



Left to right: Asif Khan, Bethan Laura Wood, Robert Johnson, Mále Forés, Stiliyana Minkovska, The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP and Alice Black, Director of the Design Museum.

Image credit: Felix Speller for the Design Museum

## Designers in Residence announced by Design Museum

10 June 2019  
the Design Museum  
#DesignersInResidence

**The Design Museum's flagship scheme discovers and supports new and emerging talent**

**The selected designers are announced and congratulated by The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP for the twelfth edition of the programme**

**Nanotechnology, food waste, material surfaces and child birth are areas that the residents will explore in response to the theme Cosmic.**



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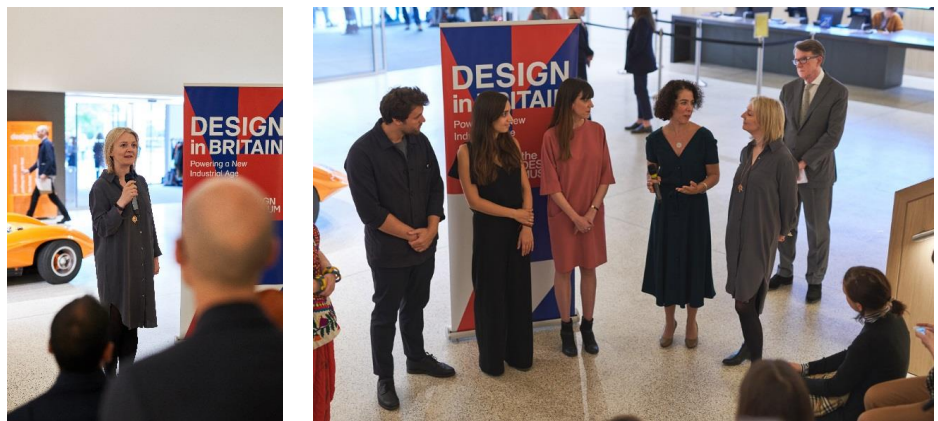
The Design Museum in London announces the four designers selected for the 2019 cohort of its Designers in Residence Programme. Responding to the theme of 'Cosmic', the designers are invited to take up residency in the museum's in-house studio, where they will explore and develop new work that presents thought-provoking ideas and challenges conventional boundaries in design.

The annual programme, supported by Arts Council England, provides a platform to promote new and emerging designers at an early stage in their career. The initiative has helped establish the careers of several celebrated designers, including Asif Khan, Giles Miller, Bethan Laura Wood, Yuri Suzuki and Sarah van Gameren.

Previous Designer in Residence, **Chris Hildrey** recently began live trials for his 2017 project ProxyAddress. Developed initially at the Design Museum during his residency, ProxyAddress is a system that allows those faced with homelessness to avoid being severed from support the moment they lose an address. It uses empty or unused addresses and links these with those who have no permanent abode. It allows the homeless to access services, get identification, build financial history, and avoid stigma.

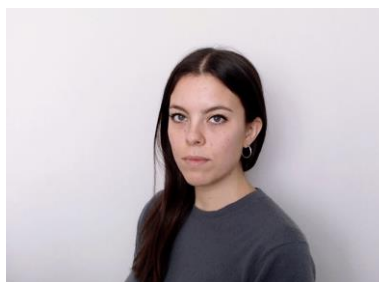
The project is currently moving towards live trials in Lewisham in partnership with Monzo and Amiqus, the goal being to roll the service out nationally. ProxyAddress was also the only beta-stage winner of the 2018 Humanitarian Aid D&AD Impact Awards.

**On Monday 10 June, the Design Museum** hosted a press event to announce the new Designers in Residence for 2019. The Chief Secretary of the Treasury, The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP attended the event as an opportunity to talk about young entrepreneurs and the economic impact of design.

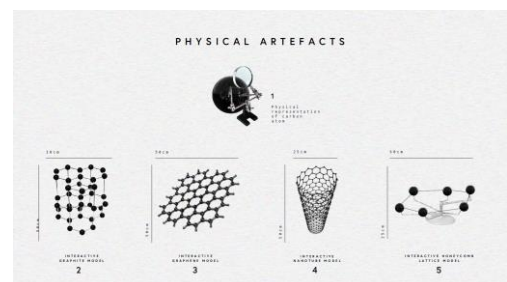


The 2019 Designers in Residence are: **Marta Giralt, Robert Johnson, Stiliyana Minkovska** and **Mále Forés**.

**Marta Giralt**, will be using the residency to demystify the universe of nanotechnology. Working to develop a series of physical and digital artefacts which show how graphene (a material developed by nanotechnology) is created and the way it functions at a nano scale. By 'making the invisible visible', Marta's project will enable the public to explore this microscopic cosmic world in an interactive and intuitive way.



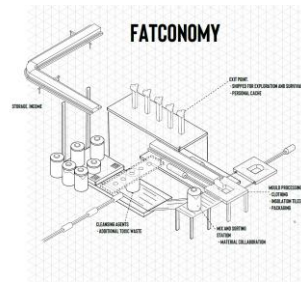
*Marta Giralt*



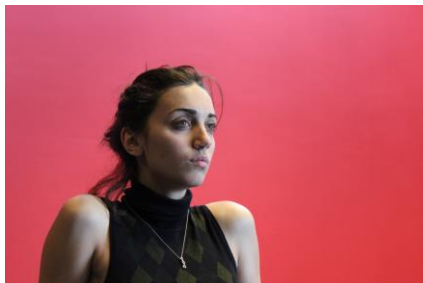
**Robert Johnson** will examine ‘waste’ materials that could be reformatted and revalued. Identifying fat as a powerful resource that is often misused in our society Robert’s project ‘Fatconomy’ and offers us a more sustainable future.



*Robert Johnson*



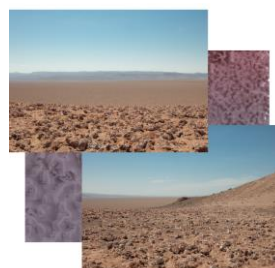
**Stiliyana Minkovska** will use the residency to challenge society’s perspective on child birth, exploring how we can make the experience more human centred. By developing an alternative environment for child birth, Stiliyana will create a cosmic birthing experience for expectant mothers making pregnancy and childbirth more wellbeing centred and less clinical.



*Stiliyana Minkovska*



**Mále Forés** is exploring the surface of materials as a medium to create alternative narratives and worlds. Mále will use the residency to explore spatial surfaces (such as the Atacama Desert, the moon and our skin) as cosmic portals which help us to consider some of the complex systems surrounding human and environmental issues.



*Mále Forés*

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, communications 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.

In January 2020, the Designers in Residence studio space will transform into an exhibition showcase that explores the culmination of their research.

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#### **Notes to Editor**

#### **PRESS ENQUIRIES, IMAGE AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS:**

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Designers in Residence is generously supported using public funding by Arts Council England.

#### **DESIGNERS:**

##### **Marta Giral**

With a background in fashion design Marta has always been fascinated by the possibilities that materials offer the design sector. A recent graduate from Central St Martins MA Material Futures course, Marta will be using the residency to demystify the universe of nanotechnology.

##### **Robert Charles Johnson**

Originally studying illustration and graphics Robert decided to expand his practice by completing an MFA in Social Design at Design Academy Eindhoven. For the residency Robert will examine materials that could be reformatted and revalued.

##### **Stiliyana Minkovska**

An RCA graduate with a background in architecture, Stiliyana will use the residency to challenge society's perspective on child birth exploring how we can make the experience more human centred.

##### **Mále Uribe Forés**

After studying architecture in Chile, Mále went on to complete an MA in Information Experience Design at the RCA.