

# LONDON FASHION WEEK

14–18 FEBRUARY 2020

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February**

## **Rosh Mahtani of Alighieri to Receive the Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design at London Fashion Week**

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, at London Fashion Week, Rosh Mahtani of Alighieri, will be presented with The Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. Mahtani will be recognised for the craftsmanship of her jewellery which is produced in Hatton Garden, for using responsibly sourced materials, promoting local manufacturing and supporting employment.

The Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design was initiated in recognition of the role the fashion industry plays in society and diplomacy and the movement of young designers that are both talented and making a difference to society through either sustainable practices or community engagement. The inaugural Award was announced and presented to Richard Quinn in February 2018 when The Queen made Her Majesty's first visit to London Fashion Week. In 2019, the prestigious Award was presented to Bethany Williams by The Duchess of Cornwall. With sustainability and ethical practice always at the heart of the design process, this year's recipient has been chosen for her unique attention to detail and focus on craftsmanship and community.

**Caroline Rush CBE**, CEO, British Fashion Council (BFC) commented: *"We are delighted to announce Rosh Mahtani from Alighieri as the third recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design. Mahtani has managed to translate her passion for jewellery and storytelling into a highly successful business while using responsibly sourced materials. Her ethical approach and commitment to local manufacturing, combined with her ability to make beautiful, timeless, made by hand jewellery, makes her an inspiration for many young British designers. We are incredibly proud to recognise Mahtani and look forward to seeing her business grow."*

Born in London and raised in Zambia, the founder of Alighieri, Rosh Mahtani, studied French and Italian at Oxford University. Upon graduating in 2012, Mahtani was inspired to create Modern Heirlooms, born from the literature she had studied such as Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy* in particular. With no formal training, and a vehement obsession with the idea of imperfect sculptures, Alighieri was officially launched in 2014.

Alighieri has become known for its hand-made gold-plated antique-style designs. Each piece of jewellery is handcrafted in Hatton Garden, London's Jewellery Quarter. The unique pieces are made through the process of lost-wax casting at some of the oldest local suppliers. The brand is firmly rooted in literature and travel and each biannual new collection is based on a different aspect of *The Divine Comedy*. Just like Dante Alighieri's subjects, each piece of jewellery is unique, battered and imperfect. People and narrative remain at the heart of the brand; Alighieri has created a community through objects, forged friendships across all cultures through this universal language and celebrated the fact that it's acceptable to be vulnerable and imperfect.

Each year a designer is selected by the BFC, in collaboration with the Royal Household, to be recognised by this Award. The Award, designed by Angela Kelly, inspired by The Queen Elizabeth rose, has been hand-produced by Lucy Price at Bauhinia Studios and in Birmingham's famous jewellery quarter.

The Princess Royal is President of the UK Fashion & Textile Association (UKFT), a sister organisation to the BFC and lead for industry skills development, making Her Royal Highness' role this year significant by recognising a young business supporting craft and jewellery making in London.

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### **About British Fashion Council**

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and coordinate 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. The BFC promotes British fashion and its influential role at home and abroad, helping British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally. The BFC Foundation (Registered Charity Number: 11852152) was created for charitable purposes and grant giving; attracting, developing and retaining talent through education and business mentoring. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through BA and MA scholarships and links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Through grant-giving and business mentoring the BFC support designers through four talent identification and business support schemes: BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund, BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund, NEWGEN which includes womenswear, menswear and accessories, and the BFC Fashion Trust, a charity supporting UK based designers. The BFC showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, LONDON show ROOMs and the annual celebration of creativity and innovation in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.