

V&A Academy

**UNBOXING  
THE DAVID  
BOWIE  
ARCHIVE**

**V&A**

# Introduction



This Study Day will explore in detail the David Bowie Archive Cataloguing Project, a 2-year project to plan, process, catalogue and make accessible the David Bowie Archive.

Through lectures, tours, Q&As and object sessions with archivists and curators, the day will include in-depth insight into the archive, including the complexities of processing this landmark acquisition and highlights and discoveries made along the way.

Archivist Sabrina Offord and Curator Harriet Reed, who led the cataloguing project, will introduce the day and give an overview of the archive itself, with the cataloguing team providing fascinating glimpses into different areas of the collection, from Bowie's unrealised projects to alternate costumes for Ziggy Stardust.

Attendees will view items up-close in the Study Centre including archival material and objects, giving unique insight into how Bowie himself organised and used his archive. They will also receive a tour of the David Bowie Centre, including a display of highlights from the archive.

# Information

Monday 06 July 2026

10:30 – 16:00

This study day will be held on site at V&A East Storehouse.

Lunch is not included,

All lecture resource sheets and presentation slides will be made available after the study day.

This study day will not be recorded.

Suitable for ages 18 and over.

# Monday 06 July 2026

## Unboxing the David Bowie Archive

*V&A East Storehouse*

Harriet Reed and Sabrina Offord

**10:30 Introduction to the David Bowie Archive**

Sabrina Offord, Harriet Reed, Cataloguing Team

**11.45 In-conversation**

Jonathan Barnbrook, Graphic designer and artist who worked with Bowie on various projects including the album cover designs for *Heathen*, *Reality*, *The Next Day* and *Blackstar*.

**12.45 Lunch**

(not provided)

**14:00 Group A: Tour of David Bowie Centre**

Sabrina Offord

**Group B: Archive object session**

Harriet Reed

**14.45 Group A: Archive object session**

Harriet Reed

**Group B: Tour of David Bowie Centre**

Sabrina Offord

**15:30 In-conversation**

**15.45 Final Q&A**