of the Year at the FFF Milano Awards and have been nominated for the LVMH prize.

Alex Mullins

Alex Mullins was educated at Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art and set up his eponymous brand in 2014. Mullins reimagines and handcrafts clothing for men and women, taking inspiration from real life and editing the everyday. He develops bespoke textiles through innovative methods that resonate with the feeling of the 'handmade'. He playfully builds immersive worlds and narratives around his clothes, and is stocked internationally at luxury stores including 10 Corso Como in Milan, Shanghai and Seoul and Joyce, Hong Kong.

Amy Petra Woodward

Amy Petra Woodward lives and works in London and studied at Camberwell College of Art and then The Royal Academy Schools, from which she graduated in 2013. She was commissioned as the first artist in residence for a studio and research residency with Unilever and has work in both the Unilever and V22 Collections. Woodward focuses on concepts of display and spectatorship and often plays with colour and texture in her work. Woodward's solo exhibitions include Face Down, Chandelier Projects, London (2015); The Selina Chenevière Fellowship Award exhibition; You Look So Good In Stereo at The Royal Academy of Arts (2014) and a solo presentation in Palazzo Peckham, Venice Biennale (2013).

Diego Vanassibara

Diego Vanassibara initially studied architecture in his native South Brazil and then moved to England to train at Cordwainer's. In 2013 he launched his eponymous men's shoe label. Vanassibara combines references that include the urban, architecture, history and nature. As well as a recipient of NEWGEN MEN he is also a winner of the Footwear Friends Awards, a similar prize from the British Footwear Association. His designs are available at selected designer boutiques and department stores in four continents.

Joe Frazer

Joe Frazer lives and works in London. He holds a BA in Fine Art and Art History from Goldsmiths, University of London and a Post Graduate Diploma in Fine Art from Royal Academy Schools. He was a guest student at Staatliche Hochschule für Bildende Künste, Frankfurt, Germany. Frazer often uses textiles in his works and explores notions of identity and masculinity. Selected exhibitions include Studio_Leigh, London; RA Schools Alumni, Marian Cramer Projects, Amsterdam; Joyride, KINMAN NY, New York; I love you Me either, Project Native Informant, London; "I'M NOT IN THE MOOD", Marian Cramer Projects, Amsterdam; Open Heart Surgery, Moving Museum, London; Bloomberg New Contemporaries 2013, ICA, London.

Jonathan Trayte

Jonathan Trayte graduated from the Royal Academy Schools in 2010. Trayte's approach to making sculpture and installation is informed by our global language of consumption and the manipulation of consumer decision-making. Using a wide range of materials, methods and processes, his work reinterprets modern consumer behavior. Glossy synthetic skins of paint give the work a colourful pop status, a chameleon appearance and an almost edible quality. The work is a coming together of natural forms and saccharine colours that generate an awkward physical presence. Solo exhibitions include Polyculture, The Tetley, Leeds (2016); Pazar, Istanbul Art Projects, Istanbul (2014); Nude, Identity Gallery, Hong Kong (2011) and Under a Pine Tree, Simon Oldfield Gallery, London (2011).

Kit Neale

London-born designer, printmaker and creative director Kit Neale founded his namesake brand in 2012 and works out of his East London studio. Neale engages in an exploration of popular and traditional culture. His observations and abstract references of life are deliberately tongue-in-cheek, humorous and characterised through bold prints, vibrant colours, texture and craft. Neale has worked on collaborations and special projects including a global soft furnishings collaboration with IKEA (launching in November 2017) as well as with brands such as Coca-Cola, Hallmark, Kew Gardens, Lavazza, Opening Ceremony and Sky.

Victoria Adam

Graduated from Royal Academy Schools in 2015 after studying at the Slade School of Art and now lives and works in London. Adam makes sculptures intended to be experienced close-up and that draw people into their intimacy. The works are often tactile or sensual and look at ideas of personal space, connections, desire or derision. Recent solo exhibitions include ㊦ at Zabudowicz Collection Invites, London (2016); Leks at Marian Cramer Projects, Amsterdam (2016); middens ♣, a ceramics show at Kingsgate Workshops, London (2015).