

# HAYWARD GALLERY

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## Press Release

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Images are available to download [HERE](#)

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## Michael Lin unveils new Hayward Gallery café commission *macule*



**Image caption:** Installation view of Michael Lin, *macule*, 2023. Photo: Rob Harris. Courtesy of the artist and Hayward Gallery.

The Hayward Gallery café undergoes a bright and bold refresh courtesy of new public art commission *macule* (2023) by Taiwanese artist **Michael Lin**. Injecting a burst of vibrancy into the iconic brutalist building, the specially commissioned wallpaper is part of the Southbank Centre's continued commitment to present engaging and inspiring free art for all to enjoy.

Born in Taichung, Michael Lin is a visual artist living and working in Taipei and Brussels. Internationally known for his large-scale installation work of floral murals on architectural surfaces, *macule* is a colourful wallpaper installation completely covering the walls of the Hayward Gallery café. Situated above the main entrance to the gallery, the commission will be available to experience for up to two years.

In Lin's signature style, the wallpaper features a repeated plum blossom motif used in traditional Taiwanese, Chinese and Japanese textile designs, layered in hues of pink, reds and yellows. By using this motif, Lin navigates various visual languages and traditions,

presenting the intersection of cultural identities and encouraging visitors to engage in shared culture.

With the scale of pattern determined by the width of the wallpaper roll, Lin highlights the historical process of wallpaper fabrication. In 17th century England it became possible to produce wallpaper in rolls rather than sheets, allowing for larger patterns to be repeated. However, Lin's playful and non-uniform layering of *macule* also evokes the more variable process of handprinting, with each wallpaper roll featuring a different number of layers and complexity. Lin's marriage of the craft's physical tradition with technological advances is underpinned by the artist's interest in the idea of labour in the Digital Age.

**Michael Lin**, says: "For this commission I was interested in making visible the printing process. By incorporating the discarded proofs of the printing process into the main motif, the work seeks to destabilise the cultural reference. Both visually and materially I see it as a temporal counterpoint to the concrete environment of the architectural envelope."

**Yung Ma, Curator of the Hayward Gallery**, says: "Michael Lin's large-scale 'relational' installations have always been platforms to facilitate cultural and artistic exchange. This commission is no exception. It brings traditional East Asian motifs into the Hayward Gallery café, transforming the space into a joyous environment that allows for possible dialogues with different cultures to take place."

This commission is made possible with the support from the Ministry of Culture, Taiwan (R.O.C.).

Further Hayward Gallery site installations for 2023 include the third edition of the Bagri Foundation Commission during the summer months, with more details to be announced soon. The Hayward Gallery's upcoming exhibition *Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis* will also present work from artist John Gerrard outside the gallery, as well as installations from artists including Jenny Kendler that will be positioned on the Hayward Gallery terraces and viewable from the ground floor.

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### IMAGE CREDIT

**Applies to all images:** Installation view of Michael Lin, *macule*, 2023. Photo: Rob Harris. Courtesy of the artist and Hayward Gallery.

### About Michael Lin

Michael Lin is an artist living and working in Taipei and Brussels.

Lin turns away from painting as an object of contemplation toward one of painting as a bounded, physical space, one we can settle into and inhabit (Vivian Rehberg). Lin orchestrates monumental painting installations that re-conceptualize and reconfigure public spaces. Using patterns and designs appropriated from traditional Taiwanese textiles his works have been exhibited in major institutions

and international Biennials around the world including The Auckland Triennial and the California Pacific Triennial 2013, Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila 2016, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne 2017, Taipei Fine Arts Museum, Taipei 2019 and most recently in 2020 at The Museum of Contemporary Art, Toronto and Jumex Museum, Mexico City.

Transforming the institutional architecture of the public museum, his unconventional paintings invite visitors to reconsider their usual perception of those spaces, and to become an integral part of the work, giving meaning to its potential as an area for interaction, encounter, and re-creation.

### **Hayward Gallery Café**

Whilst in the café, visitors can indulge in a wide selection of food and drinks from a now 100% vegan and vegetarian menu, with ingredients locally sourced from London based suppliers. The café is also partnering with food conscious organisations such as Waste Knot and Too Good to Go in order to address and redistribute food surplus at supplier and consumer stage.

### **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. 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.

The Hayward Gallery is actively working to be more sustainable. Current and upcoming environmental measures include using the Gallery Climate Coalition's carbon calculator to track emissions, installing energy efficient LED lighting and relaxing humidity controls, when artwork requirements allow. By 2025, the Hayward Gallery aims to reduce emissions from curator travel by 50%.

Across the Southbank Centre site, further measures include lowering temperatures by 1°C, trialling PropelAir toilets that reduce water per flush by 66% using compressed air in office spaces, with a view to upgrading across the site, installing a Wastemaster which composts food in 24 hours to reduce food waste collections by 80%, and launching a sustainability e-learning module for all staff to complete. The Southbank Centre has also recently appointed a Sustainability Advisor to implement more environmentally-conscious measures across the organisation.

The Southbank Centre aims to be a Net Zero carbon site by 2035 (Scope 1 and 2, which refers to measures controlled by the Southbank Centre such as energy used on-site) and fully Net Zero by 2040 (Scope 3, which refers to indirect emissions that are released as a result of the Southbank Centre's activity). By 2025, the Southbank Centre also aims to be a single-use plastic free site, to have curated its first Net Zero exhibition, and to reduce its carbon emissions from its buildings by 50%. For the latter, in 2022, 42% of this target was already achieved.

Please find the Southbank Centre's environmental sustainability webpage [here](#).

### **About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre 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 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)



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