

Spectacular new installation of 2,000 books unveiled inside Es Devlin's first European retrospective



Es Devlin photographed Es Devlin: Other Worlds at the Design Museum. Photo credit Luke Hayes.

Es Devlin: Other Worlds

02 October 2026 — 04 April 2027

the Design Museum

- [PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE](#)

A vast rotating library has been unveiled today at the Design Museum in London, as the newly-announced finale of a major exhibition exploring the work of British artist and designer Es Devlin.

An Infinite Library is a remarkable new kinetic sculpture featuring over 2,000 books that have informed Devlin's worldview. Arranged by colour, many are well thumbed copies drawn directly from Devlin's studio bookshelves, including *Chaos* by James Gleick, *The Spell of the Sensuous* by David Abram, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood. The eight-metre-wide triangular bookshelf rotates on a circular mirror, invoking Umberto Eco's description of a library as a compass of the mind.

Devlin unveiled the new work this morning, alongside the rest of her new exhibition which opens to the public on Friday (02 October). It is her first retrospective in Europe.

The installation evokes the power of books to transport us to other worlds, and to inhabit worldviews other than our own. All the displayed books are titles that have personal significance to Devlin, and have helped shape her life and art. Visitors will experience the artwork illuminated by projections and a soundscape of Devlin's voice reading selected passages aloud.

This is the fourth in Devlin's series of sculptural libraries, following *Library of Light* at Pinacoteca di Brera, Milan, *Library of Us* on Faena Beach, Miami and *Library of the Four Winds* at Castle Howard in Yorkshire. Specially commissioned by the Design Museum, it's the first of Devlin's sculptural kinetic libraries to be displayed inside a museum and is the spectacular final room of Devlin's new show.

Many of the books featured in *An Infinite Library* have been kindly provided by Penguin Random House UK in support of the National Year of Reading, and they will be donated to local schools and charities when the exhibition ends.

About *Es Devlin: Other Worlds*

Es Devlin: Other Worlds runs at the Design Museum until April 2027. It explores the expansive and intricate vision behind Devlin's extraordinary 30-year career working across sculpture, stage design, music, language and light.

Visitors will discover her genre-defying practice and the vast range of projects she has brought to life around the world. On display are artworks, installations and film, as well as the largest solo presentation of Devlin's archive to date.

The exhibition has been conceived and designed in close collaboration with Devlin, with the aim of immersing visitors in her imaginative world. She invites the audience into a collective

experience that goes beyond a traditional exhibition setting, starting within a recreation of her London studio.

Es Devlin is one of the most innovative British artists and designers working today. She is globally renowned, with a wide-ranging practice that began in small-scale theatre, and is now experienced by millions of people in some of the world's most prominent museums, galleries, opera houses, arenas and stadia. She received the London Design Medal in 2017, multiple Olivier, Tony, Emmy and Critics Circle awards, fellowships at the Royal Academy of Music and Royal Society of Arts and a CBE for services to design.

Es Devlin said: "I am moving my studio and practically my entire 30-year archive into the Design Museum for this show. It's an immense privilege to have this opportunity to share my working process and practice with visitors and to create a new large scale library installation within a museum for the first time."

Tim Marlow, Director and CEO of the Design Museum, said: "Our exhibitions at the Design Museum often explore what might best be called 'design in an expanded field', a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary approach which breaks down many of the boundaries around creative practice. Es Devlin shares this ethos. Her remarkable boundary-blurring work across art, activism, poetry, sculpture, music and architecture is the embodiment of enlightened design thinking and her emphasis on collective experience and audience participation makes this exhibition one of the most exciting and ambitious to be staged in our galleries."

Es Devlin: Other Worlds is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, a long-term supporter of both Es Devlin and the Design Museum.

Other Exhibition Highlights

Studio

Visitors begin their journey in Devlin's world by being welcomed into a replica of her South London studio. Shelves are filled with her books, objects and maquettes, and her desk is covered with

drawings, tools and paints. The room comes alive with a projection-mapped film narrated by Devlin, before visitors are invited to enter the exhibition to explore many of the projects that have come to life after their inception in this studio.

Come Home Again, Mirrored

First shown in London in September 2022 to great acclaim, *Come Home Again* returns to the city for this exhibition. It is shown in a new and reimagined form made specially for the Design Museum.

Originally shown outside Tate Modern, it featured a cross section of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral with brilliantly illuminated cut-out sketches of endangered moths, birds, beetles, wildflowers, fish and fungi. It was commissioned by Cartier and made with guidance from the London Wildlife Trust. For the Design Museum, it is redisplayed in a new constellation with a mirrored ceiling, speaking to Devlin's desire to craft ever-evolving atmospheres and landscapes.

A 30-Year Desk

This newly conceived display sees a series of concentric circular desks filled with archival items that explore some of Devlin's most groundbreaking projects from around the world. It has been created as an art installation in its own right.

Hundreds of items are displayed, spanning concept drawings, photographs, personal objects and ephemera. Many of these objects have never been seen in public before.

Also included are over 30 intricate models from Devlin's design phases, or maquette-scale recreations. These striking and detailed works show projects that went on to become major public sculptures, stage designs and choral installations, and have never previously been displayed in Britain.

The projects spotlighted in *A 30-Year Desk* include works such as Devlin's set design for The Lehman Trilogy theatre production in 2018 and the *Forest of Us* installation shown in Miami from 2021, as well as her work on the London 2012 Olympic Games Closing

Ceremony, the 2022 Super Bowl halftime show, and ambitious kinetic stage sculptures for concert tours by the world's most celebrated musicians.

Seen together, this installation allows visitors to trace the evolution of Devlin's practice and the common themes at the heart of her work.

A 50-Year Archive – Parts I and II

This two-part work spans the length of the gallery walls, and features early sketches, paintings, collages, diaries and prints which Devlin produced at school, university and art college, and which she has continued to create throughout her practice. These works demonstrate Devlin's love of drawing and how all her projects originate from this art form.

Additional Information + Quotes

Johanna Agerman Ross, Conran Foundation Chief Curator at the Design Museum and curator of *Es Devlin: Other Worlds*, said: Visitors can step inside a mesmerising creative landscape at the Design Museum this autumn, one that has been crafted from three decades of Es Devlin's boundary-pushing work. It has been a huge joy to explore Es' archive alongside her, and to shine a light on how and why she builds the worlds that she does."

Danielle Thom Senior Curator at the Design Museum and co-curator of *Es Devlin: Other Worlds* said: We're excited to show some of Devlin's most-loved recent works such as *Come Home Again*, as well as new surprises and less-well known creations. We look forward to welcoming visitors into Es' world over the coming months."

Es Devlin: Other Worlds runs at the Design Museum from 02 October 2026 until 04 April 2027.

Published to coincide with the exhibition is *A Concise Atlas of Es Devlin*, a new version of 2023's volume *An Atlas Of Es Devlin*. It will be published by Thames & Hudson.

The digital guide to *Es Devlin: Other Worlds* will be available exclusively on Bloomberg Connects. The guide will offer fresh perspectives on Devlin's work and career through insights from the artist. It will go live when the exhibition opens, on [the Design Museum's Bloomberg Connects guide](#).

The exhibition has been curated by Johanna Agerman Ross and Danielle Thom with Margherita Dosi Delfini at the Design Museum, and in close collaboration with Es Devlin and her studio.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors

Listing information

Es Devlin: Other Worlds

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the Design Museum

W: designmuseum.org/exhibitions/es-devlin-other-worlds

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About Bloomberg Connects:

Bloomberg Connects is a free digital platform featuring more than 1,500 cultural organisations around the world, making it easy to access and engage with arts and culture anytime and anywhere. The app is part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' longstanding commitment to supporting digital innovation in the arts. Participating organisations include botanical gardens, historic houses, outdoor sculpture parks, and world-class museums. The app is available in more than 50 languages through Google Translate, helping cultural institutions connect with audiences around the world.

About STEPEVI

STEPEVI is a global design house redefining the rug as an icon of contemporary luxury, design and lifestyle. Rooted in Istanbul and headquartered in Paris, the House draws on three generations of carpet-making expertise and a rich manufacturing heritage, combining exceptional

craftsmanship and materials with contemporary creativity. With a presence across leading design capitals, STEPEVI collaborates with renowned designers, architects and prominent luxury houses worldwide. Through a distinctive international perspective shaped by culture, creativity and craftsmanship, STEPEVI continues to expand the role of the rug beyond function as an expression of identity, creativity and contemporary culture.

STEPEVI

About the Design Museum:

The Design Museum is a multifaceted museum, an ever-changing space for the public, industry and education to come together and explore new ideas. A registered charity, the museum's innovative exhibitions, partnerships, research and learning programmes evidence how design can enable this planet and its inhabitants to thrive. Our landmark building in Kensington is the centre of our national network and a global hub for the transformative potential of design.



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