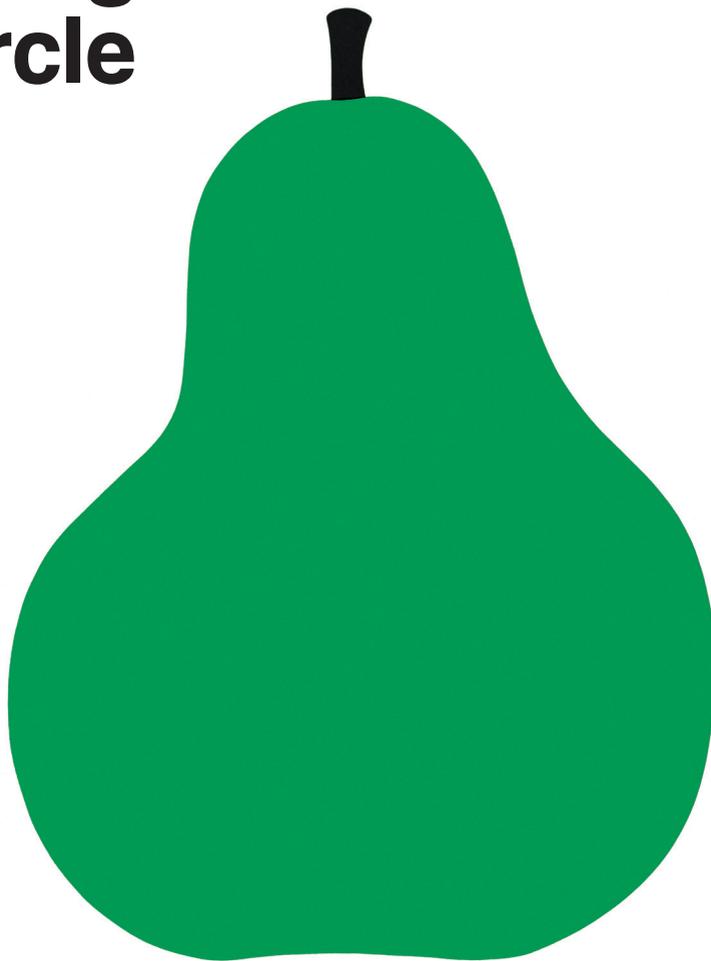


# the design circle



*due la Pera (Serie della Natura)*

*disegnata da Enzo Mari nel 1963*

*Edizioni L'Arte Donna, Milano*

*stampata a occhio nel 1984*

the  
DESIGN  
MUSEUM

spring / summer  
programme 2024



# director's introduction

Dear friends,

It's my pleasure to share the spring/summer 2024 programme of events for the Design Circle. This season's events programme is inspired by our diverse and extensive range of exhibitions and displays, our collection and the wider design community. I hope you find plenty to explore and enjoy.

We've got an eye-catching programme of exhibitions opening in the months ahead, kicking off with Enzo Mari at the end of March. The museum plays a crucial role in presenting designers and artists whose work sparks debate and inspires audiences to envisage alternative futures, and this is a prime example of just that. Mari's practice was rooted in a profound belief that design should be a force for good, and his core ethical and political principles feel as provocative and challenging to audiences today as they did in mid-century Italy. I look forward to engaging in some lively discussions with you in the coming months.

Looking ahead to the summer, we're inviting audiences to immerse themselves in the world of Barbie, with a major survey show exploring the history of the iconic doll through the lens of design. Through an exclusive partnership with Mattel, Inc., we've been granted access to their unrivalled archives in California, delving deep into the objects that collectively create Barbie's world. We're pleased to be showing a number of rare pieces of Barbie history, including an original first edition doll, a selection of 'dreamhouses' and some memorable special editions. I am sure this exhibition is going to delight audiences and cast a familiar cultural phenomenon in a new light.

Crucially, I'd like to take the opportunity to extend my huge thanks to you all for your continuing support. We simply could not do what we do here at the museum without your ongoing commitment to our programme, research and collection. For that, and your engagement with the Design Circle, I am enormously grateful. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible both in the museum and at our special events in the coming months.

**Tim Marlow OBE**  
Director and Chief Executive



# Hello!

Dear friends,

There has been a lot of change in the Philanthropy team over the past year, so I thought we'd take a moment to put some faces to names and formally introduce the team.

It has been a real pleasure to meet many of you over the past few months since I joined in September, and I hope to have the chance to see you all in the coming season. If you are visiting the museum and would like to say hello then do drop me a line; it's always lovely to see new and familiar faces. I am sure many of you will have met Sarah Fitzpatrick, our Development Executive, who keeps the Design Circle running smoothly, and Chloe Brand, our Director of Development.

I am delighted to present our spring/summer 2024 exhibitions and events programme, developed exclusively for the Design Circle. The events in the coming months have been designed to bring you closer to the museum, our exhibitions and collection; I hope you find something in here that excites and inspires you.

This programme invites you to get behind the scenes of the design world through studio visits, curator-led tours, exhibition openings and trips to private homes and collections. I am so grateful to the individuals and organisations who are welcoming us in the coming months and I can't wait to share these enriching experiences with you.

Finally, I'd like to extend my warmest thanks to you for your continuing support for the museum. It's a joy to build this community of design-lovers with you. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes and many thanks,

**Rosheen Murray**  
Head of Philanthropy



**Chloe Brand**  
Director of Development



**Sarah Fitzpatrick**  
Development Executive

# Design Circle giving levels

We have three levels of support within the Design Circle: Benefactor, Fellow, Patron. Every individual who joins the Design Circle makes a vital contribution to the work of the museum, and your ongoing support is hugely appreciated.

We are a growing community of like-minded individuals and we're always delighted to welcome new friends on board. If you know someone who might enjoy being part of the Design Circle, do invite them along to an event as your guest to find out more.

## Design Benefactor

£10,000  
(£800 benefit, plus £9,200 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Benefactor offers you the opportunity to build a close relationship with the museum, with exclusive access to private events and specially organised trips in addition to everything we offer our Fellows. You will also have the chance to have your support for the museum recognised against an exhibition or programme of your choice, where possible.

## Design Fellow

£5,000  
(£400 benefit, plus £4,600 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Fellow offers a more exclusive level of access to the museum and its team. Enjoy tours of private collections, access to international trips with the Director and the chance to spend time with some of the most creative designers and architects in the world.

## Design Patron

£1,000  
(£200 benefit, plus £800 voluntary donation)

Membership as a Patron offers behind the scenes access to the museum and to events such as a curator-led tours, talks and studio visits.

# spring summer exhibition programme

## Enzo Mari Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist with Francesca Giacomelli

29 March–8 September 2024

We're delighted to be sharing the work of Italian designer Enzo Mari (1932-2020), a pioneering artist, critic, and theorist in this unmissable retrospective, which debuted at Triennale Milano in 2020. Mari was known for his work in the fields of industrial design, furniture design and graphic design, and his enduring legacy is evident in the artists and designers he continues to inspire today. The exhibition, curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist with Francesca Giacomelli, features a selection of about 250 of Mari's projects from a prolific 60-year career.

The exhibition will bring together furniture, children's books and games, product and graphic design, alongside more conceptual installation-based works. Upstairs, we will celebrate Mari's continuing influence on the designers of today with a display titled *Grazie Enzo: Contemporary Responses to Enzo Mari*, featuring a selection of invited designers, including Jasper Morrison, Rio Kobayashi and Martino Gamper.



## Barbie®: The Exhibition

5 July 2024–

23 February 2025

This major new exhibition, developed in collaboration with Mattel, Inc., will explore the design evolution of one of the world's most famous dolls, Barbie®. Barbie is one of the most recognisable brands on the planet and her story evolves with each new generation. The show will map the Barbie legacy, starting in 1959 when Ruth Handler created Barbie to craft a different narrative for her daughter, Barbara; through to the present day, coinciding with the 65th anniversary of the iconic doll. The exhibition will delve into the story of the cultural icon through a design lens, with a survey of the fashion, furniture, vehicles and architecture that shaped Barbie's world. Through our partnership with Mattel, Inc., we have enjoyed special access to the extensive Barbie archives in California, presenting an exclusive opportunity to see dozens of rare and unique items up close.



# design circle events

## march

### Private Visit Rana Begum's Studio and Home

Thursday 7 March  
10.00–11.30

Located in Stoke Newington, Bouverie Mews is the home and studio of minimalist abstract artist Rana Begum, designed by the award-winning design studio Spatial Affairs Bureau. The practice, founded by architect Peter Culley, was commissioned to design a space that would seamlessly blend Begum's domestic and professional lives; comprising of a studio space, artist residency and home. Join us for an exclusive morning tour of this extraordinary project where we will hear from Peter about the process of designing such a unique complex and the interplay between art and architecture.



### Design Circle First Look

#### Enzo Mari

Wednesday 27 March  
18.00–19.00

As a member of the Design Circle, enjoy a first look at our major exhibition of one of the giants of 20th century Italian design, Enzo Mari. Join us before the full exhibition opening reception for an exclusive preview and a chance to see the show before anyone else. The curatorial team at the museum will offer key insights into Mari and his practice, as well as a preview of the *Grazie Enzo: Contemporary Responses to Enzo Mari*, a separate display dedicated to celebrating Mari's ongoing influence on today's artists and designers.

### Opening Reception

#### Enzo Mari

Wednesday 27 March  
19.00–21.30

Join us for the official opening reception, hosted by museum Director and Chief Executive Tim Marlow, to celebrate the opening of Enzo Mari. Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist with Francesca Giacomelli, this major exhibition will pay tribute to Enzo Mari, whose iconic designs have inspired generations of creatives around the world. The large-scale retrospective will include the full spectrum of Mari's prolific output, from his work as a designer, but also as an artist, teacher, critic and theorist.





## april

### Curator's Tour

#### Enzo Mari

Thursday 18 April  
09.00–10.00

Join us at the museum for a guided tour of Enzo Mari with curators Rachel Hajek and Margherita Dosi Delfini who will share their highlights of the show and discuss the process behind developing this unmissable exhibition for the Design Museum. We will explore a selection of Mari's projects, ranging from furniture, to children's toys, graphic design and more. Afterwards, you will have the opportunity to visit *Grazie Enzo: Contemporary Responses to Enzo Mari* upstairs on the balcony, featuring a number of commissioned tributes from contemporary international artists and designers in celebration of Mari's extraordinary life and legacy.

As part of the museum's summer programme of talks, curator Hans Ulrich Obrist will be in conversation with Conran Foundation Chief Curator, Johanna Agerman Ross. We look forward to sharing further details with you in due course, in the meantime please register your interest with the team via email.



## may

### Studio Visit

#### Anthony Caro Centre

Wednesday 15 May  
18.30–20.00

Anthony Caro (1924-2013) achieved international recognition as one of the world's leading sculptors during a career that spanned six decades. His work is characterised by abstract forms made from found industrial objects. Join us for a drinks reception and a tour of Caro's former studio in Camden, hosted by his grandson, Ben Caro. Ben runs the centre and is Director of the Estate of Anthony Caro, with responsibility for storing, conserving and lending works in its collection, as well as housing the artist's archive and library.

**Day Trip**  
**Reddish House**  
Friday 31 May

We are delighted to invite you to Wiltshire to visit Reddish House, the former home of influential photographer and costume designer Cecil Beaton. The house was host to a succession of visitors from the world of high society along with leading artists of the day including David Hockney and Francis Bacon. Reddish is now home to British painter Jason Brooks and his wife Lucy.

We will enjoy a private tour of Jason's studio which is located nearby, followed by cocktails, lunch and an exclusive tour of the house and beautiful gardens.

Exact details, timings and cost to follow, do register your interest with the team early.



# July

## Opening

### Barbie®: The Exhibition

Wednesday 3 July  
19.00–22.00

Join us to celebrate the opening of *Barbie®: The Exhibition* before it opens to the public, at a reception hosted by museum Director and Chief Executive, Tim Marlow.

Explore this blockbuster exhibition before anyone else and immerse yourself in Barbie's world for an evening of escapism, pink dress code optional! The show invites you to discover the story of Barbie through a design lens, exploring the fashion, architecture, furniture and vehicle design that brings her world to life.

Curated by Design Museum Curator Danielle Thom, the exhibition offers exclusive access to dozens of rare and unique items alongside other key loans and acquisitions that tell the story of the iconic brand over the past 65 years.



**“Returning to my childhood Barbie dolls as a curator has been a fascinating experience. Looking at these dolls through ‘grown up’ eyes, with material from the Mattel archives, has revealed the rich design legacy of the world’s most famous doll. I can’t wait to share it with you all.”**

Danielle Thom

We will be arranging a special Design Circle ‘first look’ prior to the opening reception, with further details to follow via email in due course.

We are also looking forward to sharing details of an exclusive Design Circle curator’s tour of the exhibition as part of our autumn winter programme.

# a message from our Conran Foundation Chief Curator

It's now four months since I joined the Design Museum as its new Conran Foundation Chief Curator. Time has flown by, with the museum hosting some fantastic events celebrating the power of design to transform and engage, including a sold-out talk with set designer and artist Es Devlin and the opening of the Saltzman Prize display, dedicated to this year's winner Attua Aparicio.

The Saltzman Prize, created by Lisa Saltzman to honour the legacy of Ralph Saltzman, nurtures the development of a designer's work at the start of their career. I was heading up the jury that selected Aparicio as the winner for her exploration of porcelain and borosilicate waste glass, which would otherwise end up in landfill. To hear more about Aparicio's design journey, join me for a conversation with Aparicio on 7 March in Museum's atrium, where the display will be open until 15 April. On 26 March we welcome the architect and designer Thomas Heatherwick to the museum for a conversation with me around his diverse practice and the release of his new book *Humanise* and the Radio 4 programme *Building Soul*.



Before coming to the Design Museum I was a curator at the V&A, looking after the collection of 20th and 21st Century furniture and product design. There I curated the new permanent gallery *Design 1900-Now* and launched *Make Good: Rethinking Material Futures*, a programme that looks at the sustainable use of natural and renewable materials in design and architecture. Prior to joining the V&A I founded the design journal *Disegno*, providing a vital platform for contemporary design debate. My work here at the Design Museum draws on both these aspects of my previous work: the curatorial and the editorial; championing new voices and anchoring them in design history; considering design's role in society and in building our futures.

There is ample opportunity to continue to explore and develop these interests at the Design Museum. While we are preparing to open three incredible exhibitions this year, showing the range and diversity of the design subject, it is my task to look forward to 2025 and beyond. In my role as Conran Foundation Chief Curator I will be shaping the future exhibition programme for the museum and I look forward to sharing more details in due course.

For now I wish to thank you all for your support and I hope to see you in person at one of our many upcoming events.

**Johanna Agerman Ross**  
Conran Foundation Chief Curator



## International news

We are very excited to share that Design Museum Director and Chief Executive Tim Marlow is curating an exhibition on the Italian graphic designer, advertising pioneer and painter Armando Testa at the Ca' Pesaro in Venice. Part of the city's official Biennale programme, the exhibition will run from 20.04.24 – 15.09.24.

The show will explore the creative genius that fuelled a career which began in 1937 and ended with Testa's death in 1992. His work is revered in Italy by numerous generations of consumers of everything from *Punt e Mes* vermuth to *Moto Guzzi* bikes but the range of his output, his visual acuity and his sense of humour remains largely unknown to the rest of the world. Equally important was Testa's training as a painter and his work as a teacher,

including the young Michelangelo Pistoletto who later described Armando Testa as having 'traced the future of art'. If you are planning to be in Venice for Vernissage in April and would like to attend the exhibition preview, please do email us and we will arrange for you to receive an invitation.

To celebrate the exhibition, we will be arranging a special event for the Design Circle in June as part of a hosted trip to Venice. We look forward to sharing further details and a full itinerary with you soon.



## art & design fairs

Design Circle members have the opportunity to receive tickets and VIP access to a number of the world's most prestigious art and design fairs both nationally and internationally. Please register your interest early by contacting the Design Circle team.

**PAD Paris**  
3–7 April 2024

**Salone del Mobile.Milano**  
16–21 April 2024

**Frieze New York**  
1–5 May 2024

**Design Miami/Basel**  
11–16 June 2024

**PAD London**  
8–13 October 2024

**Frieze London /  
Frieze Masters**  
9–13 October 2024

# Design Circle giving levels

The Design Circle come together to discover, debate and celebrate design with like-minded individuals through a programme of exclusive events, newsletters, opportunities to meet leading design figures and much more. Each Design Circle tier has its own benefits and enjoys special access to the museum.

## Design Benefactor

£10,000  
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# legacy giving

The Design Museum was founded by Sir Terence Conran in 1989 with the purpose of promoting awareness of design in education, industry, commerce and culture. Nearly 35 years on, we continue to share the transformative potential of design with the broadest possible audience.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you can take your place in the unfolding history of design and help us celebrate a world in which design helps people and planet to thrive, for generations to come.

Planned giving helps us to continue our work creating inspiring exhibitions, championing design's role in the green transition and nurturing the designers of tomorrow.

If you would like to make a lasting impact, please contact us on [patrons@designmuseum.org](mailto:patrons@designmuseum.org) to discuss leaving a gift in your Will.

## Image Credits

Cover Due, La Pera screen print for Danese Milano, 1963, by Enzo Mari p2 Tim Marlow © Sebastian Nevols p4 © Rachel Orphan p5 © Rachel Orphan p6 16 animali (16 animals), 1959, produced by Danese Milano, photo by Federico Villa p7 1985 Day to Night Barbie © Mattel, Inc. p8 © Spatial Affairs Bureau p10 Formosa perpetual wall calendar, 1963. Timor perpetual table calendar, 1966, Danese Milano p11 The Anthony Caro Centre / The Estate of Anthony Caro p12 The Nature Series. No.1: La Melo (The Apple) with Elio Mari, screen print. Photo: Danese Milano p14 © Reddish House p16 1962 Barbie Dream House. Photo: Mattel, Inc. p18 © Chris Tang p20 ARMANDO TESTA (Turin, Torino 1917-1992) Punt e Mes Carpano, 1960, Lithographic print on paper mounted on canvas, 198.5 x 137.2 cm Venice, Ca' Pesaro- International Gallery of Modern Art, Gemma De Angelis Testa donation, 2022, p21 Sadie Coles HQ, © Frieze London, p22 © twobytwo event photography

Thank you for your support.

To book your place for Design Circle events  
and to register your interest, please contact us:  
**patrons@designmuseum.org**

**the Design Circle**