



Left to right: Abiola Onabule, Cynthia Voza Lusilu, Ioana Man and Enni-Kukka Tuomala.
Image credit: Felix Speller for the Design Museum

2020 Designers in Residence announced by the Design Museum

18 August 2020
the Design Museum
#DesignersInResidence

The Design Museum's flagship scheme discovers and supports new and emerging talent at an early stage in their career

The selected designers are announced for the thirteenth edition of the programme

Responding to the theme of 'Care' this year's all female cohort will explore empathy training, microbial diversity, mental health in Black British communities and a new collection of clothing inspired by the stories of West African women living in the UK

Starting their residency in a post Covid19 environment, each designer will initially capture the early stages of their projects virtually, before creating an onsite installation

As we enter a post Covid19 landscape and a new decade characterised by technological acceleration, new working patterns and climate uncertainty, there is a crucial role for design in supporting the ways we care for ourselves, each other and the planet. From new digital healthcare applications to a shift in social interactions, these technologies are fuelling a data tracking culture that may be affecting our wellbeing.

By responding to the theme of 'Care', the 2020 cohort of designers will explore alternative tools and production systems that look to improve specific social and environment challenges.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

224-238 Kensington High Street
London, W8 6AG
T: 020 3862 5900
info@designmuseum.org
designmuseum.org

The Designers in Residence scheme provides a platform to celebrate new and emerging designers at an early stage in their career. Alumni include Asif Khan, Giles Miller, Bethan Laura Wood, Yuri Suzuki, Lawrence Lek and Sarah van Gameren.

Applications for the 2020 cohort with the theme of 'Care' opened in February and residents were appointed in May.

The 2020 Designers in Residence are: **Enni-Kukka Tuomala**, **Abiola Onabule**, **Cynthia Voza Lusilu** and **Ioana Man**.

Enni-Kukka Tuomala is a Finnish designer and artist based in London. For her residency, Enni-Kukka is responding to the growing global empathy deficit at the time of the Anthropocene. She will design an immersive empathy training programme, with a personal empathy trainer, an empathy gym, tools and exercises, to challenge perceptions of empathy, practice it and learn how to incorporate it into daily lives.



Abiola Onabule is a London-based fashion designer creating clothing inspired by her Nigerian cultural heritage. For her residency, Abiola will investigate how the exchange of craft and skills are an act of care and conversation, through an exploration of the stories of West African women living in the UK.



Cynthia Voza Lusilu is a designer and researcher using collaborative practices to engage with marginalised communities. For her residency, Cynthia will be researching mental health in Black British communities - an issue that she began researching during her MA project 'Healing Chronicles'. She is proposing to design restorative tools and a new support system that helps build resilience and shape healing spaces.



Ioana Man is a multidisciplinary designer working between architecture, set design and critical practice. For her residency, Ioana intends to chart the ways in which current planning and construction practices create zones of biological inequality and to develop alternatives that can protect ecosystems, create community around urban nature and reduce environmental stressors.



The Designers in Residence programme provides emerging designers with time and space to research and consider new ways of progressing their 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.

This year's showcase will take place in March 2021.

END -

Notes to Editor

PRESS ENQUIRIES, IMAGE AND INTERVIEW REQUESTS:

Rioco Green, Senior Media and PR Manager

Email: rioco.green@designmuseum.org

The Design Museum is supported using public funding through Arts Council England's National Portfolio.

DESIGNERS:

Abiola Onabule

Abiola is a London-based fashion designer creating clothing inspired by elements of her Nigerian cultural heritage. For her residency, she will investigate the exchange of craft and skills as an act of care, through an exploration of the stories of West African women living in the UK.

Her entry point is Aso Oke, a prestigious hand-woven cloth created by the Yoruba people of Nigeria. It is worn by men and women to mark major ceremonies such as weddings, funerals and important religious festivals. Abiola will work collaboratively with West African women, to hold conversations, share stories from the diaspora and explore the role of cloth and clothing in absorbing these personal experiences. This exploration will inform the design of a new contemporary collection that celebrates cultural heritage and a system for enabling diasporic communities to produce and distribute independently in the future.

@abiolaonabule

Cynthia Voza Lusilu

Cynthia is a designer and researcher using collaborative and transdisciplinary practices to explore care and repair as vehicles for supporting mental health, emotional wellness and sense of place. For her residency, she will be researching mental health in Black British communities - an issue that she began researching during her MA project 'Healing Chronicles'. Cynthia is proposing to design restorative tools and a new support system that helps build resilience and shape healing spaces.

@vozastudio

Ioana Man

Ioana is a multidisciplinary designer working between architecture, set design and critical practice. Her work aims to highlight the importance of microbial biodiversity in the built environment and the necessity to distribute its benefits fairly.

Ioana's proposal is to develop a new body of work exploring how architecture can work with biology to create a more sustainable built environment that embodies health and justice. She intends to chart the ways in which current planning and

construction practices create zones of biological inequality and to develop alternatives that can protect ecosystems, create community around urban nature and reduce environmental stressors. Ioana believes that if we were to care for microorganisms, rather than fear them, we could lead healthier lives in the city.

Ioana is also working at Faber Futures and with Unscene Architecture on the British Pavilion at the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale.

@ioana_man

Enni-Kukka Tuomala

Enni-Kukka is a Finnish designer and artist based in London. Her work aims to transform empathy from an individual feeling to a radical collective power for social change through installations, environments, tools and methodologies. A graduate of the Royal College of Art, Tuomala's international and collaborative practice interrogates the relationships between empathy, culture, space and systems.

For her residency, Tuomala is responding to the growing global empathy deficit at the time of the anthropocene. Her research will extend her existing body of work focused on interpersonal empathy, to develop a new ecosystem of empathy between humans and non-humans alike, from nature and the environment to technology and AI. Tuomala aims to design an immersive empathy training programme, with a personal empathy trainer, an empathy gym, tools and exercises, to challenge perceptions of empathy, practice it and learn how to incorporate it into daily lives.

@akin.kollektiv