

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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## Press Release

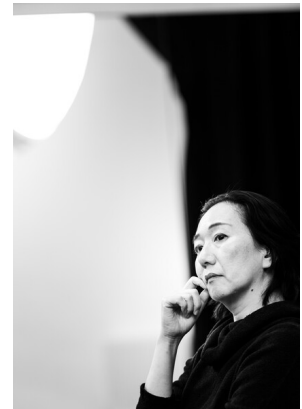
**Date:** Tuesday 11 April 2023 14:00

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**Artist images:** available to download [here](#)

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## Southbank Centre launches cross-artform artist development initiative — Southbank Centre Studio



Ivan Blackstock © courtesy of the artist; NYX Choir © El Hardwick; Chisato Minamimura © Greg Goodale

The **Southbank Centre** today announces the launch of a new multi-artform artist development initiative, **Southbank Centre Studio**, along with the first cohort of artists supported under the programme. This major new commitment from Southbank Centre supports creative innovation and experimentation by some of the country's most exciting artists and further cements the Southbank Centre's role as an engine of creativity and culture. The first iteration of the programme will invite nine artists into the Purcell Room for individual residencies enabling creative development, cross art-form collaboration, rehearsals and more.

Providing valuable space, time and technical resources, each five-day residency will help artists realise new creative ideas or further develop existing projects, with a focus on supporting ideas that are rooted in cross art-form collaborations: a meeting space to create new ideas borne from collaborations between writers, visual artists, designers, choreographers and musicians. The programme, which begins in May, is part of a drive by the Southbank Centre to further support artists and expand its role in fostering new work and commissions. Southbank Centre Studio will remain in keeping with the experimental DNA of the Purcell Room, building upon the ambitious cross-artform performance series, the Purcell Sessions, which launched in 2021.

Commenting on the launch of Southbank Centre Studio, **Mark Ball, Artistic Director at the Southbank Centre**, said: *“The launch of Southbank Centre Studio further underscores our commitment to making the art of the future at Southbank Centre, to developing of bold artistic endeavours and providing artists with the opportunity to explore exciting and surprising new hybrid collaborations. It builds a community of extraordinary artists around us and is a key element of our support for artists as they emerge into the post-pandemic world.”*

The first names for Southbank Centre Studio are:

**GAIKA** — a self-described ‘hard-to-place person’, GAIKA is an artist. In 2021, he exhibited as part of British Art Show 9 with a new audio-visual installation, *ZEMEL*. In 2022, in collaboration with NAAFI from Mexico City and SVBCVLT from Shanghai, he released *War Island OST*, a room-sized audio visual environment installed at the ICA in London, as well as featured as part of Future Shock at 180 The Strand with his work, *Convo 2.2 Complex Confessional*.

Commenting on his involvement, **GAIKA** said: *‘I’m excited to be a part of the Southbank Centre Studio project, it provides a well needed opportunity for multidisciplinary or speculative artists such as myself to work out new and boundary pushing works. To be so supported in the experimental or revolutionary nature of our investigations at the scale that we imagine them is crucial to the development of new and important forms. To be given such an iconic blank canvas on which to attempt such things is truly inspiring.’*

**NYX** — A collaborative drone choir, embodying live electronics and extended vocal techniques to build ecstatic music experiences for stage and screen, NYX creates music that responds to architecture and nature, amplified by spatial sound design. With collaboration at the heart of process, NYX has made projects with musicians such as Gazelle Twin, Vessel, Holy Other, Laura Misch, Hatis Noit, Iona Fortune, Belinda Zhawi, LCY and designers such as Dan Tobin Smith, Rosie Hastings and Hannah Quinlin, Iain Forsyth and Jane Pollard, Imogen Knight, Chloe Lamford, Tom Scutt and Jonathan Barnbrook.

**Tai Shani & Maxwell Sterling** — The joint 2019 Turner Prize winner uses experimental writing as a guiding method, oscillating between theoretical concepts and visceral details to create poetic coordinates in order to cultivate fragmentary cosmologies of marginalised nonsovereignty. Tai Shani’s artistic practice, comprising performance, film, photography, and installation. Her long-term projects work through historical and mythical narratives, such as Christine de Pizan’s allegorical city of women or the social history of psychedelic ergot poisoning. Maxwell Sterling is a composer, producer, and double bassist. Originally from Manchester, he studied jazz composition and double bass at Leeds College of Music and film scoring at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Maxwell’s multi-disciplinary practice that spans collaborations with film directors, contemporary artists, and fashion designers.

**Ivan Blackstock** — A leading choreographer and founder of CRXSS PLATFXRM, an organisation platforming talent that constructs new paths to creative subcultures, Ivan has worked with Beyoncé, Kylie Minogue and the Pet Shop Boys, as well as major brands like BVLGARI, Adidas, Reebok and Samsung.

**Thick & Tight** — Creating a mix of dance, mime, theatre and drag, taking influence from a wide range of historical, political, literary and artistic subjects, Thick & Tight is co-directed by Daniel Hay-Gordon and Eleanor Perry. The company's work is currently and continually investigating a range of LGBTQ+ issues and figures, current queer culture and its link to dance.

**Roxanne Tataei** — South London musician and artist work centres the voice. Her recent works see her create non-linguistic, neo-opera, musical landscapes with layers of primal sound. Her critically acclaimed debut album was released on formidable indie label Rough Trade, for which she received an MTV Europe music award nomination, was listed as part of the BBC Sounds poll and toured worldwide extensively, supporting the likes of Florence & The Machine and Grace Jones. Her current live performance based work, has seen several special commissions from institutions such as The Royal Albert Hall, BBC, V&A museum and the work produced during her 2020-21 residency at the Horniman Museum helped win Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022. The last few years have seen her work on projects including the Mica Levi and Dean Blunt opera *Inna* (ICA), Gucci commissioned film, *WATA* directed by Ronan McKenzie and Joy Yamusangie, and has featured in several recording projects as part of the collective CURL.

**Mantawoman** — Mantawoman is a musician and performer who plays the yangqin, a Chinese percussive string instrument. They cut their teeth touring internationally with the GRAMMY Award-winning Silkroad Ensemble. An avid recording artist, they played on soundtracks for Marvel's SHANG CHI and Netflix's 1899, and recently released a single featuring Emmy the Great called "Aftershocks." Mantawoman's heartfelt songs and conceptual performances feel through questions about identity and change. Yo-Yo Ma calls their work "courageous, passionate, truth-seeking."

**Le Gateau Chocolat** — Voted by Time Out London as one of its Top 10 Cabaret Stars, Le Gateau Chocolat's work spans drag, cabaret, opera, musical theatre, children's theatre and live art. His children's show Duckie premiered at the Southbank Centre in 2016 and made headlines around the world starring in Wagner's *Tannhauser*, which opened the 108th Bayreuth Festival in 2019.

**Chisato Minamimura** — Artistic director, performer and BSL art guide, Chisato is one of the 2023 recipients of the Unlimited Partner Award which will go towards the development of her new work, *Mark of a Woman* – an accessible new exploration into women's social, cultural and historical relationships to tattooing. Mark of a Woman uses visual vernacular, digital animation, kinetic projection and Woojer™ technology.

**# ENDS #**

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Due to the evolving nature of the work produced as part of Southbank Centre Studio, not every artist will offer public facing events. However, the hope is that these artists will feel confident to present these works to the public when ready, whether at the Southbank Centre or elsewhere.

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## IMAGES

**Artist images:** available to download [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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