



Museums, Artists & Communities: Towards Empathetic Creative and Learning Practice

V&A South Kensington Learning Symposium
Hochhauser Auditorium, V&A Learning Centre
9th – 10th July 2026

DAY 1

10-10.30am: Registration / coffee

10.30-11am: Introduction by Dr. Helen Charman, Director of Learning, National Programmes and Young V&A, Victoria and Albert Museum

11am-11:40: Keynote Address

Rooted in Community: Reimagining Museums Through Empathy, Culture, and Collective Care

Kimaada Le Gendre (Chief Learning Officer, Queens Museum / Director, Suna Children's Museum at Queens Museum, New York City, USA)

11:40-12 discussion and questions

12-1.30pm: LUNCH (not provided)

1.30-3pm: Panel 1

Expanding access - Chair: Natalie Kane: Curator, Digital Design, Victoria and Albert Museum

How can we expand participation, creation, and belonging within museum spaces through making.

Jess Thom and Dr Chloe Trainor (Touretteshero):

How's Everyone Doing?

Renan Daniel (Museum of Image and Sound, Sao Paulo):

From Access to Authorship: Experimental Group in Cinema

Himarni Brownsword and Jessica Lench-Hammonds (Pinc College & Art UK, Stoke-on-Trent) and **Tina Corri** (Art UK):

Our Art, Our Place, Our Voice: Using collections to connect students to their place

3-3.30pm: BREAK

3.30-5pm: Panel 2

Empathetic Institutions – Chair: Leonardo Bravo, Director of Public Programmes, Museum of Modern Art (NYC)

Museums as audience-centred, engaged institutions.

Dr Jacina Leong (RMIT University, Melbourne) and **Amelia Wallin** (La Trobe Art Institute, Bendigo):

Healing a collection: an empathic artist-led approach

Katya Provornaya (independent researcher/GEM-Group for Education in Museums):

Light After Loss: Understanding grief as a foundation for embedding care in museums

Claire Benjamin (National Museums Liverpool):

Authentic co-working on Liverpool's Waterfront Transformation Project

5:00 Spotlight Performance Introduction

"What is said might sting a little, but are you ready to hear it?" An Introduction to *Inwrds* (young people's spoken word poetry programme) at the V&A with Artistic Leads **Tristan Fynn-Aiduenu** (theatre maker and director) and **Yomi Sode** (poet and writer)

5.30-6.45pm: Drinks Reception

with Spotlight Performance by *Inwrds*
Paintings Gallery, V&A South Kensington

DAY 2

10-10.30am: Registration / coffee

10.30am-12pm: Panel 3

Learning from Others – Chair: Catherine Ritman- Smith, Head of Learning and Engagement, Young V&A and V&A East

Museum education as a space for creative partnerships. How can museum educators learn from other industries and vice versa?

Dr Hua-Tzu Chan (Museum of Contemporary Art, Taipei):

When a Museum Becomes a Neighbour: Civic Learning Across School, Community, and Artistic Practice

Sam Ramos (Art Institute of Chicago):

Civic Wellness at the Art Institute of Chicago

Dr Suzy Willson (Clod Ensemble):

Circle of Care: A model for sustainable compassionate healthcare

12-1.30pm: LUNCH (not provided)

1.30-3pm: Panel 4 Artists Roundtable

Residencies as space to explore museum learning practice: The Adobe Creative Residency Programme– Chair: Elizabeth Galvin, Head of Learning and Digital Programmes, V&A South Kensington

Jacqui Ramrayka: V&A Adobe Creative Resident 2024

Michael Akuagwu: V&A Adobe Creative Resident 2025

Lizania Cruz: MoMA Adobe Creative Resident 2026 (NYC)

3-3.30pm: BREAK

3.30-5pm: Panel 5

Infrastructures of creative care for all – Chair: Liz Moreton, Team Leader: Residency Programme, V&A South Kensington

Supporting artists, educators, learners and practitioners through the creative process and co-creation

Yaël Filipovic (Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal):

Co-Leading the Museum: Artist–Educator Collaboration as a Site of Institutional Learning

Ahmed Mourad Khanfir (Art Veda, Tunis):

More Than a Bed, More Than a Wall: Hosting as Collective Accountability in Artistic Ecosystems

Maraid McEwan (artist, designer, researcher and creative educator):

AfterCare: Who holds the artist in socially engaged residencies?

5pm: WRAP UP AND THANK YOU

The Adobe Creative Residency at the V&A is supported by the Adobe Foundation