

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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Press Release

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Press images [HERE](#)

## The Southbank Centre presents an outdoor exhibition celebrating Britain's Black female professors

*Fewer than 1% of professors in the UK are Black despite increases in overall levels of academic staff*



(Image Captions (L-R): Adele Jones, Bernadine Evaristo and Dorothy Monekosso. All images copyright Bill Knight)

***Phenomenal Women: Portraits of UK Black Female Professors***, a celebration of Black British academics will be brought to the public in a unique free outdoor exhibition.

Commissioned and curated by **Dr Nicola Rollock**, and photographed by **Bill Knight**, it features portraits of 45 professors across a broad range of subjects including law, medicine, creative writing and sociology. The exhibition runs from **10 October - 8 November 2020**, timed to coincide with **Black History Month**, and is presented along the Southbank Centre's very popular public riverside promenade **The Queen's Walk**.

The coronavirus pandemic forced a rethinking of the exhibition which was due to open at the Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer at the Southbank Centre. It will now have a much more prominent public platform giving many more people the opportunity to 'stumble' across these portraits and to learn about the racial inequality within British academia.

Amongst the 45 women being celebrated in the first-ever public exhibition to honour Britain's Black female professors are award-winning author **Bernadine Evaristo**, poet and playwright **Joan Anim-Addo** and the first woman ever to be appointed head of a UK dental school, **Cynthia Pine**.

The exhibition results from the work of **Dr Rollock** who undertook academic research examining the career experiences and strategies of Black female professors at UK universities over the past three years. The portraits were taken by photographer **Bill Knight**, who travelled across England, Scotland and Wales to capture the images.

[Dr Rollock's 2019 research](#) showed the barriers faced by Black women as they worked to navigate their way through higher education and the strategies they used to help them reach professorship.

Fewer than 1% of professors in the UK are Black despite increases in overall levels of academic staff.

Black women represent the smallest group when both race and gender are considered together. They are three times less likely to be professors than their White female counterparts and half as likely as Black men.

There are 19,285\* professors in UK universities in total according to a 2019 report by [AdvanceHE](#). 12,795 are White males, 4,560 are White women. There are 90 Black men and 35 Black women.

These stunning portraits and the respective professors' biographies are now being presented outdoors, in a series of weatherproof structures that are specially designed with social distancing guidelines in mind.

**Dr Rollock, who recently featured in Channel 4 documentary The School That Tried to End Racism said:** *"I am thrilled to be working with the Southbank Centre on this exhibition. As one of London's leading arts' venues, it is a fitting space in which to help draw attention to just how few Black female professors there are in the UK and to highlight their achievements."*

**Cedar Lewisohn, Site Curator, Southbank Centre:** *"It is an honour for the Southbank Centre to be presenting this important exhibition in our public spaces on the beautiful setting next to the River Thames. Due to COVID-19, we have had to move this exhibition from our indoor spaces, to an outside setting. This means that thousands more people will see the project than might have originally. Access to education and culture is everybody's right, and the need for culture and education to reflect the society we live in is also a subject that still needs to be fully addressed. This project goes some way into shining a light on these ever more urgent issues."*

*Phenomenal Women: Portraits of UK Black Female Professors*, aims to highlight the presence and excellence of all the women included and provide a platform for debate about what it takes to reach this highest level of academic scholarship. The 45 women have all been professors at some point over the past three years.

The exhibition is sponsored by Paul Hastings, UCU, Pearn Kandola and Baker McKenzie and supported by Wellcome Trust, Runnymede and the Mayor for London.

Dr. Rollock will be taking part in an event which will be broadcast as part of the Southbank Centre's *Inside Out* programme, more details of the event will be announced on 29 September 2020.

- Ends -

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## MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For professor case studies, interviews, images, quotes or further enquiries, contact:  
[Press@southbankcentre.co.uk](mailto:Press@southbankcentre.co.uk) or Eva Simpson of ESPR: [eva.simpson@es-pr.co.uk](mailto:eva.simpson@es-pr.co.uk) / 07801184016

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## NOTES TO EDITORS:

### Listings information:

#### ***Phenomenal Women: Portraits of UK Black Female Professors***

10 October - 8 November 2020

The Southbank Centre's The Queen's Walk

Free

The Black female professors featured in the exhibition are:

Gloria Agyemang	Professor of Accounting
Joan Anim-Addo	Professor of Caribbean Literature and Culture
Bugewa Apampa	Professor of Pharmacy Education
Uduak Archibong	Professor of Diversity
Diamond Ashiagbor	Professor of Law
Florence Ayisi	Professor of International Documentary Film
Fareda Banda	Professor of Law
Claudia Bernard	Professor of Social Work
Sonia Boyce	Professor of Black Art & Design
Enitan Carrol	Professor of Paediatric Infection
Donna Chambers	Professor of Tourism
Nelarine Cornelius	Professor of Organisation Studies
Patricia Daley	Professor of the Human Geography of Africa
Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent	Chief Midwifery Officer, NHS England and Visiting Professor of Midwifery
Dawn Edge	Professor of Mental Health and Inclusivity
Akwugo Emejulu	Professor of Sociology
Engobo Emeseh	Professor of Law
Bernardine Evaristo	Professor of Creative Writing
Lynette Goddard	Professor of Black Theatre and Performance
Stephani Hatch	Professor of Sociology and Epidemiology
Gina Higginbottom	Emeritus Professor Ethnicity & Health
Marilyn Holness	Professor of Education Engagement and Practice
Adele Jones	Professor of Social Work
Tessa McWatt	Professor of Creative Writing
Heidi Mirza	Emeritus Professor of Equalities Studies
Dorothy Monekosso	Professor of Computer Science
Francisca Mutapi	Professor in Global Health Infection and Immunity
Bertha Ochieng	Professor of Integrated Health & Social Care
Phoebe Okowa	Professor of Public International Law
Funmi Olonisakin	Professor of Security, Leadership and Development
Olivette Otele	Professor of History of Slavery & Memory
Ann Phoenix	Professor of Psychosocial Research
Cynthia Pine	Professor of Dental Public Health
Tracey Reynolds	Professor of Sociology
Laura Serrant	Professor of Community & Public Health Nursing
Maria Stokes	Professor of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation
Iyiola Solanke	Professor in EU Law and Social Justice
Shirley Anne Tate	Professor of Sociology
Patricia Tuitt	Professor of Law
Carol Tulloch	Professor of Dress, Diaspora and Transnationalism

Ijeoma Uchegbu	Professor of Pharmaceutical Nanoscience
Ola Uduku	Professor in Architecture
Toni Williams	Professor of Law
Marcia Wilson	Dean, Office for Institutional Equity
Cecile Wright	Professor of Sociology

\*Figure excludes those whose ethnicity is not known.

## Biographies:

### Dr Nicola Rollock:

Dr Nicola Rollock is an academic, consultant and public speaker specialising in racial justice in education and the workplace. She is Specialist Adviser to the Home Affairs' Select Committee's 'Macpherson 21 Years On' Inquiry, a member of the Wellcome Trust's Diversity & Inclusion Steering Group and the British Science Association's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group.

Her most recent research examines the career experiences and strategies of UK Black female Professors, the findings of which were widely covered in the press including WonkHE, The Guardian, Stylist magazine and British Vogue.

Dr Rollock is a judge for the JP Morgan sponsored 'Stories of Black Leadership' series which showcases successful Black female leaders and for the Powerlist of Britain's most influential people of African and African Caribbean heritage.

Dr Rollock appeared as an expert contributor in the two-part Channel 4 documentary 'The school that tried to end racism' which aired in summer 2020. She was selected by Times Higher Education journalists as one of 11 scholars globally to have influenced debate in higher education during 2019.

### Bill Knight OBE:

Bill started in professional photography when he was 18, as a beach photographer at Margate. After a long career break in the law he started again some 18 years ago and now specialises in portraits, opera, theatre and dance.

Bill's exhibition *The Refugee's Gift* at St Martin in the Fields in London's Trafalgar Square showed refugees who have made a contribution to the United Kingdom. His portraits of photographer [Elsbeth Juda](#) and scientist [Gustav Born](#) from the exhibition are now in the permanent collection at the National Portrait Gallery. His work has included portraits to celebrate [40 years of women at Brasenose College, Oxford](#) and images for Christ's College Cambridge. His exhibition *Where I come from*, about graduates from migrant families, has been shown in London and Windsor. Bill has been twice a winner in the *Portrait of Britain* competition.

In a former life Bill was senior partner at international law firm Simmons & Simmons, President of the City of London Law Society, Deputy Chairman of Council at Lloyd's of London and Chairman of the Financial Reporting Review Panel. In 2012 he was awarded the OBE for services to financial regulation.

### About the Southbank Centre

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of 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. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The 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 four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).