

News Release

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One month to go before V&A East Storehouse opens to the public on 31 May 2025

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New details announced today include:

- **Bookings to go live** for revolutionary new **Order an Object** experience on **13 May**. Anyone can book access to any object at V&A East Storehouse, for free, seven-days-a-week, from **Mid-Century** and **Memphis Group furniture** to **ancient Egyptian shoes, Leigh Bowery costumes, Althea McNish fabrics, Japanese tea ceremony sets** and beyond
- Over 100 mini displays featuring 1,500 items from across the V&A's collection and archives in V&A East Storehouse's self-guided experience. Highlights include works by **Hew Locke, Zaha Hadid, Daniel Liebskind** and **Thomas Heatherwick's London 2012 Olympic cauldron model**, alongside new acquisitions by **Imane Ayissi, Najla El Zein, Sanaa Gateja, Nicki Green, Rahemur Rahman,** and **Xanthe Somers**
- Monumental 11-metre-wide stage cloth designed by **Pablo Picasso** for the Ballets Russes' 1924 production, *Le Train Bleu*, will be displayed for first time in over a decade
- First onsite live event, **back2back: Archival Bodies**, and new programming strand, **A Life in the Work of Others** – featuring Turner-Prize-winning artist, **Jasleen Kaur** – to headline opening events
- **New staff uniforms** to debut designed by **Hackney Wick-based** fashion designer, **Robyn Lynch**, in consultation with **V&A East's Youth Collective**

Today marks **one month to go** before the V&A's new working store and visitor attraction, V&A East Storehouse, opens its doors to the public for the first time **on 31 May 2025**, as part of East Bank in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Designed by **Diller, Scofidio + Renfro**, and following years of extensive audience consultation, and input from V&A East's Youth Collective, V&A East Storehouse is a

unique cultural offer revolutionising access to the world's leading collection of art, design and performance. A busy and dynamic working museum store with an extensive self-guided experience, V&A East Storehouse is anchored by six **large-scale objects** – including a section of the now-demolished housing estate, **Robin Hood Gardens**, and **Frank Lloyd Wright's 1930s Kaufmann Office** – the only Frank Lloyd Wright interior outside of the US. It also features over **100 topical curated mini displays**, exploring why items are collected, how they are cared for, conserved and displayed, the latest research, and how archives and collections offer unparalleled opportunities for new creative expression.

V&A East Storehouse will also have a series of newly commissioned works and performances inspired by the collection, and live and participatory events, spotlighting a range of creatives from **Turner Prize-winning artist Jasleen Kaur** to east London based design studio, **playbody**, and artists **Adam Moore, Abbas Zahedi**, and more. V&A East Storehouse will open 10:00-18:00, seven-days-a-week, with **late night openings every Thursday and Saturday to 22:00**. Late nights include access to the V&A's revolutionary new Order an Object service, curated self-guided experience and displays, special events, and café and social space, **e5 Storehouse**, from the team behind e5 Bakehouse, offering locally sourced food and drink and a community hub in the heart of V&A East Storehouse.

Tim Reeve, Deputy Director and COO, V&A, said: “V&A East Storehouse has been 10 years in the making, and we are so excited to finally open it on 31 May. V&A East Storehouse is a unique piece of museum architecture, and will look and feel like a very different cultural experience, defined by the theatre and wonder of the ‘back of house’ world of museum practice and a radical new approach for the public to access their national collections. For us, success will be V&A East Storehouse serving new and existing audiences – from east London and around the world – as a place of opportunity for all, where creativity can be sparked, ambitions nurtured and developed, and where joyful and lifelong engagements with creativity can begin.”

NEWLY ANNOUNCED TODAY

Order an Object – bookings go live 13 May

Bookings will go live for the V&A's new **Order an Object** service on **13 May 2025**. The service will enable everyone to access all the objects at V&A East Storehouse for free, seven-days a week, at a time that suits them, by booking in advance via the [Order an Object webpage](#).

With access to over half a million creative works from every creative discipline around the world, visitors can book to see everything from **Tudor dress pins** to **Leigh Bowery's dance costumes**, **Derek Jarman's opera designs**, **Japanese tea ceremony sets**, **Korean hanboks**, intricate **Rajasthani nose-rings**, **ancient Egyptian shoes**, **Ron Arad**, **Eames** and **Memphis Group furniture**, **Althea McNish** and **Lucienne Day prints and fabrics**, **Grace Wales Bonner**, **Comme des Garçons**, **Burberry** and **Schiaparelli fashion**, **Lucie Rie ceramics**, and more. Order an Object



exists to bring people closer to their national collections on their own terms, at a scale not possible anywhere else in the world.

In addition to **Order an Object**, visitors to V&A East Storehouse can take part in **Object Encounters**, a series of daily serendipitous, drop-in sessions led by the V&A Collections Access staff, spotlighting different aspects of the collection, with sign-ups in person on the day.

100 mini storage displays

Throughout the Weston Collections Hall, over 100 mini changing curated displays are literally 'hacked' into the sides and ends of storage racking for visitors to explore themselves. Sharing more diverse, topical, and meaningful stories about the V&A's collections and archives, storage displays centre on three key themes: **Collecting Stories**, **Sourcebook for Design** and **The Working Museum**.

New displays with a focus on east London creativity will include items including an intricate **17th century sampler** embroidered by a schoolgirl in Hackney, a late **19th century printed silk theatre programme** celebrating a new music hall opening in Stratford, and a **1980s poster** for Hackney-based **Lenthall Road Workshop** – a community printing workshop associated with local feminist, anti-racist and LGBTQ+ rights groups.

Other displays highlight newly acquired works including photographer **Mariette Pathy Allen's** *Sunday Morning During a Drag Ball, 1984*, and artist **Nicki Green's** work, *Nontactile Contact in Three Parts* (2022). Recently acquired fashion ensembles by Cameroonian designer, **Imane Ayissi** and British Bengali designer **Rahemur Rahman** are also showcased, as is recent work by Zimbabwean ceramicist **Xanthe Somers**, (*Fruits of the Forefathers*, 2022) and Lebanese artist and designer **Najla El Zein** (*Seduction, Pair, 03*, 2019).

The mini displays also reveal the breadth of the V&A's collection and archives, from **13th century Jain sculpture** to **Issey Miyake fashion**, **Isokon Furniture** by **Marcel Breuer**, sculptural **Zaha Hadid**-designed shoes, a Piaggio scooter customised by **Daniel Liebskind**, and **Thomas Heatherwick's** model for **London 2012's Olympic cauldron**. Others include **ceramics** from **Bow**, **Isfahan**, **Sèvres** and **Seoul**, **Margot Fonteyn's** signed 1954 *Firebird* ballet shoes, **Hew Locke's** multimedia print *The Prize* (2006-2007), and comic books from the National Art Library's collection.

Le Train Bleu stage cloth

A monumental 11-metre-wide stage front cloth designed by **Pablo Picasso** for the **Ballets Russes** production, *Le Train Bleu*, is displayed for the first time in over a decade. The stage cloth's huge size means it has rarely been seen since its stage debut in 1924 and is set to dazzle visitors again in a new purpose-built gallery of epic proportions, in V&A East Storehouse's The David and Molly Lowell Borthwick Gallery.

Weighing in at 350kg, the front stage cloth is one of the final objects to be installed ahead of V&A East Storehouse's opening. It will undergo a series of conservation



treatments, including small tear repairs, consolidation of paint, and surface cleaning ahead of install, which will take up to 10 Technicians and Conservators specialising in paintings and textiles to complete.

New live events and public programmes

Launching from June 2025, V&A East Storehouse will offer a rich public programme of curated events, experiences, talks programmes and micro-residencies on the theme of making, spanning a multitude of creative disciplines, from visual artists and designers to photographers, filmmakers, make-up artists and musicians.

On [Saturday 7 June](#), a specially curated live event, ***back2back: Archival Bodies***, headlines V&A East Storehouse's opening programme. Taking over all three publicly accessible floors with installations, DJ sets, live performances, unique experiences and more, this special event will celebrate east London talent, exploring themes of intimacy, care and trust. At the heart of the event, **playbody** – a creative collective and architectural design studio – will reimagine V&A East Storehouse as a playground through installations, sound, performance and interventions designed to foster connection between people, objects and place.

Debuting on [26 June](#), Turner-Prize-winning artist, **Jasleen Kaur** will kick off the new series, ***A Life in the Work of Others***, which sees artists, designers and creatives, share their creative journeys, and the works of others that have inspired them along the way. Artist, **Abbas Zahedi**, will lead the next on [21 August](#).

How We Made It, is a new talks series shining a light on a single creative project. The first event, taking place on [17 July](#), features experiential art collective, **Marshmallow Laser Feast**. ***Look What I Found*** will be a micro-residency at V&A East Storehouse, comprising four days of researching the collections with a public 'drop in' session at the end. East London based transdisciplinary artist, **Adam Moore**, will be the programme's first micro-resident, culminating in a show-and-tell session of selected objects and archives on [12 July](#).

Staff uniforms designed by Robyn Lynch

Dublin-born designer **Robyn Lynch**, whose studio has been based in Hackney Wick since 2019, has designed V&A East's new front of house staff uniforms, in consultation with V&A East's Youth Collective. Inspired by 1990s vintage fishing vests, and the exploration of nostalgia and practicality, Lynch has designed a burnt orange vest in a versatile fit. Designed to be worn layered over staff's own clothing and to complement their personal style, it also adapts effortlessly to a range of body types. Worn across both V&A East sites, the design draws on east London's rich heritage of making. From screen-printed visible labels, detailing locations where the garment's fabric was designed, constructed and screen-printed, to the use of mixed media and sustainable materials, the uniform's design combines craftsmanship with functionality and ease of wear.

V&A East Storehouse is one of two new V&A East sites opening as part of East Bank in



Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. V&A East Museum will open in spring 2026.

-ENDS-

For further PRESS information about V&A East, please contact Laura Mitchell, l.mitchell@vam.ac.uk + Abigail Francis, a.francis@vam.ac.uk / 020 7942 2502 (not for publication).

A selection of press images is available to download free of charge from pressimages.vam.ac.uk.

Supporters

V&A East Storehouse opens on 31 May 2025, and is supported by Garfield Weston Foundation, The Foyle Foundation, Frédéric Jousset, David and Molly Lowell Borthwick, the Wolfson Foundation, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation and many other generous supporters.

Opening on 13 September 2025, V&A East Storehouse's free to access David Bowie Centre will be the new home of David Bowie's Archive, made possible thanks to the David Bowie Estate and a generous donation from the Blavatnik Family Foundation and Warner Music Group.

V&A East Storehouse's back2back: Archival Bodies event is supported by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About V&A East

- V&A East is dedicated to creative opportunity and its power to bring change. Two free cultural destinations – V&A East Storehouse, which opens on 31 May 2025, and V&A East Museum, scheduled to open in spring 2026 – will open up the V&A collection for all, celebrate making in all its forms and create new possibilities for everyone.
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro are lead architects for V&A East Storehouse. IDK are the designers of The David Bowie Centre. Fieldwork Facility are the wayfinding and interpretation designers. We Not I are the external signage designers.
- For more background on V&A East Storehouse's offer and experience, please see: [V&A East Storehouse to open 31 May 2025](#)
- Access to archival collections and National Art Library items stored at V&A East Storehouse can be arranged by appointment through the archive and library enquiry service. You can find out more about our archival collections and services here: [Archives · V&A](#) and search the library catalogue here: [Search Victoria and Albert Museum](#). Appointments must be booked at least two weeks in advance and can be booked up to a year in advance.
- Access to the David Bowie Archive will begin once the David Bowie Centre opens from 13 September 2025. More details on bookings to go live later this year.



- V&A East Storehouse will be open 10:00-18:00, seven-days-a-week from 31 May 2025 – with late night openings every Thursday and Saturday to 22:00.

V&A East x Venice Architecture Biennale 2025

Premiering on 7 May 2025 at the Applied Arts Pavilion, presented by La Biennale di Venezia and the V&A, as part of the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025, *On Storage*, curated by V&A East's Chief Curator, Brendan Cormier, explores the global architecture of storage used for the circulation of things. The display, prepared in collaboration with DS+R, features a new film, behind the scenes photography and architectural models, in anticipation of V&A East Storehouse opening.

About East Bank

- East Bank is the UK's newest cultural quarter at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The place where everything happens – entertainment, inspiration and discovery – and open to everyone who visits, lives and works in East London.
- East Bank represents the biggest ever cultural investment by the Mayor of London, with support from HM Government and the four Olympic boroughs.
- East Bank is made up of BBC Music Studios; London College of Fashion, UAL; Sadler's Wells East; UCL (University College London); V&A East Museum & Storehouse.
- London College of Fashion, UAL, and UCL East (University College London) opened the doors of their new campuses in Autumn 2023 and Sadler's Wells East opened in February 2025. V&A East Storehouse opens on 31 May 2025, V&A East Museum is scheduled to open in spring 2026, and BBC Music Studios in late 2026/early 2027.
- A powerhouse for innovation, creativity and learning in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Bank is rooted in the diverse communities of East London and is a reflection of the creative spirit and the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

