

HAYWARD GALLERY

Press Release

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Anish Kapoor to debut 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 announces further details of its landmark exhibition from Anish Kapoor, 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 will span

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.

Three monumental works that defy the boundaries of conventional sculpture will be at the heart of the exhibition, each filling an entire section of the Hayward. Visitors will 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) will defy 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 will also highlight 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, will further immerse visitors in a perceptual journey that combines discovery and disorientation.

Lastly, the exhibition will feature 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 will ask audiences to shift their attention away from the surface, inviting them to imagine what lies beyond.

Ralph Rugoff, Director of the Hayward Gallery, 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 and am sure this exhibition will be a fitting finale for his time at the Hayward Gallery.”*

Tickets will go on sale to Southbank Centre Members on Wednesday 12 November 2025 and to the general public on Monday 5 January 2026.

Coinciding with the public on-sale date, young audiences will be able to benefit from the newly-launched Southbank Centre Under-30s scheme, which invites subscribers to enjoy world class art for half the price by offering discounted tickets to Anish Kapoor and all other Hayward Gallery exhibitions. More information on how to register and the variety of discounts and special events on offer can be found [here](#).

A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany this exhibition, featuring newly commissioned essays and an in-depth interview with the artist by Ralph Rugoff.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Image Credits

From top left clockwise:

- Anish Kapoor, *Tsunami*, 2018. Stainless steel, 365 x 410 x 340 cm. Photograph: Dave Morgan © Anish Kapoor. All rights reserved, DACS, 2025.
- Portrait of Anish Kapoor. Photo by George Darell.
- Anish Kapoor, *Mount Moriah at the Gate of the Ghetto*, 2022. Mixed media, 13.8 x 6.8 x 3.9cm. Photograph: Attilio Maranzano © Anish Kapoor. All rights reserved, DACS, 2025

Exhibition Listing Information

Anish Kapoor

16 Jun 2026 – 18 Oct 2026

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

Full price standard ticket: £22.50

Concessions available & Southbank Centre Members go free

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

Southbank Centre Membership benefits include unlimited free entry to the Hayward Gallery for all Members from £60 a year and entry with a guest for Membership Plus from £90 a year. All Members can also enjoy Members-only Private View evenings and 15% off in the Hayward Gallery shop. This is among a host of other benefits across the Southbank Centre including priority booking on all events, no booking fees, discounts from 10% to 40% across the site and access to the Members' Lounge with Membership Plus.

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)

Instagram: [@haywardgallery](https://www.instagram.com/haywardgallery)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

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 Hayward Gallery, part of the Southbank Centre, has a long history of presenting work by the world's most adventurous and innovative artists including major solo shows

by both emerging and established artists and dynamic group exhibitions. They include those by Bridget Riley, Bruce Nauman, Anish Kapoor, Lee Bul, Andreas Gursky, Tracey Emin, Jeremy Deller, Kader Attia and Matthew Barney, as well as influential group exhibitions such as *Africa Remix*, *Light Show*, *Psycho Buildings* and *Space Shifters*. Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in July 1968, the gallery is one of the few remaining buildings of its style. The Brutalist building was designed by a group of young architects, including Dennis Crompton, Warren Chalk and Ron Herron and is named after Sir Isaac Hayward, a former leader of the London County Council.

About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre, occupying 11 acres along the river and its 4 venues anchor London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to 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

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