HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release
Date: 12:00 BST, Monday 23 November 2026
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Installation images are available to download here and artwork images here

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Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong

Acclaimed artist and activist debuts major new work at the Southbank Centre's Hayward Gallery

24 November 2026 - 14 March 2027



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

The Hayward Gallery presents ***Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong***, a major solo exhibition by acclaimed American artist and activist Nan Goldin, rounding off the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary year. Marking Goldin's first institutional show in the UK since 2002, the presentation debuts a new film alongside other recent moving image works and photographs, offering a rare insight into how we can survive, empathise and find beauty in uncertain times.

Over the past five decades, Goldin has documented personal relationships, addiction and queer communities. Her unflinching images transformed photography by closing the distance between the observer and the observed, capturing the rawness of her own life. Comprising deeply intimate photographs and slideshows, her stories embrace the complexity of life as universal tales of love and loss.

Visitors can see new and recent films in spaces specially designed with architect Hala Wardé to convey the mood of each piece. Marking its public debut, ***You never did anything wrong, Part II*** (2026) screens alongside ***You never did anything wrong, Part I*** (2024). Both films mark a striking new direction as Goldin shifts her focus away from humans and towards other species.

Shot on 16mm film, ***Part I*** is centred around a solar eclipse. The film is inspired by an ancient myth of animals stealing the sun. Shifting into a world entirely without humans, the work shows the full range of animal consciousness. Featuring music by Valerij Fedorenko and an original score by Mica Levi, *Part I* is dedicated to Sulala Animal Rescue: the oldest animal rescue in the Gaza Strip whom Goldin has worked with closely.

Created in close collaboration with filmmaker David Sherman, ***Part II*** is an abstract film comprising found footage, damaged soundtracks from old films and a new score by Mica Levi. The source material is old 16mm films - mostly nature documentaries from the 1960s and 70s when Goldin was growing up - which reflect the ways we were taught to view other species. The film then expands into a lyrical ode to the land, the animals and the minutiae of the natural world, remaining abstract while imbued with a deep sense of impending extinction.

The exhibition also marks the UK premiere of ***Stendhal Syndrome*** (2024), which contrasts photographs of Goldin's friends and lovers with classical art from museums around the world, revealing uncanny resemblances in composition, colour and emotion. Accompanied by a score by Soundwalk Collective, the work, in Goldin's words, *"shows that my people have always been here".*

Alongside it, ***Memory Lost*** (2019–2021) explores Goldin's personal history with drugs and the darkness of addiction. Through slides capturing scenes from her own life and friendships, the film shows the ecstasy, mourning and pain of drug use. By connecting personal testimony with structural critique, Goldin advocates for harm reduction and the destigmatisation of drug use. The work is dedicated to P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now), the activist group that Goldin started to combat the overdose crisis.

Upstairs, the Hayward Gallery presents a selection of Goldin's photographs, including a new body of photographic prints connected to the *You never did anything wrong* films. Goldin has also included a work in progress, created with David Sherman, made of found footage recording events in Gaza.

Altogether, *You Never Did Anything Wrong* celebrates Goldin's enduring commitment to bearing witness: to intimacy, endurance, political struggle and the fragile conditions through which people, animals and the land must exist in the world.

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Rachel Thomas, Chief Curator, says: *“We are incredibly proud to debut new work by Nan Goldin at the Hayward Gallery. This exhibition traces the evolution of her gaze through extraordinary new and recent moving image works, demonstrating how her lens operates on a wavelength of pure compassion. Shifting her focus from human relationships to animal consciousness and the natural world, Goldin brilliantly re-evaluates how we perceive other living beings. At a time of deep uncertainty, her work collapses the distance between the observer and the observed, urging us to look at our fragile world with a deeper sense of empathy, wonder and shared survival*.”

Mark Ball, Southbank Centre’s Artistic Director, says: *"Nan Goldin has reshaped the language of photography, transforming the medium into a profound living record of human intimacy and resilience. At the Hayward Gallery, we are thrilled to host her first major UK exhibition for over two decades with work that captures the soul of her practice. To bring her radical vision to our Brutalist spaces in the culmination of our 75th anniversary programme is a moment of immense pride. Nan Goldin’s work offers our audiences an encounter with an artist who has never looked away."*

A fully illustrated catalogue focusing on the new work *You Never Did Anything Wrong* accompanies the exhibition, featuring a newly-commissioned essay from Chief Curator Rachel Thomas, and an in-depth interview with Nan Goldin and writer Thora Siemsen.

The Hayward Gallery shop presents a new and exclusive collaborative range with designer **Bella Freud**, featuring the exhibition title *You Never Did Anything Wrong.*

Coinciding with the exhibition, **Hayward Gallery Lates: Nan Goldin** offers audiences an after-hours viewing of the show alongside music, dance, performance and a making workshop in collaboration with **Creative Encounters** (Wed 27 Jan 2027).

Other events include a special screening of Oscar nominated documentary *All The Beauty and the Bloodshed* with introduction from the Hayward Gallery curatorial team (Fri 5 Feb) and an in-conversation between writer **Olivia Laing** and designer **Bella Freud**, taking a deep dive into Nan Goldin’s life and work (Thu 25 Feb 2027). More information on all events can be found HERE.

Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong will be presented alongside ***Andrius Arutiunian: They Tried to Count Us*** in the HENI Project Space. More information on the exhibition can be found HERE.

Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong has been supported by Hermes Li, Maria Sukkar, The Form Foundation, Victoria and David Law, the Christian Levett Collection and Musée FAMM, Suling C Mead, Kathryn Raphaël and a generous anonymous donor. We are grateful for additional support from Gagosian.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITORS
Image Credits (L-R clockwise)

- Installation view of *Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong*, 2026. Photo David Parry. Courtesy of the Hayward Gallery and the artist.
- Installation view of *Memory Lost* (2019-2021). Photo David Parry. Courtesy of the Hayward Gallery and the artist
- Installation view of *Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong*, 2026. Photo David Parry. Courtesy of the Hayward Gallery and the artist.
- Installation view of *Nan Goldin: You Never Did Anything Wrong*, 2026. Photo David Parry. Courtesy of the Hayward Gallery and the artist.

Exhibition Listing Information
Nan Goldin
24 November 2026 - 14 March 2027
Hayward Gallery, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX
Full price standard ticket: £19
Concessions available & Southbank Centre Members go free

The Hayward Gallery opening times:
Tue – Fri, 10am – 6pm
Sat, 10am – 8pm
Sun, 10am – 6pm

Further information:
www.southbankcentre.co.uk
TikTok: @southbank.centre
Instagram: @hayward.gallery
Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

About Nan Goldin
Nan Goldin is an American photographer and artist. Since the 1970s her work has explored notions of gender and definitions of normality. By documenting her life and the lives of the friends who surround her, Goldin gives a voice and visibility to her communities especially the bohemian LGBT communities which were deeply impacted by the devastating HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s. These images of her “extended family” became the subject of her seminal slide show and first book *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*. Her retrospective *This Will Not End Well,* the first exhibition dedicated to her work as a filmmaker, traveled through Europe in 2022–2026 (Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin; Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan; and GrandPalaisRmn, Paris). She is the founding member of the advocacy group P.A.I.N. (Prescription Addiction Intervention Now) which targeted the pharmaceutical companies responsible for the overdose epidemic. She has been an outspoken advocate for Palestine since the 1970s. She lives and works in New York City and Paris.

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.

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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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