



PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED until 12noon, Tuesday 20th June

Exhibition Road pedestrianised for a day of celebrations for opening of V&A Exhibition Road Quarter, designed by AL_A.

Week-long public festival will include floating Aerocene sculptures, Ron Arad and Zandra Rhodes 'drawing with light' on V&A façades, a new dance commission from Julie Cunningham and hip hop from Botis Seva and the National Youth Dance Company Alumni

REVEAL Festival

30 June – 7 July 2017 | Admission Free

vam.ac.uk/reveal | [@V_and_A](https://twitter.com/V_and_A) | [#RevealVAM](https://twitter.com/RevealVAM) | [#ExhibitionRoad](https://twitter.com/ExhibitionRoad)

Today, 20 June, the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) announces the full programme for **REVEAL**, a free, week-long public festival running from 30 June to 7 July 2017.

REVEAL celebrates the opening of the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter, the largest architectural project undertaken by the Museum in over 100 years. Designed by Stirling Prize-winning British architect Amanda Levete and her practice AL_A, the Exhibition Road Quarter will create major new spaces that will transform the V&A's relationship with the public and its neighbouring institutions on Exhibition Road.

The festival will mark the opening of these extraordinary new spaces, bringing together a host of cultural commissions to explore the heritage, modernity and technology of the V&A. Festival contributions from the Museum's 'Albertopolis' neighbours highlight this historic moment for the V&A and the broader South Kensington area, as it enters the next 100 years of its history.

Throughout REVEAL, visitors to the V&A will have the opportunity to visit the newly unveiled spaces:

- **The Sainsbury Gallery:** a versatile, 1,100m sq column-free exhibition space purpose-built for the V&A's world-leading programme of temporary exhibitions. REVEAL provides a unique opportunity for the public to experience the Gallery before it closes to be transformed for the exhibition programme.
- **The Sackler Courtyard:** the world's first all-porcelain public courtyard, inspired by the rich tradition of ceramics at the V&A.
- **The Blavatnik Hall:** a new entrance into the V&A that will transform how visitors experience and discover the Museum and collections.

On Saturday 1 July, Exhibition Road will be pedestrianised for a day of cultural programming. Crossing the boundaries between art, architecture and science, spectacular floating *Aerocene* sculptures will fly high above Exhibition Road. Activated by only the heat of the sun, these beautiful air-fuelled sculptures reach up to five metres in size. Depending on the weather – *Aerocene* will fly high above Exhibition Road on Saturday 1 July. The *Aerocene* project is initiated by renowned artist **Tomás Saraceno**, and developed by a non-profit *Aerocene* Foundation that unites a global community of researchers, activists, thinkers and technologists. There will be two *Aerocene Explorers* from the Saraceno Studio, and a *Museo Aero Solar* participative sculpture created by local school children with the children and young people's organisation, Epic CIC. The public will also be able to contribute to the making of *Museo Aero Solar*, bringing plastic bags for inclusion in the work, which will be flown at a later date.

At night, the historic Museum façades surrounding the new Sackler Courtyard will be transformed as **Ron Arad, Zandra Rhodes, Jonathan Barnbrook, Greenaway & Greenaway, Toru Ishii** and **Leyla Reynolds** 'draw with light' on the Museum's walls. Part of an evening illumination cycle realised by Greenaway & Greenaway in collaboration with the V&A, the artworks will reference the V&A and its many collections.

The new Sainsbury Gallery will host immersive light and sound installations. Artist **Simon Heijdens**' *Shade* will create a unique experience of augmented natural light, filtering sunlight from the Gallery's Oculus skylight into a kaleidoscope of light and shadow.

Along with viol player **Liam Byrne**'s work the site-specific commissions will create a dialogue with the new architecture. Designer **Jonathan Olivares**' *Aluminium Bench* will provide a resting place for visitors within The Sainsbury Gallery, as he presents a twelve-metre long bench which curves through the space.

Music and performance will play a significant role in the festival, with award-winning hip hop choreographer **Botis Seva** creating a special commission for alumni from the **National Youth Dance Company**, the country's flagship youth dance company run by Sadler's Wells. **The New Young Voice Collective**, resident youth choir at Stratford Circus Arts Centre, brings together some of East London's most talented young musicians in a dynamic programme of training and performance opportunities. This open access youth choir of singers aged 10-18 will perform a series of modern and South African a cappella arrangements in the new Sackler Courtyard.

Boiler Room, the global online music platform, will stream live from a special **Friday Late**, the V&A's long-standing late night event. Exploring a dynamic programme of experimental sounds, this will include an original piece of music by Overmono (XL Recordings) with dance choreographed by English National Ballet; live performances from KOKOROKO and Hejira; spoken word from Jehst, James Massiah, Durrty Goodz, and many more; plus DJs from Bone Soda, From The Depths, Heels & Souls, No Bad Days, Body Motion and Tiff's Joints.

In the spirit of Albertopolis, the Victorian vision for a city of arts and sciences in South Kensington, the V&A is also collaborating on a range of events and activities supporting the REVEAL theme throughout the Museum with partners from across Exhibition Road. **The Royal Albert Hall**'s Albert Band will march from Princes Gate Mews to the V&A, while the **Royal College of Music** will bring to life the Museum's Norfolk House Music Room. Family and young people's programming will allow visitors to 'hold a cloud' and explore wearable tech with **Imperial College** scientists, construct a 'Stego-jigsaw-rus' with **Natural History Museum** staff. **Science Museum** family programming at V&A will give visitors aged seven and up to experiment with their own 'Doodle Bugs', to create doodling masterpieces.

Festival activity announced today joins programming previously announced, including new pieces and highlights from previous collections by British designer **Molly Goddard** for a special Fashion in Motion; a special performance by **Julie Cunningham & Company** responding to **Yoko Ono**'s 'Dance Pieces'; an ambitious new hybrid opera by **Anat Ben-David** with art direction and

costume by **Boudicca** and musical performances with the **Royal College of Music** and the **Royal Albert Hall's** Albert's Band.

Further details on individual commissions is outlined below. Full listings of events and activities is available on the Museum's website, www.vam.ac.uk/reveal

Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A, says: *"The REVEAL festival looks set to be a high point of the London summer – a wonderful way to celebrate the biggest moment for the V&A in a century. From flying sculptures down Exhibition Road to light installations on the Victorian walls of our buildings, the festival will bring the architecture to life. This is an incredible moment for visitors new and old to enjoy London's most elegant and exciting museum in a brand new space on Exhibition Road. We're really pleased that so many diverse cultural activities will be available for free over the opening week, and that our South Kensington neighbours are joining us to revive the spirit of 'Albertopolis'."*

Catherine Ince, of the V&A's REVEAL Festival curatorial team, comments: *"The V&A's REVEAL Festival marks the opening of the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter. It has been thrilling to collaborate with artists and practitioners from across art, design, music, performance, and fashion to create site-specific works inspired by the V&A's new architecture and collections. REVEAL celebrates the best of contemporary creativity and invites you in to explore and experience the V&A's collections, architecture, history and heritage in new and surprising ways."*

Full events listings available at www.vam.ac.uk/REVEAL

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A selection of press images are available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk

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Notes to Editors

REVEAL Festival Programme:

Commissions

- **Simon Heijdens:** *Shade* – in the first commission for The Sainsbury Gallery, artist Simon Heijdens will create *Shade*, an immersive experience of augmented natural light that reveals the unusual architectural details of the Gallery. The work filters natural sunlight from the Gallery's Oculus skylight into a kaleidoscope of light and shadow. Choreographed by varying wind patterns taken from outside, Heijdens' piece creates a performance of ambient light that brings a natural, continuously evolving character to the built environment.
- **Jonathan Olivares:** *Aluminium Bench* – Designer Jonathan Olivares has designed a curved, twelve-metre long aluminium bench, specifically for The Sainsbury Gallery. The bench follows the path taken by visitors through the gallery, providing a place to rest while experiencing the light and sounds works on display. Manufactured by A. Zahner Co.
- **Liam Byrne:** *Partials* – Presented in The Sainsbury Gallery, this work is an exploration of the elements that make up musical sounds. Viol player Liam Byrne, one of the V&A's 2015 Artists in Residence, has deconstructed the sound of his instrument one note at a time, spreading its sympathetic resonances throughout the Gallery. *Partials* sits in conversation with Simon Heijdens's *Shade*, with the harmonic spectrum evolving throughout the day.
- **Light Sgraffito:** Sgraffito was a Renaissance-style of wall decoration, drawing in plaster by scraping through different coloured layers, and a major Sgraffito façade of the historic building will be revealed for the first time with the opening of the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter. Taking this unique type of decoration as inspiration, **Ron Arad, Jonathan Barnbrook, Greenaway & Greenaway, Toru Ishii, Leyla Reynolds, and Zandra Rhodes** will 'draw with light' to transform the historic Museum façades surrounding the new Sackler Courtyard, as part of an evening illumination cycle realised by Greenaway & Greenaway in collaboration with the V&A.
- **V&A Friday Late x Boiler Room:** In Real Life Live Online – this special music and digitally-themed event will be held in collaboration with Boiler Room, the global online music

platform who will be streaming live from the event. The Late will explore the freedom of online broadcasting and join live link ups in New York and Japan.

- **Tomás Saraceno:** *Aerocene Explorer* – Saraceno’s floating sculptures, community projects and interactive installations explore new, sustainable ways of inhabiting and sensing the environment. *Aerocene* sculptures will fly above Exhibition Road on Saturday 1 July, activated only by the heat of the sun. Members of the public will be invited to contribute to the making of a new *Aerocene*, by bringing along a plastic bag to add to the creation.

PLEASE NOTE: The flight of the *Aerocene* is a weather dependent activity, and will not go ahead if the weather is overcast. Please bring your own carrier bags if you would like to contribute to making the new *Aerocene*, which will be flown at a later date.

- **Botis Seva and Alumni, from the National Youth Dance Company:** Award-winning choreographer Botis Seva, known for his experimental and theatrical take on hip hop, will create a special commission for the opening of the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter with alumni from the National Youth Dance Company, the country’s flagship youth dance company run by Sadler’s Wells.
- **New Young Voice Collective:** NEWYVC, resident youth choir at Stratford Circus Arts Centre, brings together some of East London’s most talented young musicians in a dynamic programme of training and performance opportunities. For REVEAL, the choir will be performing a series of modern and South African a cappella arrangements in the new Sackler Courtyard.
- **Family events:** throughout the week, families will be invited to explore the Museum with a series of trails, online games, performances and activities, including a new mobile game to uncover the story of the V&A. Theatre Company Chickenshed will stage pop-up performances with historical characters, Caribbean street-style performance with Talawa Theatre Company will reveal the hidden histories of the V&A, artist Matt Shaw will run workshops and Albertopolis Family Trails and the new online game, V&A Secret Seekers, will provide the chance to discover the history of the Museum and its buildings.
- **Julie Cunningham & Company:** *A Line Is* – Yoko Ono’s ‘*Dance Pieces*’ from her seminal collection of ‘instructional poems’ ACORN, are the starting point for a new site-specific

dance performance by Julie Cunningham & Company. The work responds to the Museum's galleries and collections on display. Taking visitors on a journey through the Museum, four dancers will create intimate, imaginary situations as they move through spaces inside the Museum. With thanks to Yoko Ono.

- **Fashion in Motion:** British fashion designer Molly Goddard specialises in traditional hand-craft techniques such as hand pleating, smocking and crocheting, and won British Emerging Talent at the 2016 Fashion Awards. As part of REVEAL, the catwalk shows in The Sainsbury Gallery will feature Goddard's previous collections, as well as showcasing new pieces.
- **DesignLab:** The V&A's DesignLab series, aims to inspire a new generation of creative practitioners through promoting knowledge and skills across art, design and performance. During REVEAL, designer Marie O'Connor and students and teachers from Harris Girls' Academy, invite the public in to view work in progress as part of their in-depth DesignLab project linked to the exhibition *Balenciaga: Shaping Fashion*
- **Mira Calix's 'We Portal,'** an online curated space for music, conversations and materials, will launch in advance of the festival. Calix will host a live stream of music, performance art, dance and spoken word, broadcast from behind the scenes of The Sainsbury Gallery, opening up an intimate new vista into the Museum.
- **Anat Ben-David:** inspired by Sadie Plant's seminal book *Zeroes and Ones* (1997), Kairos brings together performers from the worlds of opera, electronic and experimental composition, in a futuristic staging by Anat Ben-David and avant-garde fashion studio Boudicca. Kairos will provide a journey through the new spaces in and around The Sainsbury Gallery with a series of choreographed sequences. Commissioned by Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University. Technical Production by Hawthorn.

Partner Activity

- **Imperial College** will present *Cloud Formation Demonstrations* - Dr Simon Foster and scientists from Imperial College will be presenting hands allowing visitors to 'hold a cloud,' investigate how variations in pressure lead to changes in our weather systems, and learn how pollution in the atmosphere can affect the weather and climate. As part

of the Friday late activity, the wearable technology project, *WIM*, imagines the future of what we wear, and how it may influence the way we move.

- **Natural History Museum** will reveal some of the past and present wonders of our natural world, inviting the public to try their hand at constructing a 'Stego-jigsaw-rus' to seeing how scientists piece together fossil finds. The Museum will also highlight some of the wonderful wildlife that can be found in their own gardens, and offer insight into what you can do to help the Museum's scientists learn more about our natural world.
- **Science Museum** will give visitors the chance to create their own 'Doodle Bug,' in The John Madejski Garden at the V&A with machines that scribble across paper to create a doodling masterpiece. Doodle Bugs can be taken home with visitors afterwards, to allow children to continue experimenting and creating some weird and wonderful pieces of art. Suitable for ages 7 and up.
- **The Royal College of Music** will be presenting live concerts in the Museum featuring three diverse pieces inspired by the REVEAL festival. On 1 July, David Evans' *Street Scenes* (2017) takes inspiration from the worlds of art and cinema, evoking portraits of 1920s Berlin by Ernst Kirschner and Bernard Hermann's *Psycho* soundtrack. On the same day, visitors will hear Ligeti's *6 Bagatelles* for wind quintet, a dazzling transformation of his *Musica ricercata* piano piece. On 6 July, Royal College of Music musicians will perform Beethoven's string quartet op 18 no 5, one of his most unorthodox and exuberant quartets.
- **The Royal Albert Hall's** resident Education & Outreach ensemble, Albert's Band, will also be making a special appearance, featuring a selection of music reflecting the identity of the various institutions which make up 'Albertopolis', and a procession along Exhibition Road on Saturday 1st July from the Royal Albert Hall to the V&A.

About V&A Exhibition Road Quarter and FuturePlan

- AL_A won the international competition in 2011 to design this important development. Wates are the lead contractors delivering the project and Arup are the Structural and Building Services engineers.
- Opening on 30 June 2017 as the Museum celebrates its 165th anniversary, the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter is the Museum's largest architectural intervention in the last 100 years. This innovative and ambitious project will create beautiful new public areas and gallery spaces for London, transforming the experience of the V&A for visitors, and revealing historic façades of the V&A's existing Grade I buildings for the first time.

- Visitors will be able to enter the V&A Exhibition Road Quarter through the arches of the renovated 1909 Aston Webb screen, opening-up the Museum to its neighbours on Exhibition Road. The new spaces include:
 - The Sainsbury Gallery is a versatile, 1,100m sq column-free exhibition space purpose-built for the V&A's world-leading programme of temporary exhibitions.
 - The Sackler Courtyard is the world's first all-porcelain public courtyard, inspired by the rich tradition of ceramics at the V&A.
 - The Blavatnik Hall is a new entrance into the V&A that will transform how visitors experience and discover the Museum and collections.
 - V&A Members will have an exclusive first-look view of the Exhibition Road Quarter on Friday 30 June from 10am to 5pm. Following the Members' Preview, the gates will open to welcome the public to the new space and the REVEAL festival starting with Friday Late.
- Funding has been raised thanks to the generosity of The Monument Trust, The Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation, The Headley Trust, The Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Heritage Lottery Fund and other generous donors including Peter Williams and Heather Acton and the Friends of the V&A.
- The V&A Exhibition Road Quarter is the crucial scheme in achieving the long term aims of our second phase of FuturePlan, the V&A's programme of restoration and redesign. FuturePlan aims to create beautiful and contemporary new settings for the V&A's outstanding collections while restoring much of the building's original architecture and improving visitors' experience of the Museum.

About the V&A

- The V&A is the world's leading Museum of art, design and performance with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. It was established to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. Today, the V&A's collections, which span over 5000 years of human creativity in virtually every medium and from many parts of the world, continue to intrigue, inspire and inform. www.vam.ac.uk

About Discover South Kensington

- Discover South Kensington brings together the V&A and the other leading cultural and educational organisations to promote innovation and learning. South Kensington is the home of science, arts and inspiration. Discovery is at the core of what happens here and there is so much to explore every day. www.discoversouthken.com

