

## The V&A's British Galleries – 25 Years On The British Galleries 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event

The V&A's groundbreaking *Britain 1500-1900* galleries turn 25 years old in 2026. This half day is devoted to reassessing their aspirations and impact, and to reimagining their future.

The event is supported by the Oliver Ford Foundation and Prof. Maurice Howard.

*Please note that this programme is subject to change.*

**Friday, 5 February 2027, 2pm-6pm**

**The Hochhauser Auditorium**

**V&A South Kensington**

Entrance to the Hochhauser Auditorium is via the Learning Centre on level 0. You can find the location on the V&A's digital map: [V&A Digital Map | Interactive Museum Floor Plan](#)

1.30                      Registration

2.00                      Welcome  
**Tristram Hunt, Director, V&A**

### **Session 1, chaired by Christopher Wilk, Keeper, PFTF Department, V&A**

2:05 to 2:30            **Christopher Wilk**, Keeper, PFTF Department, V&A  
‘The pillars and UK context of the BG project’

2:30 to 2:50            **Malcolm Baker**, Hon. Senior Research Fellow, V&A  
‘Seizing the nettle, exhibiting the blooms: approaches to British art and design in the British Galleries’

2:50 to 3:10            **Dinah Casson**, Lead Designer of the British Galleries for Casson-Mann  
‘Salad Days- Designing the BGs’

3:10 to 3:30            **Angela McShane**, Hon. Reader in History, University of Warwick  
‘The British Galleries as University: teaching and inspiration’

3:30 to 3:50            Q&A

3:50 to 4:05            Comfort Break

**Session 2, chaired by Elaine Tierney (V&A/RCA History of Design course)**

- 4:05 to 4:25            **Nick Brod**, Multimedia Manager of the V&A, 1999-2002  
‘Technology, Authenticity, and the Future’
- 4:25 to 4:45            **In Conversation: Re-thinking the Black Presence within the British Galleries**  
**Janet Browne**, Senior Producer, Africa and Diaspora, V&A  
and **Esther Agbettor**, Visitor Experience Assistant, V&A
- 4:45-5:30            **Panel: Looking Ahead to a Future British Galleries**  
**Sonia Solicari** (Director, Museum of the Home) ‘The Unfinished Gallery’  
**Bryony Shepherd** (Head of Interpretation, V&A) ‘25 years on, Where are We Now?’  
**Gus Casley-Hayford** (Director, V&A East), ‘Changing audiences, changing expectations, timeless aspirations: meeting the challenges we didn’t imagine’  
Moderator: **Elaine Tierney** (V&A/RCA History of Design course)
- 5:30-5:45            Q&A
- 5:45-5:55            Closing remarks  
**Maurice Howard**, Professor Emeritus of Art History, University of Sussex.

The British Galleries (52-58, 118-125) will remain open until 9pm. The museum will remain open until 10pm.