

collect Crafts Council

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Collect 2021

International Art Fair for Contemporary Craft and Design returns
as a virtual selling fair in partnership with Artsy.net

(24 February – 2 March 2021 / Preview 24-25 February 2021)

The **Crafts Council** announces **Collect** will return for its 17th edition. At a time when we are prevented from coming together at Somerset House, London, collectors will be able to acquire new work by international living makers from the comfort of their own homes, courtesy of a collaboration with the global online art platform Artsy.net. Just as it would for a live fair, sales will open to collectors from 24 February and to a wider audience from 26 February 2021 and, for the first time, pieces will be available to purchase for a full month.

Pioneering in adopting the art fair concept for collectible craft and founded by the Crafts Council in 2004, Collect presents an opportunity to discover and invest in exceptional work produced in the last five years by living artists, much of which is created especially for the fair. Collect was established to build the profile and sales for collectable crafts, and to promote the very best galleries and artists worldwide. It continues to be the only gallery-presented art fair dedicated to contemporary craft and design.



Steel sculpture from Simon Gaiger, gallerist Cavaliero Finn, and ceramic by Walter Keeler, gallerist Ruthin Craft Centre.

Photographed at Cox London: Photo Ben Anders

Through the years Collect has been instrumental in defining and growing the market for collectable contemporary craft, with major arts institutions vying with collectors to acquire exquisite new work and interior designers utilising the fair as an invaluable route to commission bespoke pieces. Hundreds of artists are presented by leading galleries from across the globe, with an impressive spread of representation from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the USA.

Since the creation of the Crafts Council in 1972, the craft market has flourished and evolved. In May 2020, the Crafts Council published its first *Market for Craft Report* in over a decade and revealed that the appetite for British craft has never been greater. 73% of UK adults purchased craft last year, compared to 17% in 2006. Metropolitan Americans are equally passionate advocates - over four million adults in New York and Los Angeles have recently purchased craft from a UK-based maker. The report also revealed a seismic shift to a younger consumer: 32% of buyers are now aged under 35.

“Collect has introduced and represented the very best UK and international galleries for contemporary craft to design buyers and collectors for 17 years. Creating opportunity in the disruption of this past year has been so important, ensuring we maintain visibility for this global moment for craft in the 2021 cultural calendar. This online version of the Collect art fair will provide rich content as well as helping collectors to discover, view and purchase exceptional work from highly talented international artists. Working with Artsy.net adds a whole additional level of new audience engagement, further elevating contemporary collectable craft via Collect on this global art platform.”

Isobel Dennis, Collect Fair Director

Collect 2021 highlights



Wall hanging by Sanaa Gateja, gallerist 50 Golborne. Photographed at Cox London: Photo Ben Anders.

New

Bound by the terms of the fair, all participating galleries showcase works made in the last five years. All galleries are encouraged to reveal new work for Collect and, additionally, returning galleries are encouraged to introduce new artists.

The 2021 edition will witness some interesting curatorial debuts and collaborative work as well as some leading lights in experimental design and making. First time participants

include New York's prestigious design gallery **J. Lohmann Gallery**, Oslo's interdisciplinary **RAM Galleri**, Scotland's **Dovecot Studios** and **Gallery TEN** and conceptual jewellery space **ATTA 'N' ATTA Art Space**, Thailand.

New artists will be brought by stalwarts who have contributed to Collect since the inaugural fair at the V&A such as art jewellery authority **Galerie Marzee** and **Joanna Bird Contemporary Collections**, who will showcase directional new work by basket maker **Susie Thompson** and visual artist **Gregory Warren Wilson**.



Wooden vessels by Eleanor Lakelin, gallerist Sarah Myerscough Gallery. Photographed at Cox London: Photo Ben Anders.

Material Reinvention

The heritage of Collect has always been aligned with the exploration of materials and how artists stretch, reimagine and reinvent process and function with exceptional results.

Following the increase in collector interest in works in fibre, Collect 2021 sees a comprehensive offering of textile works and beyond – including newcomer to the fair American artist **Carol Eckert**, with threaded wire wall sculptures shown by **Alveston Fine Arts**, tapestry by artist Sir Peter Blake with the Master Weavers of **Dovecot Studios** and the celebrated South Korean artist **Yeonsoon Chang** with works in indigo dyed abaca fibre shown by **Gallery LVS & LVS CRAFT**.

Ceramic collectors will not be disappointed with an array of museum-quality works by artists - such as internationally renowned **Philip Eglin** (shown by **Ruthin Craft Centre**) and an intergenerational collaboration of Nordic artists **Tulla Elieson** and **Sisse Lee** (**RAM Galleri**).

Glass continues to surprise and delight with its possibilities, including Dutch artist **Barbara Nanning** represented by **J. Lohmann Gallery** and daughter **Sophie** of British master blower **Peter Layton** debuting at the fair with **London Glassblowing**.

New directions in metal courtesy of artists new to the fair include metal sculptor **Simon Gaiger** and silversmith **Cecilia Moore**, represented by **Cavaliero Finn**, as well as highly acclaimed studio metal artists such as Otto Baier, who will show forged bowls in titanium with **Galerie Rosemarie Jäger**.

Sarah Myerscough Gallery will present a specially curated exhibition of international artists entitled 'Shelf Life', examining the relationship between endurance and impermanence in objecthood, including **Marcin Rusak's** vessels made from flowers, beeswax and shellac and **Phoebe Cummings'** unfired clay pieces, which naturally decompose and disappear over time - highlighting the transience of beauty.

Fresh Perspectives

The virtual nature of Collect 2021 will enable the fair to welcome more international galleries and to further expand artistic representation. Given that many of the works released are new, Collect 2021 adds another layer of contemporary conversation around diversity and the importance of artistic response during this uncertain time. Kenyan-born British studio potter and Collect Advisory Panellist Magdalene Odundo, DBE is just one of the illustrious speakers who will lend a voice to these discussions through an exciting talks programme, to be unveiled at a later date.

Collect selected galleries 2021 to date:

Where it is feasible, we are encouraging galleries to showcase their Collect presentations as live events in their own spaces.

50 Golborne, UK
Alveston Fine Arts, UK
ATTA 'N' ATTA Art Space, Thailand
Cavaliero Finn, UK
The Cynthia Corbett Gallery, UK
Design-Nation, UK
Dovecot Studios UK
Galerie Marzee, Netherlands
Galerie Rosemarie Jäger, Germany
Galerie SCENE OUVERTE, France
Gallery LVS & LVS CRAFT, South Korea
Gallery TEN, UK
Han Collection, UK
House on Mars Gallery, UK
J. Lohmann Gallery, USA

jaggedart, UK
Joanna Bird Contemporary
Collections, UK
MADEINBRITALLY, UK
maison parisienne, France
Masa Lloyd, South Korea
Oxford Ceramics Gallery, UK
RAM Galleri, Norway
Ruthin Craft Centre, UK
Ruup & Form, UK
Sarah Myerscough Gallery, UK
The Gallery by SOIL, Hong Kong
Ting-Ying, China
Vessel Gallery, UK

Collect 2021

Collect: International Art Fair for Contemporary Craft and Design will run online from 24 February – 2 March 2021. A programme of online content will span the Fair's microsite on Artsy.net as well as collectfair.org.uk, and will include a week of talks and events, alongside interviews and films. Works will be for on sale via the Collect 2021 Artsy site until 24 March.

Wednesday 24 February; Fair opens to press and VIPs on Artsy.net

Online VIP programme of Private Audience events and live presentations will commence from 24th February.

Friday 26 February – Tuesday 2 March

Full gallery listings and Collect promoted to a wider audience to view the Collect Fair microsite on Artsy.net

The Collect 2021 Programme

Working with expert voices from curators, collectors, galleries and in collaboration with our partners and sponsors, Collect 2021 will present a full public programme of online events across the week. A series of compelling films, discussions and presentations will bring the very best voices together to celebrate and champion contemporary craft.

Sponsors and Partners

The Collect team is delighted to announce that Collect 2021 will see the return of loyal Collect sponsor partnerships:

LOEWE FOUNDATION, Associate Supporter

The LOEWE FOUNDATION was established as a private cultural foundation in 1988 by Enrique Loewe, a fourth-generation member of LOEWE's founding family. Today, the Foundation continues to promote creativity, organise educational programs and protect cultural heritage in the fields of craft, design, photography and poetry. The Foundation was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit in the Fine Arts by the Spanish government in 2002. In 2016, the LOEWE FOUNDATION launched the international annual LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize inspired by LOEWE's beginnings as a craft cooperative in 1846, with the aim to acknowledge the importance of craft in today's culture and to recognize artisans whose talent, vision and will to innovate will set a standard for the future. After being postponed in Spring 2020, the exhibition featuring the finalist works of the latest edition of the LOEWE FOUNDATION Craft Prize will be on show at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris in Spring 2021.

Brookfield Properties, Award Partner

Brookfield Properties builds long term cultural partnerships by working with organisations and artists that offer a fresh perspective on built environments. The Crafts Council reflects the energy and creativity of craft, which aligns with the Brookfield Properties experience.

Brookfield Properties look forward to our second years' partnership with Crafts Council, and the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award. The winner of the award will exhibit at a Brookfield property in the Summer of 2021; central to the exhibition will be artworks acquired by Brookfield Properties as a gift for the Crafts Council Primary Collection.

“We are pleased to announce our continued partnership and collaboration with the Crafts Council through our Acquisition Award, which will be exhibited alongside a larger body of the winning artist's works in the summer of 2021. We were delighted to exhibit the talented Matt Smith, the inaugural recipient of the Brookfield Properties Crafts Council Collection Award this year and look forward to finding new emerging talent at Collect

which will inspire and captivate audiences in 2021.” Caitlin Warfield, Marketing Director, Brookfield Property Partners.

Cox London, VIP Programme Supporter

Cox London are delighted to be the VIP Programme Supporters of Collect 2021. Creating custom and bespoke pieces for extraordinary interiors worldwide, they look forward to hosting and filming a Collect interiors event at their London studio. As ambassadors for all things beautiful and well made, they see high-quality craftsmanship and original design as paramount. Speaking to a handful of today’s top interior designers, they aim to promote and underline how crucial a vast array of crafts are to our modern world of interiors.

“At the heart of Cox London, is a group of highly skilled artists and makers. When we visit Collect, we are amongst like-minded people. Creatives who have dedicated thousands of hours of their particular craft, to creating extraordinary pieces. No wonder then that we feel an absolute affinity with the show. We look forward to another year of handmade, soul-nourishing work and speaking with more of the extraordinary makers Collect celebrates” Chris Cox Co-Founder and Creative Director of Cox London.

Notes to Editors

Advisory panel

Galleries and artists are selected by experienced advisory panels.

Collect 2021 Advisory Panel:

- Magdalene Odundo DBE, MA – ceramic artist
- Héloïse Parke – independent design and craft curator
- Dr Christine Checinska – inaugural Curator of African and African Diaspora Fashion at the V&A
- Nora Fok - artist
- Isobel Dennis – Fair Director, Collect, Crafts Council (Chair)
- Natalie Melton – Creative Director, Crafts Council
- Daniella Wells – Market Consultant, Collect, Crafts Council

About the Crafts Council:

The Crafts Council is the nation’s foremost authority on contemporary craft in all its forms. Founded in 1972, its role as guardian and champion of national craft practice has evolved to include exploring and enabling new possibilities, making methods and technologies. On 28 March the new Crafts Council Gallery will open to the public. The Gallery will host free world-class exhibitions exploring craft and making, alongside a lively programme of events, talks, and workshops. Visitors will be able to hear from leading makers, artists and designers, see objects from the national Collection and delve into our specialist archive of craft books and catalogues. The Gallery will also be a centre of exchange between makers and artists both in the UK and internationally. The Crafts Council is a charity. Its work is made possible by the support of trusts and foundations, individual patrons, and corporate sponsors, and through public funding by Arts Council England.
www.craftscouncil.org.uk

www.collectfair.org.uk

#collect2021

@CraftsCouncilUK on Facebook + Twitter

@craftscouncil on Instagram

All information correct at time of printing.

For more information, interviews and visuals relating to Collect 2021 and the Crafts Council please contact:

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