

## introducing the 2016 designers in residence

DISPLAY OPENS 24 NOVEMBER 2016 AT THE DESIGN MUSEUM

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2016 is the ninth year of the Design Museum's annual Designers in Residence programme which provides a platform to celebrate new and emerging designers at an early stage in their career. Recent alumni include Asif Khan, Giles Miller, Bethan Laura Wood, Yuri Suzuki and Sarah van Gameren.

This year's selected designers will spend four months responding to the theme of 'Open'. The work they create will be displayed in a dedicated Designers in Residence Studio at the Design Museum when it opens in its new Kensington home on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

The 2016 Designers in Residence are: Alix Bizet, Clementine Blakemore, Andrea de Chirico and Rain Wu.

Alix Bizet's practice combines an interest in the theory, philosophy and psychology of human sciences with a passion for human behaviour and the environment. Alix studied Fine Arts/Curation at La Sorbonnes in Paris, and went on to study Product Design at Central Saint Martins in London. She graduated from the Design Academy in Eindhoven with an MA in Social Design. By re-appropriating textile techniques she explores hair as a material and medium through which to explore cultural difference and community. Her experimental approach to materials and techniques creates work which explores anthropology, identity and fashion through which she challenges convention and taboos whilst celebrating diversity.



*Hair Matter(s) explores the role of hair in evoking and shaping identity. Photo: Juliette Delforge*

Clementine Blakemore is a London-based architectural designer, interested in the relationship between design, production and place. After a year at the Rural Studio in Alabama, she studied architecture at the Architectural Association and then went on to Royal College of Art where she completed her MA Architecture in 2015. Her final design thesis – an outdoor classroom for a school in rural Buckinghamshire – was awarded a Sustain RCA award, Highly Commended in the Helen Hamlyn Design awards, and went on to receive a RIBA McAslan bursary. In 2012 she co-founded the non-profit collective WORKSHOP architecture, and completed two educational spaces for schools in India – these projects have been published and exhibited globally. She has led a number of design/build workshops as part of the AA's Visiting School program over the past four years, and will continue to explore the potential in collaborative building processes during the residency. She has previously worked for David Chipperfield Architects, and is currently working for Duggan Morris Architects.



*Image credit: Workshop building outdoor classroom with local and international participants. (Project Chander Nagar, India, 2012) WORKSHOP architecture*

Andrea de Chirico role as a designer is interdisciplinary, working across the fields of product, graphics, interaction and system design. His approach is collaborative, designing new production scenarios for everyday objects. Processes of making are not often visible but revealing the ways objects are made can highlight a social and ecological consciousness around local manufacturing. He studied for a BA in Industrial Design at ISIA in Rome, followed by Designer Maker course at Plymouth University in the UK. In 2015 he graduated with an MA in Social Design from the Design Academy Eindhoven. Andrea was recently appointed as lecturer and researcher for the course Design and Production at the University of Bolzano, in Italy.



*The Hairdryer 1.0 project is rethinking production methods of everyday objects.*

Rain Wu is a Taiwanese-born, London-based architect, working across the fields of art and design with specific interests in material development, speculative narratives and interactive spatial experiences. She graduated from the Bartlett School of Architecture UCL in 2009 and then went on to an MA in Architecture at Royal College of Art. Professionally she has worked at a number of architectural practices worldwide including Carmody Groarke in London and Sou Fujimoto Architects in Tokyo. She has lectured and exhibited internationally as well as collaborated with professionals from different disciplines to explore architecture's versatility in art and design. Her architectural background informs her work but her practice is multi-disciplinary using drawings, sculptures and set design to articulate her ideas. For the residency, she is interested in finding new ways to engage audiences and reimagine the exhibition format, she uses food as a storytelling device considering the connections to relationships and experiences.



*Image credit: Eataipei, an experimental culinary experience curated with Shikai Tseng and chef Chung-Ho Tsai*

The Designers in Residence programme provides young designers with time and space to research and consider new ways of progressing their work and practice. During the development of their projects, residents discuss their work with established practitioners, industry experts and residency alumni, as well as with the Design Museum's legal, commercial, learning, development, and curatorial teams. Each resident is offered a

bursary, commissioning budget and the production costs required to realise their new commission. The programme offers opportunities for the designers to present and discuss their work within a broader context of contemporary practice, provoking their approach and design thinking to offer new and exciting directions within the fields of design.

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[#designersinresidence](#)

Notes to Editors:

About Designers in Residence:

Designers in Residence demonstrates the museum's commitment to showcasing and supporting the next generation of design talent. It is open to all designers who have graduated from Higher Education within the last five years (in the academic year 2011/12 or more recently) and who have been working professionally (either paid or voluntarily) in some form of design or architectural practice for a minimum of one year. The programme includes a series of events and talks, offering the designers the opportunity to interact and engage with the public, whilst using this platform as a test-bed for ideas, designs and innovations.

About the Design Museum:

The Design Museum is building the world's leading museum devoted to architecture and design, its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to Lady Gaga's Gareth Pugh-designed bin bag dress. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over five million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Miuccia Prada, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams.

For more information, please visit:

[designmuseum.org](http://designmuseum.org) | [newdesignmuseum.tumblr.com](http://newdesignmuseum.tumblr.com)