

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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NOW OPEN

Anish Kapoor debuts major new installations at the Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery

16 June - 18 October 2026



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

As a centrepiece of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary programme, the Hayward Gallery presents a landmark exhibition from **Anish Kapoor** (16 June - 18 October 2026), marking his highly-anticipated return to the space after it was the first public gallery in the UK to host a major survey of his work in 1998. Curated by Ralph Rugoff, the show spans

new and seminal works, offering a series of spectacular encounters with Kapoor's sculptures and paintings across the entire gallery and its terraces.

Anish Kapoor is internationally renowned for making art that provokes the senses and the mind. Over the last four decades, he has relentlessly experimented with a wide range of materials to create evocative sculptures and paintings that spark a deep sense of mystery. From black holes to boundless mirrors, Kapoor's work interrogates what he calls 'the space of the object', inviting us to look twice and question how we experience our environment.

At the heart of the exhibition are three monumental works that defy the boundaries of conventional sculpture, each filling an entire section of the Hayward. Visitors can first explore a gallery completely transformed by a colossal and imposing new work: an inflated PVC membrane that fills the six-metre-high space, challenging our sense of scale and self.

In a second new work, a dark mountainous threshold looms down amid a sprawling red landscape contained within the upper gallery. In a third section, *Mount Moriah at the Gate of the Ghetto* (2022) defies gravity as it descends from the ceiling, hovering inches above the gallery's floor tiles. Overwhelming in size and emotional intensity, these monumental works elaborate on Kapoor's fascination with the sublime.

The exhibition also highlights the artist's ongoing exploration of perceptual illusions, including seemingly depthless 'void' works and sculptures coated with Vantablack: a light-absorbing nanotechnology so black it makes three-dimensional forms appear entirely flat when seen head-on. Large-scale mirrored steel sculptures, placed on the Hayward's outdoor terraces, further immerse visitors in a perceptual journey that combines discovery and disorientation.

Lastly, the exhibition features some of Kapoor's strikingly visceral paintings and sculptures from the past decade. Created using silicone, resin, and pigment, these intense works conjure splayed-open bodies and internal organs. The paintings and sculptures challenge our psychological responses, asking us to reflect on what it means to exist in an age where violent images are pervasive.

Taken altogether, the artworks in the exhibition ask audiences to shift their attention away from the surface, inviting them to imagine what lies beyond.

Ralph Rugoff, Curator of Anish Kapoor, says: *"Anish Kapoor has been globally celebrated for making art that is both sensorially engaging and deeply thought-provoking, and we're delighted to welcome him back to the Hayward 28 years after his first UK retrospective here. Utilising a wide range of scales and adventurously experimenting with different materials, Kapoor takes us on an exhilarating perceptual journey that plumbs existential questions, illuminating surprising links between our experiences of the sublime and extreme abjection, the spiritual and the physical."*

Anish Kapoor says: *"I am thrilled to be making an exhibition at the Hayward Gallery with Ralph Rugoff and to be returning to the Hayward after 28 years. The Southbank Centre has over the last 75 Years been central to London's cultural life and I am*

honoured to make an exhibition to celebrate this anniversary.”

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: *“We are thrilled to welcome Anish Kapoor back to the Hayward Gallery for what promises to be a truly unforgettable experience at the heart of Southbank Centre’s 75th anniversary year. The exhibition also provides a moment to celebrate the inspirational curatorial leadership and legacy of the Hayward’s departing Director, Ralph Rugoff. His vision has shaped the Gallery into the iconic space that it is today, with two decades of innovation and the introduction of countless boundary-pushing artists. I want to thank Ralph for his tenure, with this exhibition a fitting finale for his time at the Hayward Gallery.”*

A fully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition, including insights from psychoanalyst Julia Kristeva, art historians Nancy Spector and Sandhini Poddar, and an extensive interview with exhibition curator Ralph Rugoff. Please note, this item is pre-order only and will be available for delivery in July. More information can be found [HERE](#).

A Limited Edition hand-signed giclée print commissioned for the exhibition is also available. Taken from one of Kapoor’s recent gouache drawings, *The Dark* (2026) depicts his iconic motif – the void, as soft, sensual and iridescent opening. *The Dark* is an edition of 250 and sales support the Southbank Centre’s pioneering programme of events. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Taking place across four Saturdays, visitors can experience *Touching the Quick*, a series of musical performances in response to specific sculptures in the show, composed by Brian Elias and performed live by horn player Ben Goldscheider.

On Wednesday 8 July 2026, Anish Kapoor will be in conversation with author and psychoanalyst, Darian Leader, to explore the psychological, spatial and philosophical dimensions of Kapoor’s practice. More information can be found [HERE](#).

On Thursday 13 August 2026, Hayward Gallery Lates: Anish Kapoor offers a special after hours viewing of the exhibition with a curated cross-artform programme featuring complementary performances and interventions. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Anish Kapoor concludes Jewish Culture Month: a cultural coming together on a scale and depth not seen before, with more than 100 events across the country spanning food, comedy, art, architecture, fashion, music and much more. You can read more about Jewish Culture Month [HERE](#).

Anish Kapoor is generously supported by Lisson, the Miel de Botton Charitable Trust, Annalisa Burello, the Ringier Collection, Sir John and Lady Ritblat, Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen, and the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

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- Installation view of Anish Kapoor, *Cloak* (2026). Photo: Dave Morgan. Courtesy of the Hayward Gallery and the artist. © Anish Kapoor. All rights reserved, DACS, 2026.
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Exhibition Listing Information

Anish Kapoor

16 Jun 2026 – 18 Oct 2026

Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX

Full price standard ticket: £22

Concessions available & Southbank Centre Members go free

Half-price tickets for Southbank Centre Under-30s subscribers

The Hayward Gallery opening times:

Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm

Sat, 10am – 8pm

Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

TikTok: [@southbankcentre](https://www.tiktok.com/@southbankcentre)

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Images for the Anish Kapoor Catalogue can be found [HERE](#)

Images for the Anish Kapoor Limited Edition can be found [HERE](#)

About Anish Kapoor

Since winning the Turner prize in 1991, Anish Kapoor (b.Mumbai, 1954) has become recognised as one of today's leading contemporary artists, with his work permanently exhibited in some of the most important international collections and museums. Kapoor maneuvers between vastly different scales, across numerous series of work and is renowned for his sculptures that are both adventures in form and engage public space. Whilst Kapoor's works have always blurred the boundary between architecture and sculpture, his painting practice remains an intense focus, and central to an artist whose work evades categorisation and continues to be rigorously explorative. Recent works and solo shows include; Monte Sant'Angelo metro station in Naples, (opened in October 2025); BUTCHERED, a collaboration with Greenpeace (August 13th 2025); Liverpool Cathedral, U.K (2024); ARKEN, Ishøj, Denmark (2024); Palazzo Strozzi, Florence, Italy (2023); Gallerie dell'Accademia & Palazzo Manfrin, Venice, Italy (2022), Modern Art Oxford, U.K (2021); Houghton Hall, Norfolk, U.K (2020); CAFA Art Museum / Imperial Ancestral Temple, Beijing (2019); Descension, Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York, U.S.A (2017); MUAC, Mexico City (2016)

About the Hayward Gallery

The Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery is a world-renowned contemporary art gallery and Brutalist landmark. Since its 1968 opening by Queen Elizabeth II, the Gallery has built a legacy of showcasing the world's most daring and innovative artists, including Anish Kapoor, Bridget Riley, Mike Nelson, Linder, Lee Bul, Tracey Emin and Yoshitomo Nara. Known for its career-defining solo shows and dial-shifting group exhibitions, such as *Dear Earth*, *In The Black Fantastic*, *The Other Story* and *Psycho Buildings*, the Hayward remains a vital platform for established and emerging voices. Designed by a team of young architects including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk, and Ron Herron,

and named after Sir Isaac Hayward, the gallery invites audiences to experience art in one of the UK's most unique architectural settings.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest multi-arts centre and engages the most diverse audiences of any performing arts organisation in the UK. Our biggest venue, the Royal Festival Hall (2,700 seats) is the lasting legacy of the 1951 Festival of Britain and the ambition and values of that project – that arts, ideas, innovation and culture can heal communities and should be available and accessible to everyone – are still our guiding principles today. The Southbank Centre is uniquely able to offer a wide-ranging, inclusive and world-class artistic programme spanning contemporary visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, comedy and spoken word across the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room, the Hayward Gallery and our free spaces. We are also home to the National Poetry Library, the National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP), two resident organisations (Kinetika Bloco and Tomorrow's Warriors) and six resident orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and Philharmonia Orchestra). The Southbank Centre's 75th Anniversary Season is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

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