director’s introduction

Friends,

As I introduce the spring summer 2023 programme of events for the Design Circle, the Museum is still (sur)reeling from the opening of *Objects of Desire*, an eye-catching, mind-bending, landmark exhibition highlighting the impact of surrealism on design for nearly ten decades and counting. But there’s so much more to come over the next year.

As ever, our exhibitions and extraordinary collections lie at the heart of this programme. With saris, skateboards, and a spellbinding show by Ai Weiwei, 2023 is going to be one of the most ground-breaking of years in recent memory at the Design Museum. As the world’s leading museum of contemporary design, we are perfectly placed to explore these compelling global stories which highlight the sometimes playful but invariably decisive role of design in so many aspects of our lives.

We are delighted that Ai Weiwei will present his first major design-focused exhibition here at the Design Museum. He is clearly one of the most important artists in the world, but his practice also profoundly embraces design and architecture, and the cultural and political impact of his work will resonate in quite unusual ways throughout this collaborative landmark exhibition. Please save the date for the opening of this exhibition on Wednesday 5 April, it will be a night to remember, I am sure.

This season also gives you new opportunities to get behind the scenes across parts of the design world, and I am delighted to announce that the Design Circle International trip will be to Brussels. It is a city that I have visited many times before and I am excited to share it with you as well as learn from others. This trip will take place in spring and the team will be in touch with further details.

Other highlights from this season’s programme include a visit to the Anthony Caro Centre to view the late, great sculptor’s archives and gallery spaces with Paul Moorhouse, a distinguished curator who now runs the Caro Foundation, as well as joining our Head of Curatorial Priya Khanchandani in May for the opening of *The Offbeat Sari*—an exhibition exploring numerous aspects of the sari through a contemporary lens.

Finally, my warmest thanks for your support as patrons and your wholehearted commitment to the Museum. I look forward to welcoming you to the Design Museum in the months ahead and to being able to thank you in person for your generosity.

Tim Marlow OBE
Chief Executive and Director
2023 exhibition programme

Ai Weiwei: Making Sense
7 April–30 July
This major new exhibition, developed in collaboration with Ai Weiwei, will be the first to present his work as a commentary on design and what it reveals about our changing values. The exhibition will see some of Weiwei’s most important works on display as well as commissioned pieces, which invite us to consider value, humanity, art and activism. The result of the exhibition is a meditation on value, drawing on the artist’s fascination with historical Chinese artefacts, placing their craftsmanship in dialogue with more recent history and urban development.

Above: Ai Weiwei, 2022 © Rick Pushinsky for the Design Museum

The Offbeat Sari
19 May–17 September
A major new exhibition celebrating the contemporary sari, curated by the Design Museum’s Priya Khanchandani. The exhibition will unravel its various forms and will bring together dozens of the finest saris from designers, craftsmen and wearers in India. Worn as an everyday garment by some and deemed as uncomfortable and formal by others, the sari has been reinvented in recent years. Individuals can be found wearing the sari as an expression of resistance to social norms and activists are embodying it as an object of protest.

Above: Rachi Chitkara, 2022 © Pankaj Dahalia

Skateboard
Opens 20 October
Curated and designed by industrial designer and skater Jonathan Olivares, this is the first exhibition that will explore the design evolution of the skateboard from the 1950’s to the present day. It will highlight innovative skateboards, skate photography and video and will chart how skateboarding has adapted to different urban environments over time.

Right: Mike Vallely, 1989 © Spike Jonze

Ralph Saltzman Prize 2023
2 February–3 April
Returning to the Design Museum for its second year, the Ralph Saltzman Prize celebrates emerging designers in recognition of Ralph Saltzman’s legacy. The prize awards up and coming product designers with a bursary and the opportunity to exhibit their work in a solo exhibition at the museum.

Above: Rachi Chitkara, 2022 © Pankaj Dahalia

Design Ventura 2022–2023
Until April 2023
Now entering its thirteenth year, Design Ventura is an annual design and enterprise competition for schools, run by the Design Museum in partnership with Deutsche Bank’s youth engagement programme, Born to Be. Students are challenged to design a new product to sell in the Design Museum Shop and is an opportunity for young people to develop design thinking, creative and business capabilities and employability skills.
**february**

**Private Visit**

**Magnum Photos at Cromwell Place**

Wednesday 1 February
18.00 – 19.30

Join us for a private view of Magnum Photos inaugural exhibition at Cromwell Place with Global Gallery Director, Francesca Filippini Pinto. This photography exhibition is a collaboration between Magnum Photos and the Anonymous Project based on the book *Déjà View* by Martin Parr and Lee Shulman.

The exhibition playfully displays the work of renowned photographer Martin Parr alongside images taken by amateur photographers, collected by the founder of the Anonymous Project, Lee Shulman. The photographs are set in diverse settings and situations featuring holidays, celebrations and capturing images of everyday life that are often whimsical and surreal. There are striking similarities in the pairings which begs the question what makes a great photograph?

**Studio Visit**

**Yinka Ilori**

Thursday 9 February
10.30 – 11.30

We are excited to invite you to West London for an exclusive studio tour of the multi-disciplinary artist and designer, Yinka Ilori, whose vibrant aesthetic draws on his British-Nigerian heritage. Ilori is known for his joyful installations and graphic design and his work is underpinned by the belief that design should be accessible to all. He has collaborated with a variety of clients, from Adidas to Wandsworth Council and many more.

**March**

**Exclusive Event**

**International Women’s Day event**

Early March, details to follow

We will mark International Women’s Day with an in-conversation and dinner. Speakers will be announced in the coming weeks but please register your interest with the Design Circle team.

*This event is exclusively for fellows and benefactors.*
April

Opening Private View
Ai Weiwei, Making Sense
Private View
Wednesday 5 April
Curator-led tour: 17.30
Opening Party: 19.00 – 21.00

Ai Weiwei’s first exhibition focusing on design draws on his fascination with historical Chinese artefacts, placing their traditional craftsmanship in dialogue with the more recent history of demolition and urban development in China. The result is a meditation on value – on histories and skills that have been ignored or erased.

Join us for a private view of this ground-breaking exhibition with the curator, before joining the opening party hosted by Tim Marlow and Ai Weiwei.

Private Collection Visit
Cranford Collection
Thursday 20 April
10.00 – 11.00

Join us for a private visit to Cranford Collection.

The Cranford Collection is one of Europe’s most important contemporary art collections, including masterpieces by Christopher Wool, Sigmar Polke, Louise Bourgeois, Franz West, Alice Neel and Bruce Nauman. Since 2005, collectors couple Muriel and Freddy Salem have been accommodating their collection in an elegant home at Gloucester Gate in Regent’s Park designed by architect John Nash in the early 19th century.

Since 2017, the house and associated mews at Gloucester Gate have been remodelled by architect David Chipperfield and in recent years, under the impulsion of its curator Anne Pontégnie, the Collection has only grown.
may

Breakfast View
Ai Weiwei, Making Sense
Breakfast View
Wednesday 3 May
8.30 – 10.00

Join us at the Museum in Ai Weiwei’s Coloured House for a light breakfast followed by a before-hours tour of Making Sense with curators Justin McGuirk and Rachel Hajek. They will share their highlights as well as share what it was like to work with Ai Weiwei and his studio in creating this groundbreaking exhibition.

Opening Private View
The Offbeat Sari
Wednesday 17 May
Curator-led tour: 17.30
Opening Party: 19.00 – 21.00

This will be a major exhibition celebrating the contemporary Sari, curated by our Head of Curatorial, Priya Khanchandani. The exhibition will unravel its numerous forms, demonstrating the sari to be a metaphor for the layered and complex definitions of India today. It will bring together dozens of the finest saris of our time from designers, wearers and craftspeople in India.

Join us for a private tour of The Offbeat Sari with Priya before joining the opening party.

Studio Visit
The Anthony Caro Centre
Wednesday 24 May
18.00 – 19.00

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 with Chief Executive, Paul Moorhouse. The centre is responsible for storing, conserving and lending works in its collection, as well as housing the artist’s archive and library.

After Hours In Conversation
Supriya Lele
Date to be confirmed

Supriya Lele is an Indian-British designer with an eponymous fashion brand founded in 2016. Lele’s work is rooted in her own cross-cultural point of view, examining her Indian heritage and British cultural identity. She creates work from a decidedly female viewpoint that tells a nuanced and delicate story. Lele was awarded full NEWGEN sponsorship from the British Fashion Council and in 2020, Lele was awarded a portion of the LVMH Prize fund which was split across all 8 finalists for the first time.

As part of The Offbeat Sari exhibition programme, join our Head of Curatorial, Priya Khanchandani as she sits down with Supriya Lele to discuss her work and inspirations followed by an after-hours view of The Offbeat Sari.

Left: Supriya Lele photographed by Will Grundy
june

Day Trip

Cambridge Kettle’s Yard and Fitzwilliam Museum
Date to be confirmed

Join us for a day trip to the beautiful city of Cambridge as we explore two museums and the surrounding university grounds.

We will take a short train journey from London Kings Cross to Cambridge before arriving at Kettle’s Yard for a private tour. We will then enjoy lunch before making our way to the Fitzwilliam Museum for a private tour. Exact details with dates and times are to follow but please register your interest with us.

Morning Preview Tour

Masterpiece
Wednesday 28 June
10.00 – 11.00

Bringing together over 130 of the world’s leading galleries, Masterpiece London invites visitors to view and buy the finest works of art, design, furniture and jewellery – from antiquity to the present day. The fair offers an unparalleled opportunity for new and established collectors to discover exceptional works for sale, from international exhibitors spanning every major market discipline.

Join us for a private morning tour of Masterpiece with London based contemporary art advisor Daniel Malarkey. Daniel has clients across Europe, Asia and North America and has appeared on several art panels, including at the Sotheby’s Institute of Art.

After Hours Visit

London Gallery Tour
Date to be confirmed

We hope you will join us for another summer gallery evening in Mayfair where we will visit a number of London galleries including Gallery FUMI and explore the exhibitions.

To book your place for Design Circle events, please contact patrons@designmuseum.org

Left: © Masterpiece London

Right: Lucie Rie, Buttons, 1940’s, earthenware. Courtesy of Mitohu Koeki. Photograph: Takao Oya.
international trip

Spring 2023
Design Circle Trip to Brussels

We are delighted to invite you to a design tour through Brussels in spring 2023. This special tour is being carefully curated by Tim Marlow and the Design Circle to offer a unique visit and while there, we will stay in the beautiful Hotel Amigo.

We do hope you will join us. Please register your interest by emailing patrons@designmuseum.org

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.

Collect Art Fair
3–5 March 2023

PAD Paris
29 March–2 April 2023

Salone del Mobile. Milano
18–23 April 2023

Frieze New York
17–21 May 2023

Photo London
11–14 May 2023

Eye of the Collector
17–20 May 2023

Design Miami/ Basel
13–18 June 2023

Masterpiece
29 June–5 July 2023

London Design Festival
16–24 September 2023

PAD London
11–16 October 2023

Paris+ Art Basel
19–22 October 2023

Frieze London and Frieze Masters
October TBC

Paris Photo
10–13 November 2023
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

Cover: Ai Weiwei, 2022 © Rick Pushinsky for the Design Museum