Masculinity does not exist, only masculinities. Identity doesn’t exist, only identities. We live in a promising world of gender expression and exploration, where how you define yourself can take on multiple forms. In this plural world, On the Verge explores the tipping point, highlighting the artists, designers, and performers, questioning the norms of masculine and feminine identity and the possibilities to come. Let a thousand genders bloom.

This Friday Late features a programme curated by BLM Fest, commissioned by Counterpoints Arts and the
V&A during Refugee Week 2022. BLM Fest was founded by Kayza Rose and is a celebration of Black lives. BLM Fest is an invitation for everyone to take part and an exciting model of cultural production that fairly compensates Black people for their ideas, time and labour.

@blmfest  
@counterpointsarts

All events are free, and places are designated on a first-come, first-served basis unless stated otherwise. Filming and photography will take place at this event. If you have any access requirements, please let us know in advance by emailing disability@vam.ac.uk

Please note, if the V&A reaches capacity, we will allow access on a one-in, one-out basis.

#FridayLate
S/HE
(Tomboys Don’t Cry)
*Grand Entrance, Cromwell Road
DJ set

S/HE is a queer non-binary trans* DJ based in London. Challenging toxic masculinities and binary norms, S/HE, the co-founder of Milan-based queer collective Tomboys Don’t Cry, brings to the V&A a mix of high-energy electronic beats with all-time favourites. His gothic background and his research on electronic music mold deep outlines for a hard-beat cosmic power dance with a post-gender touch.

@mark_djshehe
@tomboysdontcry
BLM Fest x 
Counterpoints: 
Black Queer History 
Poetry Workshop 

*Europe 1600–1815 Galleries*  
*The Salon, Room 4*  
18.45, 19.45, 20.45, drop in

Poet, educator, cultural curator and activist, PJ Samuels leads this workshop where you’ll work together to interrogate issues of autonomy, race, gender, patriarchy and identity and explore belonging. Originally from Jamaica, she is passionately vocal about human rights, mental wellness, stigmatisation and inequalities. PJ Samuels founded ‘Weather the Storm’, an LGBTI Refugee peer support group she started in 2015.

@pjsamuelspoet
BLM Fest x Counterpoints: A Taste of London Ballroom

*The Raphael Cartoons, Room 48a*

Talk at 19.15, Workshop at 19.45, Performance at 20.45

A 3-part dip into Ballroom and the art of Voguing hosted by Kayza Rose. Delve into the living roots of UK Ballroom with a history lesson by London’s OG Harliyana 007. Then let your body do the talking as Pop-Dip-Spin extraordinaire Bronze 007 teaches a beginner’s voguing workshop. Followed by a performance by Tiffany 007, aka The Banji C*nt (She/They), and Bronze 007.

@kayza_rose
@swarovskibae_
@tiffany.the.mannequin
@groingthroughit
'Shelter’, ‘Twist’, and ‘Flip Side’
Fashion, Room 40

Duration: 2:04; 2:22; 2:49

Film director Fx Goby, with director of photography Ricky Patel, have collaborated with the fashion designer Saul Nash to produce a series of short films highlighting the designer’s collections. The films provide atmospheric and pared down vignettes highlighting male interaction and engagement, playing with and subverting tropes of masculine behaviour.

@fxgoby
@saul.nash
@rickymundo_
BLM Fest x Counterpoints: Screening of VISIBLE and Panel Discussion
Hochhauser Auditorium, Sackler Centre for arts education
18.30, 19.00, 19.30, 20.00, 21.00
Panel discussion at 20.30

Film duration: 20 minutes

VISIBLE, directed by Campbell X and produced by Kayza Rose, challenges common misconceptions about LGBTQI+ Black and People of Colour. The film calls upon inspirational ancestors, contemporary artists and activists working to challenge mainstream perceptions and the sanitisation of LGBTQI+ legacies.
At 20.30, hear from founding director of Mzz Kimberley’s LIFE, Kim Tatum; writer and performer Keith Jarrett; and international athlete and advocate for diversity and inclusion, Corinne Humphreys in a panel discussion chaired by Kayza Rose, founding director of BLM Fest.

@campbellx
@kayza_rose
@keithjlondon
@cdhumphreys
@mzzkimberley
Outside the Box: Masculinities on Paper
Prints and Drawings Study Room
18.45, 19.30, 20.30
Duration: 30 minutes

Please note these sessions have a limited capacity. Sign up from 18.30 in the Sackler Centre

Debora Moritz and Josephine Nardecchia, collections assistants from the Prints & Drawings Study Room, present objects from the collection that tell a history of liberated bodies and identity expression which has come to enrich the plural experiences of masculinities. Explore a variety of artistic responses including photographs, illustrations, drawings, and paintings, that address the challenges of representing gender.
BLM Fest x Counterpoints: Memoirs of a Masculine Man

*The John Madejski Garden*

Durational performance throughout the evening

Rwandese born, British movement-based artist, Ishimwa Muhimanyi delivers a site-specific performance in the central garden of the museum. For Ishimwa, masculinity is synonymous with fragility. Ishimwa’s work will explore the cracks in the masculine. Butt cracks, emotional cracks, spiritual cracks, and temperamental cracks. Using movement, fashion and furniture, Ishimwa will take you on a journey of a man.

@ishimwa
Boys
Japan, Room 45, The Toshiba Gallery

Duration: 11:25

In this short film, Kaj Jefferies and Rosie Matheson interview several young men in the UK, asking them the simple question: ‘What makes a man?’.
Shot in grainy Super-8, the film gives insight into the multiple and shifting perspectives young men have on the state of masculinity today.

@iamkaj
@rosie_matheson
‘Queer Spaces’ Book Talk
National Art Library
19:00

Please note, the entrance to the event will be through Gallery 76: Design 1900–Now

In a presentation moderated by assistant curator Alice Power, designer Adam Nathaniel Furman and architectural historian Joshua Mardell introduce their new book, Queer Spaces: an Atlas of LGBTQIA+ Places & Stories, in which 55 global interdisciplinary authors celebrate the plurality of queer life throughout time and place. Largely absent in canonical histories, it provides a proud pedigree for queer existence in the spheres of design and architecture.

@furmadamadam
@joshuamardell1
@itsalicepower
Drip Maketh the Man?
The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, Level 3
19.00, 20.30

Award-winning writer Yomi Ṣode has been working in collaboration with V&A Young Peoples team to produce this spoken word performance. Over 4 months, 13 young men have explored their personal relationship between clothes, image and identity through poetry, using the Fashioning Masculinities exhibition and the museum’s vast collections as a starting point. Join an intimate sharing of poems created during the project, exploring modern manhood and its relationship to fashion.

@yomi_sode
@tristanfaiduenu
I Can Make You a Man
A guided tour of the Theatre and Performance Galleries
18.45, 19.45, 20.45
Meet at Gallery 102, Leighton

In this performed tour, artist Nando Messias activates selected items in the galleries, mixing personal stories with theatre history. I Can Make You a Man plays with the notion of gender as fiction, how it is constructed – ‘made’ – on stage and how gender-nonconforming individuals are often coerced – ‘made’ – to comply.

@nancymessias
COVER ARTWORK

Fx Goby.
Director of Photography:
Ricky Patel

ALSO ON TONIGHT

Fashioning Masculinities:
The Art of Menswear
Until 6 November 2022
In partnership with Gucci
With support from
American Express®

Beatrix Potter:
Drawn to Nature
Until 8 January 2023
In collaboration with the National Trust
Supported by Kathryn Uhde and Unwin Charitable Trust
KEEP IN TOUCH

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View photos of tonight’s event on flickr.com/fridaylate