

# HAYWARD GALLERY

## TOURING

### Press Release

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Installation images are available to download [here](#)

Artwork images are available to download [here](#)

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## Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles

**Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry** (9 October 2024 - 15 December 2024)

**Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, Nottingham** (May 2025 - July 2025)

**The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum, Cheltenham** (September 2025 - January 2026)

**Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery, London** (January 2026 - May 2026)



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

Hayward Gallery Touring presents ***Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles***, an ambitious group exhibition exploring how artists are using textiles in surprising and radical ways. Illuminating the diverse roles textiles play in contemporary artistic practice, the exhibition brings together artists who take the intimate and domestic quality of textiles and transform them into theatrical, bold, unsettling and humorous artworks that inspire, challenge and offer new ways of thinking.

Sitting at the heart of the **Southbank Centre**, the nation's engine of creativity, Hayward Gallery Touring aims to create cultural experiences with a bold and imaginative touring programme across the UK. Following in the footsteps of several critically-acclaimed exhibitions from Hayward Gallery Touring this year alone, *Material Worlds* has begun its tour at the **Mead Gallery at Warwick Arts Centre, Coventry**.

Featuring work created predominantly over the last decade by 15 UK-based artists, *Material Worlds* highlights their deep awareness of textiles' cultural history and a shared desire to challenge its traditional associations, testing the material's expansive and subversive potential. The familiar fabric of everyday life is reimagined into the unexpected—the ordinary made extraordinary—to reflect on ideas of gender, identity, community, race, technology, and myth, demonstrating the medium's potential to transform in the hands of different artists.

Artworks presented in *Material Worlds* include Phyllida Barlow's *Untitled: Canvasracks* (2018–2019), an imposing yet anti-monumental sculpture made from multicoloured cotton canvas and concrete plinths; Holly Hendry's kinetic sculpture *Slacker* (2019) which uses synthetic materials, fabrics, and aggregates of reused plastics to create a 'skin' that rotates, inspired by the historical Jacquard loom; to Paloma Proudfoot's *The Mannequins Reply* (2023), a ceramic assemblage with textile details informed by the artist's background in clothes making and pattern cutting.

Artists featured in the exhibition include **Caroline Achaintre, Jonathan Baldock, Phyllida Barlow, Marc Camille Chaimowicz, Alexandre da Cunha, Holly Hendry, Tónico Lemos Auad, Paul Maheke, Anna Perach, Yelena Popova, Paloma Proudfoot, Yinka Shonibare, Rae-Yen Song, Tenant of Culture** and **Zadie Xa**.

**Caroline Achaintre, Curator of *Material Worlds*, says:** *"It has been a great pleasure to develop and curate Material Worlds alongside the Hayward Gallery Touring team. I wanted the exhibition to emphasise the transition from something quite everyday, domestic, and supposedly unspectacular, into the creation of fantastical and extraordinary works, worlds, and visions. It has been an enriching experience to encounter such a diverse realm of artists and to create this exhibition featuring affecting pieces by both upcoming and established artists from different generations."*

**Brian Cass, Senior Curator of Hayward Gallery Touring, says:** *"Bringing together a diverse range of artists whose work is imaginatively redefining how textiles are being used in contemporary art, Material Worlds is an expansive exhibition exploring how simple everyday materials are being used to surprise and provoke, creating worlds and telling stories ranging from the personal to the cosmic. We are proud to be the UK's largest touring contemporary art organisation with exhibitions seen by up to half a million people each year. I'm very excited to be working with our exhibition partners on this project and seeing how the exhibition will transform for each gallery and museum along the tour."*

**Sarah Shalgosky, Principal Curator at the Mead Gallery, says:** *"As part of the celebration of Warwick Arts Centre's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are very pleased to launch Material Worlds. The exhibition connects to our history of showcasing the transformative power of artists in re-making the everyday into a powerful and inspiring experience. Our audiences are also our partners and they have joined us in curating and delivering a powerful programme this autumn that includes a new textile work, made by local communities working with artist Julia McConnell, that will go on display in November 2024."*

*Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles* is curated by Caroline Achaintre with Hayward Gallery Touring.

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Image Credits (left to right, top to bottom)

- Installation view, Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles, Mead Gallery. From left to right: Yinka Shonibare, *Creatures of the Mappa Mundi – Epiphagi*, 2018–19, *Abstract Spiritual XI*, 2024 and Phyllida Barlow, *untitled: canvasracks*, 2018–19. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition. Photography © Luke Pickering
- Installation view, Marc Camille Chaimowicz, *Dual*, 2006–07; *Malevolent Coat Hook*, 2005; Cluny, 2006 © Cabinet Gallery, London and Marc Camille Chaimowicz Studio. Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles, Mead Gallery. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition. Photography © Luke Pickering.
- Installation view, Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles, Mead Gallery. From left to right: Yelena Popova, *Promethean Chalice*, 2020, Paul Maheke, *We Took a Sip from the Devil's Cup*, 2020 and Anna Perach *Venus*, 2023. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition. Photography © Luke Pickering
- Installation view, Material Worlds: Contemporary Artists and Textiles, Mead Gallery. From left to right: Holly Hendry, *Slacker*, 2019, Paloma Proudfoot, *The Mannequins Reply*, 2023 and Alexandre da Cunha, *Arena*, 2020. A Hayward Gallery Touring exhibition. Photography © Luke Pickering

### About Hayward Gallery Touring

Hayward Gallery Touring is the UK's largest contemporary art organisation producing touring exhibitions. Based at Southbank Centre, Hayward Gallery Touring works with a range of artists, curators, designers and writers to develop curatorial projects and ambitious exhibitions that are often beyond the scope of a single institution.

Hayward Gallery Touring's programme includes the British Art Show - the largest and most significant exhibition of contemporary art produced in the UK - as well as thematic group shows and monographic exhibitions created for venues including museums, galleries, art centres, libraries, schools, hospitals and other unexpected partners and places. Hayward Gallery Touring exhibitions are seen by up to half a million people in over 45 cities and towns each year.

### 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).

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk)

### About the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre

The Mead Gallery sits within Warwick Arts Centre, one of the UK's largest arts centres, and at the heart of The University of Warwick, a world leading centre of excellence in teaching and research. Art has been intrinsic to the University of Warwick since 1965 through its collection of international contemporary art. Through our Art Collection and exhibitions in the Mead Gallery we create the space

and context for artists to develop and show new work and for audiences to become active partners in exploring and thinking about it.

### **About Djanogly Gallery, Lakeside Arts, Nottingham**

Lakeside Arts is the University of Nottingham's public arts centre presenting a programme of visual arts, manuscripts and museum exhibitions, as well as music, theatre, dance, children and families' productions. Its venues include the Djanogly Gallery, opened in 1992, that stages a year-round programme of 20th-century and contemporary art exhibitions complemented by a lively programme of public lectures and learning activities. Recent exhibitions have included: *Saad Qureshi: Conversations Before the End Of Time* (2024), *Reimag(in)ing the Victorians* (2023-2024), *Rhythm & Geometry: Constructivist Art In Britain Since 1951* (2023), *Michael Forbes: Blk this & Blk that... a state of urgency* (2022).

### **About The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum**

The Wilson Art Gallery and Museum provides a creative space for the development of contemporary art and artists, and an environment rich in opportunity for learning, inspiration for visitors through exhibitions, displays, activities and events. We develop programmes with our communities, providing access to Cheltenham's outstanding collections which use the material culture of the past to help us understand our present and inform our choices for the future.

### **About Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery**

Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery's mission is to promote Sir John Soane's legacy, inspiring visitors with art, architecture and design and nurturing creativity for all within an extensive outreach and events programme. It celebrates Sir John Soane's genius and influence as a designer, juxtaposing his architecture with a programme of ambitious contemporary art exhibitions. Pitzhanger reopened in spring 2019 following a major £12-million conservation and restoration project to return the Manor to his original design, with support from HLF, ACE, Ealing Council, and other generous donors.



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