

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release: Thursday 4 June 2026

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Images are available to download [here](#)

Hayward Gallery Touring Brings Work by 50 Leading British Artists to Regional Venues Across the UK

Small Wonders: Reimagining British Art will present a journey through British art over the past half-century.

5 June - 25 July, Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead

11 September - 15 November, The Base in Greenham

Venues in 2027 to be announced

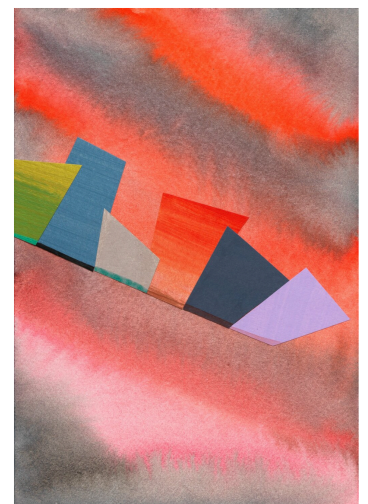
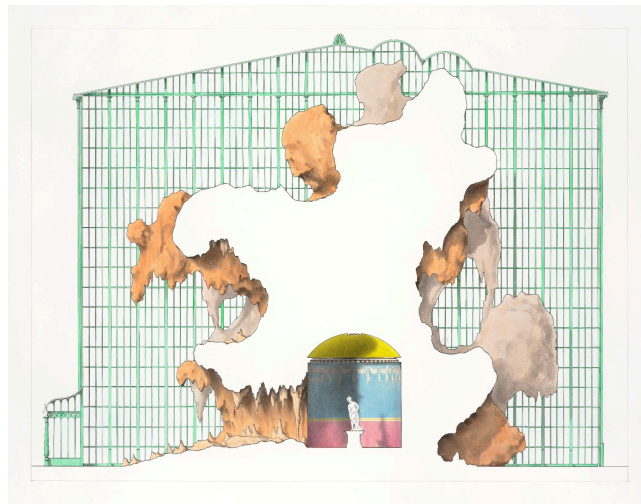


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Hayward Gallery Touring is delighted to announce ***Small Wonders: Reimagining British Art***, a new touring exhibition launching as part of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations. Bringing together new and existing work by 50 acclaimed artists, the show offers an eclectic snapshot of British art across the past 45 years.

The exhibition features alumni from every edition of the landmark British Art Show - the UK's most significant recurring survey of contemporary art - spanning the inaugural 1979 iteration to the most recent in 2021. Inspired by Marcel Duchamp's *Boîte-en-valise* (a 'portable museum' comprising miniature versions of his work), each artist was invited to contribute a small-scale work reflecting on their past involvement in British Art Show. Each approached the invitation in a distinctly personal way.

Participating artists include:

Abake; Tomma Abts; Caroline Achaintre; Simeon Barclay; Zarina Bhimji, Kathrin Böhm; Frank Bowling; Pablo Bronstein; Andrea Büttner; Varda Caivano; Ergin Çavuşoğlu; Michael Craig-Martin; Nicolas Deshayes; Mandy El-Sayegh; Doug Fishbone; Martino Gamper; Mona Hatoum; Marguerite Humeau; Kabir Hussain; Runa Islam; Mikhail Karikis; Kerstin Kartscher; Lawrence Lek; Tonico Lemos Auad; Goshka Macuga and Ahmet Ögüt; Christian Marclay; Daria Martin; Lisa Milroy; Haroon Mirza; Grace Ndiritu; Saskia Olde Wolbers; Uriel Orlow; Hardeep Pandhal; Hetain Patel; Yuri Pattison; Vong Phaophanit and Claire Oboussier; Fiona Rae; Eva Rothschild; Hrair Sarkissian; Edgar Schmitz; Zineb Sedira; Tai Shani; Alia Syed; Wolfgang Tillmans; Hanna Tuulikki; Sin Wai Kin; Alberta Whittle; Rehana Zaman.

The exhibition features new commissions from artists including **Fiona Rae, Lawrence Lek, Tai Shani, Hetain Patel, Simeon Barclay** and **Varda Caivano** that respond directly to their original British Art Show exhibition, while artists such as **Frank Bowling, Mona Hatoum** and **Michael Craig-Martin** have included work that reflect the evolution of their practices in later years. Utilising a range of materials, from paint, threads and steel to receipt notes, film stills, vacuum packing and mirrors, these reimaginings offer a unique overview of nearly half a century of British art history.

Small Wonders is the latest in Hayward Gallery Touring's Spotlight series. Developed to broaden access to the arts, these versatile exhibitions are designed to travel to a wide range of partner venues - not only museums and galleries, but also arts centres, libraries, universities, and schools. By bringing world-class art to hundreds of local communities for decades, the Spotlight strand continues Hayward Gallery Touring's work of democratising culture on a national scale.

Small Wonders is part of the Southbank Centre's 75th anniversary celebrations, which will take place across 2026 both at the Southbank Centre in London and in art galleries, concert halls and arts centres in towns and cities across all four nations of the UK.

Brian Cass, Head of Hayward Gallery Touring, says: *'Celebrating the vitality of British art over the last half-century, Small Wonders offers audiences a uniquely intimate and playful look at contemporary art history. It has been incredibly exciting to see how these artists have responded to the concept of a portable museum, contributing works that serve as poetic, small-scale distillations of their distinct practices. We are delighted to bring the work of these extraordinary artists to people and places all across the nation'*

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: *"Small Wonders is a thrilling addition to our 75th anniversary celebrations. Rooted in the ethos of the Southbank Centre's work - to expand the encounters between art, artists and audiences - it takes the work of extraordinary artists who have shaped our perceptions of ourselves and the world around us directly to communities across the UK."*

Small Wonders: Reimagining British Art is a Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

Image credits, L-R

- Fiona Rae (BAS3). *Drawing (yonder all before us lie deserts of vast eternity)*, 2026. Gouache, acrylic gouache and watercolour on paper. Courtesy Fiona Rae, © Fiona Rae / DACS
- Pablo Bronstein (BAS8). *Grotto of Venus in the style of Alexander von Humboldt*, 2026. Acrylic on paper.
- Tomma Abts (BAS6), *Untitled*, 2023. Watercolour, acrylic, collage on paper.

About Hayward Gallery Touring

Hayward Gallery Touring is the UK's leading contemporary art organisation dedicated to providing access to world-class exhibitions across the nation. As a cornerstone of the Southbank Centre's national programme, we have collaborated with visionary artists, curators, and writers to realise ambitious projects that often sit beyond the scope of a single institution.

From museums and libraries to schools and hospitals, our mission is to bring contemporary culture directly to the heart of local communities. Our work - which spans from the landmark *British Art Show* to intimate monographic exhibitions from Paula Rego and Matisse - reaches hundreds of thousands annually across more than 30 cities and towns.

About 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).

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

About British Art Show

British Art Show is the largest and most significant recurring exhibition of contemporary art in the UK. It is developed and produced by Hayward Gallery Touring, the UK's leading contemporary art organisation producing touring exhibitions, which is part of the Southbank Centre. Taking place every five years, the show is unmatched in its national scope and has reached over 2.3 million people since its launch in 1979. For over four decades, it has defined the trajectory of British art, highlighting new trends and reflecting the evolving cultural landscape of the UK. The exhibition has introduced many of the country's most influential artists to millions of people across the nation, including David Hockney, Bridget Riley, Sonia Boyce, John Akomfrah and Michael Armitage. Now in its tenth iteration, British Art Show 10: A Chorus of Strangers continues this legacy, partnering with cities across the nation to bring the most ambitious contemporary art to regional arts venues.