

# HAYWARD GALLERY

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## Press Release

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**Images are available to download** [here](#)

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## Hayward Gallery launches monumental new sculptural commission from Teresa Solar Abboud



IMAGE CREDITS IN NOTES TO EDITORS

Today, the Hayward Gallery launches *Mother Tongue*: a monumental public art commission by Spanish artist Teresa Solar Abboud supported by Byredo and the Hayward Gallery's Commissioning Committee. The bubblegum pink sculpture of two tongues intertwining as one dancing figure is located on the walkway in front of the Gallery's entrance, giving the iconic brutalist site a surreal new look this Autumn. The commission marks the first time that the artist's ambitious outdoor sculptures have been presented by a UK public art gallery.

Solar Abboud's larger-than-life installations capture moments of transformation. Vibrant and abstract, they blend mythology, anatomy, natural history and ecology to explore the relationship between human technology and the world around us. Returning to the Hayward Gallery, after previously

participating in the group show *When Forms Come Alive* (2024), she works with bronze for the first time to create a deeply personal commission inspired by her multicultural upbringing.

With an Egyptian mother and a Spanish father, the artist has grown up seeing a constant intermingling between the two cultures. *Mother Tongue* examines the translation and assimilation that would happen in her family home. The work speaks to wider conversations about cultural identity, as well as the complexity of communicating across boundaries. A monument to spark curiosity and discussion, Solar Abboud extends a playful invitation to think about the ways we can learn to speak, taste and understand differently.

*Mother Tongue* also draws on Solar Abboud's experience of motherhood, challenging traditional representations while exploring the feeling of becoming a "foreigner" within oneself. Reaching upwards, the resulting work offers a site of grounding and transcendence where visitors can find shelter.

The eye-catching sculpture joins a number of other site-wide commissions from artists Jeppe Hein, Klaus Weber, Bharti Kher, Nicola Tyson and Charlie Billingham as part of the Southbank Centre's lively public art programme which brings the work of the most innovative international artists to our outdoor spaces.

**Teresa Solar Abboud says:** *"After participating in When Forms Come Alive at the Hayward Gallery in 2024, I am thrilled to be invited back to work on an ambitious new development in my artistic practice with my first sculpture ever created in bronze. I am excited to present Mother Tongue, which envisions tongues as knots and crossroads, as entangled symbiotic entities that joyfully walk and dance together."*

**Rachel Thomas, Chief Curator at the Hayward Gallery, says:** *"We are delighted to welcome Teresa Solar Abboud back to the Hayward Gallery with this spectacular new public art commission that promises to transform our iconic brutalist forecourt into a site of radical encounter and wonder. The sculpture's playful yet profound presence will create an unmistakable landmark, inviting conversation and sparking joy from a wide range of passersby, including commuters crossing Waterloo Bridge, tourists exploring the South Bank, or visitors attending our venues."*

The commission is generously supported by the Hayward Gallery Commissioning Committee, Travesía Cuatro and Byredo.

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Image Credits**

- Installation view of Teresa Solar Abboud's *Mother Tongue* (2025). Photo: Above Ground Studio. Courtesy of the artist and the Hayward Gallery.

### **About Teresa Solar Abboud**

Teresa Solar Abboud (b. 1985) is a visual artist living and working in Madrid, Spain. Abboud's works have been exhibited in major institutions around the world, including most recently opening *Bird Machine Dream* at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo (Turin, 2025). This exhibition marked the third chapter of her first retrospective, following her shows at CA2M (Madrid, 2024) and MACBA (Barcelona, 2024). Among her latest projects are *Birth of Islands* at The High Line (New York, 2024) and *When Forms Come Alive* at the Hayward Gallery (London, 2024). She also participated in the 59th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Cecilia Alemani (2022), and has presented solo exhibitions at institutions including Kunsthalle Lissabon (Lisbon), 1646 (The Hague), Matadero (Madrid), Index Foundation (Stockholm), and Der TANK, Institut Kunst (Basel).

### **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 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).

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### **About Byredo**

Byredo was founded in Stockholm in 2006 by Ben Gorham. Born from a desire to translate memories and emotions into objects and experiences, Byredo takes a sensorial-led approach to creativity. With a multidisciplinary vision spanning fragrance, makeup, home, and crafted accessories, the brand builds a living library of collective memories and cultural references, offering pieces that are both personal and universal. Each creation is conceived with uncompromising attention to raw materials, form, and storytelling, embodying the tension between Scandinavian minimalism and bold artistic expression. Today, Byredo speaks to a global community across more than 40 countries, through an exclusive network of immersive flagship spaces and high-end retailers. At its heart, the brand remains committed to creativity as a force for meaning: making timeless objects that resonate deeply in people's lives.

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