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SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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Contact: Georgia Holmes, Press Officer georgia.holmes@southbankcentre.co.uk

Press images: available to download [HERE](#)

The Southbank Centre launches weekend festival exploring the future of technology, creativity, and art

- ***Creative Intelligence*** is a new festival taking over the Southbank Centre from **Friday 11 – Sunday 13 September**, exploring the intersection of technology, creativity, and art. The programme will include free installations, hands-on workshops and demonstrations, gigs and performances.
- Artists taking part include **Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg, Holly Herndon, Jeanette Winterson, Love Ssega, Kate Crawford**, and **Razik Darji**, with more to be announced.
- Opening the festival is a **Creative Summit (Friday 11 September)**: a day of talks, discussions and performances, exploring the future of technology and creativity, aimed at people working in its industries.
Speakers include **Akinola Davies Jnr, Xin Liu, Anab Jain, K Allado McDowell, Alex Estorick** and **Sougwen Chung**, with more to be announced.
- The full programme for *Creative Intelligence* will be announced soon.



Image Credit: © Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg Ltd. Courtesy the artist.

This September, *Creative Intelligence* takes over the Southbank Centre for a weekend-long festival exploring the future of technology and creativity.

Over three days (11-13 September), the Southbank Centre will become a playground for creative technologies, exploring how human agency and imagination interact and intertwine with technology

and innovation. The festival programme encompasses art, performance, live gigs, demos, and debate, with space for play and experimentation alongside learning and discussion. The offer ranges from hands-on activities for curious newcomers, to in-depth, specialist talks tailored for creatives and industry experts. Inspired by the spirit of innovation which powered the Festival of Britain in 1951, *Creative Intelligence* explores how art and technologies, including AI, are combining to shape the future. This is the first edition of an ambitious annual festival that will host debate, play, art, and technology. *Creative Intelligence* is commissioned and produced by the Southbank Centre and is curated with PACT (Planetary Art Culture Technology).

Running across the entire weekend, Peckham Digital – an annual, community-led festival and creative technology organisation in south-east London – will take over the Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer to showcase London's grassroots creative computing communities. Through a vibrant, three-day lineup of collaborative workshops, interactive drop-in sessions, and peer-learning activations, the takeover offers accessible pathways for anyone curious about art and technology.

This weekend also includes a Creative Summit (Friday 11 September), designed for the artists, writers, designers and engineers working at the intersection of art, creativity and technology. This summit is an opportunity to ask big questions and to explore what we know, what we want to know, and how to make sense of it all. Through talks, panel discussions and performances, the programme will showcase the ideas and people at the forefront of this ever-evolving field – with expertise covering everything from beauty and quantum computing to venture capital for art, film, and music.

After the discussions, attendees are invited to an evening listening session with pioneering artist Holly Herndon. A trailblazer at the frontier of music and AI, Herndon's decade-long practice explores the idea that training an AI model is a profound act of creativity. Rather than just using AI to generate final tracks, Herndon and collaborator Mat Dryhurst meticulously compose their own training material and shape their own datasets, treating every step of the process as a form of authorship. Audiences will hear complete pieces alongside the raw source material, offering an insight into Herndon's unique practice.

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, said: *'Creative Intelligence captures the very essence of what the Southbank Centre aims to be in our 75th anniversary year: a democratic space where radical ideas and new technologies meet. Just as the 1951 Festival of Britain used science, design and new technologies to imagine a brighter future, this event is for both the curious and the creative, bringing the public, technologists and creatives together to explore the future. We're thrilled to partner with PACT to turn our site into a creative playground, leaping into the world-changing possibilities of the next 75 years.'*

Keri Elmsly, PACT, said: ‘As a global capital city, it is time for London to have a major annual festival and platform for future-facing artistic, cultural, and creative practices that drive and challenge technology - where human agency, embodiment, and process are center stage. Southbank Centre was born of ‘art for all’ and built as a site of optimism and invention. Creative Intelligence is an experimental three-day takeover and public prototype for arts and technology where everyone is invited.’

Also part of *Creative Intelligence* weekend is **Playing with Fire: Yuja Wang** (9 September 2026 - 3 January 2027). *Playing with Fire: Yuja Wang* is a multisensory, mixed-reality concert charting the world-renowned pianist’s artistic journey and featuring a digital avatar of Wang performing within an immersive environment. *Playing With Fire: Yuja Wang* is produced by VIVE Arts and Atlas V, in collaboration with production partner Lightroom, and is supported by Steinway & Sons, the CNC (Centre National du Cinéma et de l’image animée) and Pictanovo.

Creative Intelligence weekend joins a landmark 2026 season at the Southbank Centre. Channelling the founding spirit of the 1951 Festival of Britain, a moment of national renewal and optimistic energy, the 75th anniversary season also includes **Harry Styles’ Meltdown** (11 - 21 June), **London Literature Festival** (21 October - 1 November) curated by **Dua Lipa**, **Goalhanger: The Rest Is Fest** (4 - 6 September) and **Anish Kapoor** returning to the Hayward Gallery (16 June - 18 October). The Southbank Centre’s 75th anniversary also includes a national programme of art, literature and music – aiming to reach one million people in over 40 towns and cities across all four nations of the UK.

Creative Intelligence is supported by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Creative Intelligence runs Friday 11 – Sunday 13 September 2026 at the Southbank Centre. Ticket sales for Southbank Centre Members start on Wednesday 10 June and go on general sale from Thursday 11 June. <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/events/creative-intelligence>.

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Notes to editors:

Contact: Georgia Holmes, Press Officer georgia.holmes@southbankcentre.co.uk
Press images with photographer credits: available to download [HERE](#)

LISTINGS

[Creative Intelligence Summit](#)

Fri 11 Sept, 11am - 5pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

[Get Your Hands-Dirty with Creative Tech](#)

Fri 11 Sept, 11am - 5pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

Holly Herndon: Listening Session

Fri 11 Sept, 8pm, Queen Elizabeth Hall

More events to be announced soon.

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) 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.

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

About PACT (Planetary Art Culture Technology)

PACT is a collective of groundbreaking artists, curators and inventors turning urgent challenges into real opportunities, experiences and futures.

We exist to create adaptive, generative ideas and prototypes to thrive on earth. PACT achieves this by amplifying artists' unique utility as engines for imagination, agency and change. Because action for the long horizon can't wait.

<https://planetaryact.com/>