



## **CRAFTS COUNCIL ACQUIRES 27 WORKS BY 13 GLOBAL MAJORITY MAKERS TO NEWLY POSITION ITS COLLECTION**

**Crafts Council has launched New Positions - a contemporary capsule that aims to broaden the depth and diversity of the national collection of craft. All works have been acquired in the last two years by artists and makers who identify as Black, Asian, dual-heritage, or from the Global South.**

The Crafts Council Collection is now home to 27 more exquisite works in craft. Drawn from 13 emerging and established makers, the works cross materials, interests, disciplines, career stages and models of practice, opening a future programme shaped by many hands.

As well as expanding the national collection to include makers from groups that have been previously underrepresented, New Positions aims to stimulate conversations about inequalities in the craft canon.

Each acquisition was only made possible through the generous support of our donors, partners, and those who wish to remain anonymous. A particular thank you is extended to Art Fund, whose generous contribution enabled the charity to purchase 18 of the 27 pieces.

### **With special thanks to:**

- Art Fund
- Brookfield Properties
- Preston Fitzgerald and Cedric Smith
- Nicholas and Judith Goodison's Charitable Settlement
- Natalie Melton
- TOAST

Founded in 1972, the Crafts Council Collection holds nearly 1,800 objects in its Primary Collection and a library, archive and handling collection. It is the national collection for contemporary craft and acquires work from established and emerging makers practising principally in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The New Positions acquisition asserts a commitment to reflect a greater diversity of making and makers within the collection.

### **Selected artists and makers:**

- Matching Pairs, Bharti Parmar, 2019
- Two Legged Vessel, Bisila Noha, 2020
- Botanical Silk (Soft Turquoise), Botanical Silk (Amber), Botanical Silk (Ruby), Botanical Silk (Burnt Orange), Ballet Russes: Sunset Ballet & Mellow

Waltz, Ballets Russes: King with Beads and Pearls & Girl with Feathered Cape, Ballets Russes: Circus Costume on Stage, and Feathered cape, Christian Ovonen, 2018, 2021, 2022

- Banksia Vessel, Darren Appiagyei, 2021
- Pinch, Open and Pressed I, Open and Pressed II, Open and Pressed III, Fran Onumah, 2009, 2021
- WISH and Beavers, Liaqat Rasul, 2021
- We Mek Magazine, Lorna Hamilton-Brown, 2021
- The Sacrifice by Moses Quiquine, 2018
- Untitled, Onome Otite, 2021
- Threads II by Omeima Madawi-Rawling, 2021
- Fortress Displaced by Shaheed Ahmed 2021
- Hold on to your confession and tell your neighbour's, Two red cents for your last dime and What's taking you so long, Shawanda Corbett, 2021
- Cut out Brush, Textured Brush and Texture and Shape Study, Sophie Sellu, 2021

All 27 acquired works will be showcased in the Crafts Council Gallery as part of a public programme in Autumn 2023 (dates TBA).

- Ends -

## Quotes

“This is a first step in welcoming new voices and perspectives on craft into the collection. Over the coming months and years, we hope to explore new ways in which we can increase the visibility of the collection, ensure that these works are widely shared, and consider the ways in which how and what we collect in the future can be shared with our communities.” **Natalie Melton, acting executive director**

“Acquisitions of this quality and importance mark a significant milestone for the Crafts Council Collection. The works themselves are exquisite. It is now our duty to ensure they are shared as far and wide as possible.” **Deborah Ridley, collections manager**

“Most of our lives we’ve been active contributors to the digital era and its celebration of ‘disruption’. Our support of the Crafts Council allows us to play a role in crafts place as a tool to reconnect to the heritage of the past; particularly, the rich and varied heritages in the UK that have contributed so much but have been under-represented.” **Preston Fitzgerald and Cedric Smith, donors**

## Notes to editors

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## About Crafts Council

The Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We believe that craft skills and knowledge enrich and uplift us as individuals and can change our world for the better. Through our activities, we inspire making, empower learning and nurture craft businesses.

We do this by:

championing craft and its positive impact on society  
increasing levels of craft education and participation  
growing the market for craft by supporting craft businesses and providing leadership to the craft sector  
building a sustainable and inclusive craft sector

We want to share our power, work with others, and increase the agency of our communities in order to create an inclusive and thriving craft sector.

We recognise the moral, economic, and social reasons to make equality central to our work.

- [View our current trustees](#)
- [Meet our Equity Advisory Council \(EAC\)](#)
- [Read our Diversity and Inclusion commitments](#)

## About Crafts Council

The Collection was initiated in 1972 to document trends and innovation in the materials, processes, skills and technologies of contemporary craft and is now the UK's foremost collection of contemporary craft, embracing all disciplines and featuring the most important makers of the last 40 years.

With nearly 2000 objects, the Collection provides a distinctive, authoritative view of contemporary craft in its broadest sense, from its interface with cutting-edge design to its crossover with visual art.

Objects in the collections date from 1972 to the present day and cover all craft disciplines including ceramics, glass, textiles, furniture, metalwork, jewellery, lettering and bookbinding.

Both our Primary Collection and Handling Collection continue to grow each year via an active programme of acquisitions based on criteria set out in our Acquisitions Policy.

Visit [craftscouncil.org.uk/about/collections](https://craftscouncil.org.uk/about/collections)