News Release

BURBERRY AND ARTIST ANN CARRINGTON UNVEIL THE 2026 V&A CHRISTMAS TREE

23 November 2026 – 6 January 2027
V&A South Kensington Grand Entrance
www.vam.ac.uk/articles/christmas-tree-installations

Burberry Chief Creative Officer Daniel Lee has collaborated with British artist Ann Carrington on the 2026 V&A Christmas tree. The 16-foot sculpture is made from what Lee calls 'memories, traditions and little treasures. Objects and materials that most people would overlook.'

Set inside the grand entrance hall of V&A South Kensington, the tree honours art, craft and design as part of Burberry's 170th anniversary year. 'This collaboration with Ann is a celebration of creativity and what better place to showcase this than the V&A?' Lee says. 'It's one of my favourite museums and a constant source of inspiration to me.'

Drawing on the tradition of decorating the tree, the work takes old biscuit and sweet-tin lids, trinket dishes, money boxes, embossed plates, silver trays and horse brasses and refashions them as rosettes and ribbons.

'It has been a wonderful experience working with Daniel on the V&A Christmas tree,' artist Ann Carrington says. 'We wanted to capture that magical moment when you retrieve the battered old box of Christmas decorations from the loft, sift through the faded party bows and tattered tinsel accumulated through the generations and begin the joyful ritual of dressing the tree.'

Strips of scrap metal are twisted into ribbons that wrap around invisible presents. In steel, a throwaway party bow becomes something to keep.

'I'm always drawn to work that's handmade, and Ann is a master of her craft,' Lee says. 'I'm honoured to have worked with her and the V&A, and I hope the tree brings magic and inspiration to everyone who experiences it.'

BURBERRY AT THE V&A

Visitors can also see 'The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon', a free display in the museum's Prince Consort Gallery that runs until 31 January 2027. It traces the history

of the trench coat through rare material from the Burberry archive and the V&A collection.

The tree and the display form part of Burberry's multi-year partnership with the V&A. The Burberry Gallery, a major transformation of the museum's fashion galleries at V&A South Kensington, opens in autumn 2028.

ANN CARRINGTON

Ann Carrington is a British artist who lives and works in Margate. Her practice explores the cultural meaning of found and discarded objects, transforming them into sculptures that hold new stories. A graduate of the Royal College of Art, she has received the Sir Herbert Read Award and the City & Guilds Gold Medal for an outstanding contribution to art. Commissions include the Royal Jubilee Banner for Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. 'Devil's Trumpet' was acquired by the V&A in 2016 and is on permanent display in the museum's Silver Galleries.

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For further PRESS information about the V&A Christmas Tree installation, please contact the V&A Press Office on press.office@vam.ac.uk / +44 (0)207 942 2502 (not for publication). A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from https://vam.app.box.com/v/pressimages.

Notes to Editors

- Every year to celebrate the festive period, the V&A commissions a designer to create a Christmas tree for V&A South Kensington's Grand Entrance. These unique installations range from lavishly decorated real trees to hand-crafted twists on the tradition. Previous designers include Alexander McQueen, Es Devlin, and Anna Lomax.
- The Christmas Tree installation will be on display in V&A South Kensington's Cromwell Road Entrance from 23 November 2026 - 6 January 2027.
- 'The Burberry Trench: Crafting an Icon' is on display at V&A South Kensington from Monday 21 September 2026 to Sunday 3 January 2027 and is open to all.

About V&A South Kensington

The V&A is a family of museums dedicated to the power of creativity. V&A South Kensington is a world of extraordinary global creativity, with unmissable exhibitions, experiences and educational programmes for all. One of London's most iconic buildings, it is home to national collections of art, design, fashion, photography and furniture, plus theatre, performance, architecture and ceramics, as well as the UK's National Art Library. It is a place where everyone can experience a story of creativity that spans 5,000 years and every creative discipline, which brings that story to life through programmes and activities for all ages and specialisms, and world-leading research and

conservation.
vam.ac.uk
Instagram: @vamuseum
Facebook: @VictoriaandalbertMuseum

About Burberry
Burberry is a global luxury brand founded in Britain in 1856 by Thomas Burberry. Built on a heritage of innovation, craftsmanship and exploration, the house continues to create outerwear, ready-to wear, accessories and experiences that celebrate British creativity and design. Burberry has a long-standing legacy of supporting arts and culture at home and abroad. From partnering with international exhibitions and cultural institutions to funding creative arts scholarships and helping youth organisations provide greater access to the creative industries through The Burberry Foundation, Burberry is committed to championing creativity in all its forms.