PRESS RELEASE

V&A Friday Late moves to Hackney Wick for October event featuring Rowdy SS, FRONTLEFT, Claudia Palazzo and Lewis G. Burton

Friday Late: This Must Be The Place
Various locations in Hackney Wick, East London
19.00 – 23.00, 25 October 2019
Admission free
Information available at vam.ac.uk/fridaylate | #FridayLate

On 25 October 2019, the V&A will move its free flagship Friday Late event from South Kensington to Hackney Wick for a night of music, performance and pop-ups. Friday Late: This Must Be The Place celebrates the area’s vibrant culture and explores how artists and designers are pushing boundaries and reclaiming space amidst a constantly changing cityscape.

Friday Late: This Must Be The Place kick-starts V&A East’s series of contemporary events in the lead up to opening in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in 2023. Showcasing a dynamic mix of live music, film, installations, experimental performance, pop-up studios, talks and workshops the late-night event will take place in five leading arts venues across Hackney Wick, with support from Foundation for FutureLondon.

- **Grow** showcases the DIY creativity of Hackney Wick-based artists and musicians through a series of performances, installations and open studios. Highlights include a new AV installation by artist collective Sense, music by Hot Dog Grrrl and the Sesame Buns and Franco-Vietnamese dance by artist Mai Nguyen Tri.

- **Mick’s Garage** hosts a series of experimental performances, including Claudia Palazzo’s *that ain’t gold*, which fuses dance, film and bass lines to explore the tensions between desire, violence and freedom in the city. FRONTLEFT present *Contemporary Living / Erased Bodies* using dance, projection and live painting to reflect east London’s changing landscape and its impact on minority groups, artists and the creative queer community. Artist Rowdy SS performs the multisensory dance piece *Balance*, musing on the way we use space, and non-binary performance artist and DJ Lewis G. Burton celebrates east London’s transgender, non-binary, intersex and gender non-conforming community with a specially-commissioned performance.
• **Museum activists, artists** and **New Museum School Creatives** will take over **Stour Space** with a programme of performance, spoken word, sound installations and collage workshops, plus a panel discussion debating inclusive architecture, design and space for creative communities today.

• **Studio 9294** presents a pop-up creative studio and series of interdisciplinary collaborations curated by a London-based collective of emerging artists, writers and curators of colour.

• **White Post** hosts a panel discussion on what the changing cityscape means for young people in Hackney today, in collaboration with Hackney Wick Youth Voice. Artist and community organiser Kandice Holmes presents her project **Common Unity**, a series of talks, sound experiments and workshops looking at the innovation of community spaces and the evolving role artists play within this.

**Catherine Ince, Chief Curator, V&A East, said:** “We’re excited to present this special Friday Late in partnership with leading artists, designers, collectives and venues across Hackney Wick. Part of a series of events leading up to the opening of V&A East, *This Must Be The Place* seeks to explore the ways in which creative communities in London and beyond respond to changing cityscapes, with a particular focus on the ongoing development of east London.”

**Jordanna Greaves, Co-Founder, Grow, said:** “When a group of people find space to create and share together, great things can happen. Hackney Wick – like other parts of East London – has a history of self-organised activity. Whether at a studio, bar, warehouse, the school gates or local shop, people meet, chat, share ideas, make plans and things happen - even in times of adversity. For this V&A Late, we celebrate creativity and what it means to be part of something. Everyone is welcome.”

V&A East will join London College of Fashion, UCL, the BBC, Sadler’s Wells and the Smithsonian Institution as part of East Bank – a new arts, education and innovation hub in Stratford’s Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Opening in 2023, V&A East will encompass two new sites – a world class museum designed by O'Donnell+Tuomey at Stratford Waterfront, featuring a unique partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, and a new collection and research centre designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro at Here East. Rooted in east London with an international outlook, V&A East will harness art, design and performance to explore the big issues and ideas facing the world today and offer a platform for creativity to champion the next generation of artists, designers, makers and thinkers.

- ENDS -

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**V&A Friday Late: This Must Be The Place**

- Various locations in Hackney Wick, East London
- 19.00–23.00, 25 October 2019
- Admission free; places are designated on a first-come, first-served basis
- Nearest station: Hackney Wick Overground
Curated by Jenna Mason, Yewande Odunubi and Alice Beverley, V&A, with Sarah Green and Andrew Adedipe, V&A East

#FridayLate

About V&A Friday Late
The original contemporary late-night museum event V&A Friday Late is held on the last Friday of the month (except May and December). Established in 1999 Friday Late programme celebrates all aspects of contemporary visual culture using the V&A collection and buildings as its inspiration. The events bring audiences face-to-face with leading and emerging artists and designers through live performance, film, installation, debate, DJs and late-night exhibition openings.

vam.ac.uk/fridaylate

About the Foundation for FutureLondon
The Foundation for FutureLondon is a charitable trust created to bring together local east London communities around the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park with globally renowned arts, innovation and cultural partners – making East Bank a vibrant new creative quarter of global significance.

Working collaboratively to maximise funding and investment opportunities, The Foundation for FutureLondon and East Bank have the power to transform the park into a new culture, creative and education district for London. Our vision is for a vibrant and inclusive creative East Bank that maximises educational, learning and employment opportunities for local people - driven by culture, innovation and art.

www.future.london