

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Press Release

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Contact: press@southbankcentre.co.uk

Images: available to download [here](#)

Exhibition images: available to download [here](#)

Listings: [here](#)

Summer: In the Black Fantastic - imagining new futures through Black art and culture



Lina Iris Viktor - Syzygy, 2015 / Legends of Jazz - Sun Ra Arkestra/ Michael Salu © Camille Blake

Highlights of Summer: In the Black Fantastic include:

- **In the Black Fantastic Weekender** (15-17 July 2022): three days of events celebrating the breadth of Black art and culture - from new poetry, presented by special guest curator **Inua Ellams**, to music, film and discussions.
- 10 June - 4 September 2022: a display of free outdoor works by acclaimed artists including **Hew Locke**, **Wangechi Mutu** and **Lina Iris Viktor**
- 2 June - 4 September 2022: Two sound installations - **Peter Adjaye's** *Music for Architecture* and newly-commissioned **Dubmorphology's** *Emergence*, created by **Gary Stewart** and **Trevor Mathison**
- Royal Festival Hall performances from **Jeff Mills' Tomorrow Comes the Harvest** (10 July) and *Jazz Legends* featuring **Sun Ra Arkestra**, **Norman Connors** with the **Starship Orchestra** and **Bobby Lyle** (16 July)
- 15 September: Writers **Courtia Newland** and **Michael Salu** discuss the influence of the fantastical in their work, inspired by the Hayward Gallery's *In the Black Fantastic* exhibition

This summer the Southbank Centre is exploring Black art and popular culture with an extraordinary season of multi-artform events, featuring outdoor art installations, music, literature, poetry and performance as well as a wealth of free-to-attend events. **Summer: In the Black Fantastic** is a site-wide celebration that takes a deep dive into new ideas and expressions of Black art and popular culture, inspired by the latest Hayward Gallery exhibition *In the Black Fantastic*, curated by writer and broadcaster **Ekow Eshun** (29 June - 18 September). It's the UK's first major show dedicated to

the work of Black artists who use fantastical elements to address racial injustice and explore alternative realities.

Ekow Eshun, Curator of *In the Black Fantastic*, says: “I’m delighted that the Southbank Centre has designed a multi-artform programme in response to the Hayward Gallery’s summer exhibition. *In the Black Fantastic* is an expressive exploration of Black popular culture at its most wildly imaginative, artistically ambitious and politically urgent. It brings to life a cultural movement that conjures otherworldly visions out of the everyday Black experience - looking at how speculative fictions in Black art and culture are boldly reimagining perspectives on race, gender, identity and the body in the 21st century.”

Mark Ball, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre, says: “*In the Black Fantastic* is an important, inspiring and timely exhibition centred on future ideas of Black art and culture. In conversation with the exhibition we wanted to invite artists to respond through a wide range of art-forms across the entire site, enabling audiences to dive into ideas from multiple perspectives, including through our free public programme. So, whether you’re a fan of music, poetry, literature, performance or visual art, *Summer: In The Black Fantastic* will be a landmark event at the Southbank Centre.”

In the Black Fantastic at the Hayward Gallery is generously supported by Gagosian Gallery, Cockayne - Grants for the Arts and The London Community Foundation, Victoria Miro, David Zwirner, and Pilar Corrias.

In the Black Fantastic Weekender

At the centre of the summer is **In the Black Fantastic Weekender** (15-17 July), featuring three days of music, poetry, film and talks celebrating the breadth of Black art and culture. Through myth, science fiction, spiritual traditions and Afrofuturism, artists recontextualise the past and invoke a future where Blackness thrives. To open *In the Black Fantastic Weekender*, special guest curator **Inua Ellams** presents two poetry events featuring newly commissioned works.

Throughout the summer on the Riverside Terrace Stage there will also be free DJ takeovers, live music and performance, with artists exploring how the fantastic can be a gateway to Black creative and cultural liberation. Each weekend in July and August will be programmed by guest curators including multidisciplinary artist Nwando Ebizie; artist collective sxwks; Faggamuffin Bloc Party; creative collective BORN N BREAD; Tarik Elmoutawakil and Rob Jones (Brownton Abbey); performance company Cocoa Butter Club and digital radio station Colourful.

Art

New pop-up art installations, immersive experiences and free exhibitions celebrate ethnically diverse artists who use fantasy in their work.

The free outdoor art exhibition, running from Friday 10 June - Sunday 4 September 2022, brings together the work of renowned artists including **Hew Locke**, **Wangechi Mutu** and **Lina Iris Viktor**, who are exhibiting in the Hayward Gallery summer exhibition. **Alisha Wormsley**’s text-based work, ‘**There Are Black People in the Future**’, will feature on the Royal Festival Hall building.

Along the Queen’s Walk, from Wednesday 1 June - Sunday 4 September 2022, visitors will be able to experience two different sound art installations. **Peter Adjaye**’s *Music for Architecture* and a futuristic sound installation **Dubmorphology**’s *Emergence*, which takes visitors on a journey through a

soundscape of ancient drums, future sonics and the voice of pioneering postcolonial historian CLR James.

There's also a dynamic programme of artist talks, a packed calendar of public tours and an ongoing outreach programme aimed at local schools. Highlights from these events include: ***In the Black Fantastic: Artists Talk*** (30 June, RFH). Exhibition curator **Ekow Eshun** will be delving into the ideas behind the Hayward Gallery exhibition with three of its featured artists **Sedrick Chisom, Cauleen Smith** and **Lina Iris Viktor**. On Friday 15 July in the Purcell Room, **Hew Locke** discusses his artistic practice in relation to *In the Black Fantastic*.

A parallel programme of film screenings curated by Ekow Eshun will also be hosted at BFI Southbank in July 2022.

Music

The Southbank Centre's venues will be alive with a varied programme of music as part of **Summer: In the Black Fantastic**, spanning club, cosmic and cutting-edge new talent.

A bona fide pioneer who radically transformed the sound of electronic music, **Jeff Mills** presents **Tomorrow Comes the Harvest** on Sunday 10 July in the Royal Festival Hall as part of a partnership with Fabric. Mills will present his collaborative work with the late Tony Allen, *Tomorrow Comes the Harvest*, an evocative blend of two great genres firmly rooted in black experience and creativity.

Jazz Legends, on Saturday 16 July in the Royal Festival Hall, will be a staggering collaboration that celebrates true titans of black sonic experimentation and imagination. Under the direction of Marshall Allen, **Sun Ra Arkestra** will deliver a powerful performance, drawing on their catalogue for a night of sky-gazing sonic wonder. Also joining the group are jazz drummer, composer, arranger and producer **Norman Connors** with the **Starship Orchestra** alongside pianist and keyboardist **Bobby Lyle**, R&B legend **Jean Carne** and Prince acolyte **Marva King**. Finally, **Gary Bartz**, sax icon and former member of Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, tops this tour de force of American jazz legends.

Masked grime maestro **CASisDEAD** will set off the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Saturday 16 July with a one-of-a-kind immersive show. This unflinching rapper has worked with a multimedia team called the Dead Team and created his dystopian concept, Dead Corp, which audiences will get to experience this summer at the Southbank Centre. Meanwhile, Alabama's **Pink Siifu** will also step into the Queen Elizabeth Hall foyer on Saturday 6 August with support from **Goya Gumbani** and **muva of Earth**.

As part of **Cosmic Quadraphonic** (17 July, QEH) audiences will be able to listen to a stellar selection of records and experience how they were meant to be heard. At the heart of this unique audiophile event is the legendary ESL-57 Quad Electrostatic Speaker, courtesy of sound engineer Elan Carebell's private collection. Records featured include Alice and John Coltrane's *Cosmic Music*, Funkadelic's *Cosmic Slop* and Herbie Hancock's *Headhunters*.

Literature

The multi-art programme includes two very special literature events.

Writing In the Black Fantastic welcomes **Courtia Newland** and **Michael Salu** as they join a panel, chaired by **Ellah P. Wakatama**, exploring the influence of fantastical traditions in their own books, artworks, films and television productions (15 September, Level 5 RFH Foyer).

In the Black Fantastic: Live is a specially commissioned multidisciplinary performance which draws on key works from the epic poem **Sunjata** to **Amos Tutuola**, incorporating narratives as they mirror a journey from the African continent to the forced migrations of the diaspora, and the dreaming of possible futures as embodied by writers including **Toni Morrison** and **Octavia E. Butler**. Based on a text edited by **Ellah P. Wakatama**, this performance fuses extracts from a wide range of writers in this fantastical tradition. With live performances from actors (cast to be announced) in a staging by **Jack McNamara** and **Tian Brown-Sampson**, and specially commissioned music from **Space Afrika** and visuals from **Alistair Mackinnon**, this unique event invites audiences on a journey *In the Black Fantastic* (30 & 31 July, Purcell Room).

Creative Engagement

The Southbank Centre's schools programme will welcome secondary schools to experience the *In the Black Fantastic* exhibition with a Teacher Twilight event and hosted gallery tours. This exhibition will also see the launch of a new secondary school resource *Artists' and Thinkers' Guide to the Hayward Gallery*. The annual Summer School with Kinetika Bloco (1-12 August) will take inspiration from *In the Black Fantastic*, culminating in a performance and parade.

ENDS

Summer: In the Black Fantastic

2 June - 18 September 2022

Link to Summer: In The Black Fantastic web page [HERE](#)

In the Black Fantastic Weekender

15-17 July 2022

Link to In the Black Fantastic Weekender web page [HERE](#)

Listings for Summer: In the Black Fantastic are [HERE](#).

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: [@southbankcentre](#)

Instagram: [@southbankcentre](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southbankcentre/

In the Black Fantastic

29 June - 18 September 2022

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

Press release for *In the Black Fantastic* at the Hayward Gallery is [here](#).

Full price standard: £13.50

Concessions available & Southbank Centre Members go free.

Link to *In the Black Fantastic* web page [HERE](#)

The Hayward Gallery opening times:

11am – 9pm, Wednesday

11am – 7pm, Thursday - Saturday 10am – 6pm, Sunday

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Further information:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Twitter: [@haywardgallery](#)

Instagram: [@Hayward.Gallery](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/haywardgallery/

NOTES TO EDITORS

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/

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 Her Majesty, The Queen 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.



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