

collect open

Press Release | 12 November 2025

Collect announces artists for Collect Open 2026



Jihyun Kim, *Salty Fairy Ring*, 2023. Porcelain, high-fired colour stain, gloop glaze.
16cm x 12cm x 12cm. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Collect announces the 11 artists selected for Collect Open 2026, the annual showcase of bold, craft-led installations by artists and collectives. Collect Open champions work that tells stories challenging material, social, political or personal perceptions, and cements Collect's broader commitment to platforming artists who push the boundaries of traditional craft techniques, as seen this year in works which span from contemporary embroidery to silversmithing. Collect Open 2026 is presented in partnership with Spinocchia Freund.

Collect is the leading international art fair for contemporary, museum-quality craft and design. It is presented by Crafts Council and will return to Somerset House from 26 February to 01 March 2026. The 2026 fair will bring together specialist galleries, dealers, arts organisations, artists and designers from across the globe.

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The successful proposals for Collect Open all represent a fresh and ambitious direction in the artists' practices and were selected by an expert advisory panel. The Collect Open 2026 artists are as follows:

Kamilah Ahmed (b. 1991, British, lives and works in London, UK) will create a large-scale embroidered textile installation celebrating Dhaka, Bangladesh's cityscape. Rooted in heritage embroidery techniques such as Jamdani weaving and Ari hook embroidery, the work will incorporate hand-wrapped silk warps, both digitally and hand embroidered, suspended from a metal frame.

Amelia Dennigan (b. 1987, Irish, lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal) will produce two large-scale, wall-hung embroidered tapestries and a fabric vase, all exploring the emotional complexity of miscarriage. Dennigan will employ chiaroscuro and rich embroidery in a painterly method.

Olly Fathers (b. 1987, British, lives and works in London, UK) will build on his work with wood veneer to create an installation using 4,600-year-old bog wood, formed from trees long submerged in riverbeds. For the central piece, Fathers will use a traditional marquetry method in a ripple-like composition with 500 individually handcrafted segments.

Katherine James (b. 1993, British, lives and works in Leeds, UK) combines charcoal and silver, celebrating a traditional silversmithing process whereby charcoal is used as a base for soldering, yet subverting its underlying material hierarchy. Silver chainmail will drape from vessels made of charcoal-clay, questioning ideas about resilience.

Jihyun Kim (b. 1997, South Korean, lives and works in London, UK) will develop her series of slip-cast ceramic vessels in vivid colours, evoking the organic forms of fungi. Kim works with a specially formulated glaze that becomes gloopy and slimy at high temperatures, lending her pieces a magical quality. She takes inspiration from Korean folk beliefs and rituals taught by her grandmother.

Chloe Lennon (b. 1994, Irish, lives and works in London, UK) will present a dining table and three stools, sculpted to represent the rock formations from which cobalt is sourced. Cobalt has a long history in art and ceramics, and is now used in the batteries that power electric cars. Lennon explores the ethics and systems of cobalt mining, specifically in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

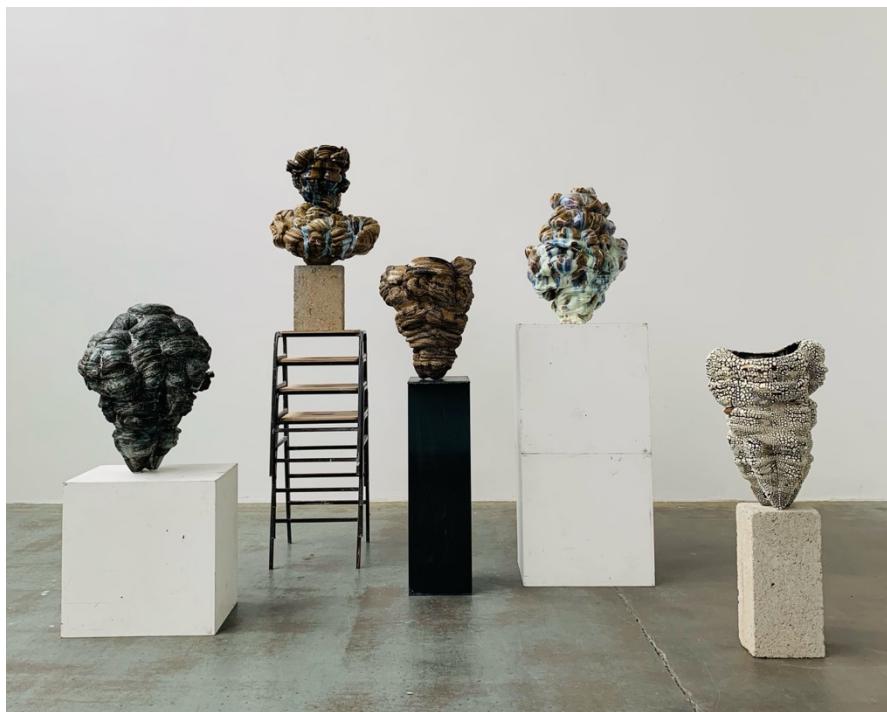
Ella Merriman (b. 1995, British, lives and works in London, UK) will present six sculptural furniture pieces that combine rush basketry with abandoned pieces of wooden furniture found on the streets of London. The installation will celebrate revival and reinvention, bringing together an endangered craft technique and discarded home objects.

Jynsym Ong (b. 1992, British, lives and works in Oxford, UK) will show a series of wood-fired pots, staged with a variety of props to signify uses that may be contradictory, surprising or puzzling. The installation will explore how objects become intrinsic to people's own stories, identity and memory, influenced by their cultural upbringing.

Hanna Salomonsson (b. 1981, Swedish, lives and works in London, UK) takes inspiration from veteran trees which provide essential habitats and hold deep cultural importance as living records of the landscape and local communities. She will present three monumental ceramic totems that explore the threats posed to tree species due to disease and climate conditions.

Zofia Sobolewska Ursic (b. 1982, Polish, lives and works in Krakow, Poland) will experiment with straw intarsia, wood and woven metal to create a cabinet, sculpture, jewellery box and two mirrors. This continues her interest in the contrasts between folk and bourgeois aesthetics; the severity and decorative qualities of marquetry; and geometric and organic forms.

Oriel Zinaburg (b. 1973, Israeli, lives and works in London, UK) will create a collection of ceramic sculptures inspired by Wally Birds, an idiosyncratic series of stoneware jars by the late-19th-century pottery manufacturers the Martin Brothers. Alongside, Zinaburg is developing three-dimensional ceramic tiles, which will be used as cladding fixed to prefabricated metal plinths and structures, to explore the role of ceramics in architectural storytelling.



Oriel Zinaburg, installation view, 2022. Works made of stoneware, glaze and oxides. Photo courtesy of the artist.

The Collect Open bursaries were launched in May 2025 to support UK-based artists from global majority backgrounds and to increase representation and equity across the programme. Developed in response to research conducted by Crafts Council that highlights how financial barriers can hinder participation in Collect as well as career progression in craft, the bursaries help to cover the costs of exhibiting and provide a one-off financial allowance for each recipient. The three recipients for the inaugural bursaries are Kamilah Ahmed, Jihyun Kim and Jynsym Ong.

The Collect Open 2026 expert advisory panel comprised Director of Collect, TF Chan; independent curator, Lewis Dalton Gilbert; creative industries business consultant, Caroline Jackman; and Creative Director of Spinocchia Freund, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund.

Collect Open is presented in partnership with Spinocchia Freund, the London-based interior architecture and design studio led by Brigitta Spinocchia Freund. The studio is a longstanding advocate of British craft and often collaborates with artists, artisans and heritage workshops, contributing to the preservation of traditional craft techniques and the promotion of modern innovation. Spinocchia

Freund's partnership with Collect Open, now in its second year, reflects the studio's core principles of curation, collaboration and craftsmanship.

TF Chan, Director of Collect, said:

"This year's Collect Open presentations stand out not only for their exceptional craftsmanship but for the compelling stories they tell. Our eleven artists push the boundaries of their chosen materials, while expressing ideas of personal resilience, cultural heritage, ecological vitality and social change. Together they offer a wonderful reflection on the richness and relevance of contemporary craft and design. I'm particularly pleased that our newly established bursaries have enabled us to include more UK-based artists from global majority backgrounds. I'd also like to thank our Collect Open partner, Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, whose ambition and enthusiasm have helped bring the programme to new heights."

Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Creative Director of Spinocchia Freund, said:

"I'm delighted to be supporting Collect Open 2026. Each year brings a fresh moment of discovery, an opportunity to encounter new voices and ideas that shape the future of contemporary art and design craft. Seeing these concepts at their earliest stages offers a rare insight into the creative process, and I know that anyone visiting the show will be captivated by the extraordinary talent and imagination filling the rooms, as Collect enters its next chapter under TF Chan's thoughtful leadership."

The full list of exhibitors and sponsors for Collect 2026 will be announced in December 2025.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Press assets and contact

All press assets are available [HERE](#).

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Preview days

25 February 2026 (Collectors' Preview, by invitation only)
26 February 2026

Public days

27 February 2026
28 February 2026

01 March 2026

Opening times to be announced

Tickets on sale

Mid January 2026

Collect Open 2026 Advisory Panel

- TF Chan, Director, Collect
- Lewis Dalton Gilbert, Independent curator
- Caroline Jackman, Creative industries business consultant
- Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, Founder and Creative Director, Spinocchia Freund

About Collect

Collect is the leading international art fair for contemporary craft and design. The fair is presented by Crafts Council and takes place annually at Somerset House, London.

Proudly positioned at the forefront of the contemporary craft movement since 2004, Collect brings together collectors, patrons, curators, art advisors and interior designers, and features international and British galleries showing museum-quality works in curated presentations. Through the Collect Open initiative, the fair provides a platform for experimental installations by individual artists and collectives.

Each edition of Collect showcases the work of over 400 exceptional living contemporary artists and designers, made from a range of materials with rich narratives. These span ceramic, furniture, glass, jewellery, metalwork, sculpture, textiles, woodwork and more. Over 80% of work is made in the previous five years, with many pieces commissioned for the fair.

collectfair.org.uk | @collectartfair #collectartfair

About Spinocchia Freund, Collect Open 2026 partner

Spinocchia Freund is a London-based interior architecture and design studio known for its curated, collectible, and collaborative approach. Led by Brigitta Spinocchia Freund, the studio creates immersive, highly considered interiors where bespoke craftsmanship, rare design pieces, and dynamic art seamlessly coexist within timeless architectural frameworks.

With over 25 years of expertise, Brigitta and her team champion a design philosophy rooted in storytelling, craftsmanship, and individuality. Every project is conceived as a layered, evolving composition, curated with a discerning eye for collectible furniture, bespoke textiles, and emerging or established art. Their work is distinguished by a commitment to sourcing exceptional pieces, integrating both contemporary talent and historical references to create spaces that are refined, meaningful, and deeply personal.

The studio also produces cultural and experiential installations which explore design narrative in public-facing contexts. Projects for WOW!house, Harvey Nichols, and Dover Street Market have brought emerging designers into conversation with design icons, presenting collectible objects and craft in a way that encourages engagement, discovery, and dialogue.

As advocates of British craft, the studio collaborates with local artisans and heritage workshops, ensuring traditional techniques are preserved while embracing modern innovation. From the conceptual stage to the final flourish, their meticulous process allows clients to experience the full vision of a space before it is realised, delivering interiors that balance subtle luxury with cultural depth.

Spinocchia Freund's international portfolio spans London, Europe, Asia, and the US, encompassing private residences, boutique hotels, and hospitality spaces. Each project is a reflection of place, purpose, and personal identity: an ever-evolving dialogue between art, architecture, and design.

spinocchiafreund.com | [@brigitta_spinocchia_freund](https://www.instagram.com/brigitta_spinocchia_freund)

SPINOCCHIA FREUND

About Crafts Council

Crafts Council is the national charity for craft. We believe 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, and by building a sustainable and inclusive craft sector.

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