

News Release



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Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art

Opens 28 March 2026

In March 2026, the V&A will open the first exhibition ever staged in the UK devoted to the innovative and impactful Maison Schiaparelli.

Spanning the late 1920s to today, the exhibition charts the history and impact of one of fashion's most innovative houses. Drawing on new research, the exhibition places founder Elsa Schiaparelli at the centre of a creative network across Paris, London, and New York, highlighting her role as a pioneering female entrepreneur. The show will trace the house's remarkable trajectory, from its first, paradigm-shifting garments, through to its present-day incarnation under Creative Director, Daniel Roseberry. Over 200 objects—garments, accessories, jewellery, artworks, perfumes and archival material—will showcase the house's boundless creativity. Highlights include the V&A's 'Skeleton'

and 'Tears' dresses, the surreal Shoe hat made with Salvador Dalí, and artworks by Pablo Picasso, Jean Cocteau, and Man Ray. Elsa Schiaparelli's vision transformed ordinary objects into bold statements, and Daniel Roseberry continues that legacy at the original headquarters of 21 Place Vendôme, creating a contemporary oeuvre that continues to shape and inspire global culture today.



Rising Voices: Contemporary art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific

Opens 16 May 2026

Rising Voices: Contemporary art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific presents the work of 40 leading artists in a landmark collaboration between the V&A and the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA), Brisbane. Drawing on more than 30 years of The Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT) exhibition series, the exhibition offers an unparalleled view of the region's dynamic creative landscape. Foregrounding First Nations perspectives and diverse artistic approaches, the exhibition includes rare works by pioneering creatives—some never before seen outside the region. Combining traditional forms such as weaving, ceramics, jewellery and miniature painting with global contemporary practices, each object carries deep cultural significance, blending ancestral knowledge and contemporary experience through rich materials and symbolic expression. The exhibition will reveal how long-standing artistic traditions continue to evolve, reflecting the interconnected, ever-changing cultures of the Asia Pacific today.

V&A East



V&A East Museum

Opens 18 April 2026

V&A East Museum opens in April 2026 on East Bank in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Co-created with young people, creatives, and those living, working and studying in east London, V&A East Museum includes galleries exhibitions, creative commissions and events spotlighting the people, ideas and creativity shaping global culture right now. Two free permanent *Why We Make Galleries* celebrate global culture through the V&A's collection across fashion, visual art, photography, architecture and design and performance. Platforming stories and voices of creatives from a range of countries, cultures and times, displays explore themes from representation and identity to wellbeing, social justice and environmental action.

A new six-monthly commissions programme will be unveiled across both V&A East Museum and Storehouse sites, presenting eight new works by artists from Turner Prize-nominated artist Rene Matić to Lawrence Lek and Carrie Mae Weems.



The Music is Black: A British Story

Opens on 18 April 2026

V&A East Museum's first landmark exhibition, *The Music is Black: A British Story* reveals how Black British music has shaped British culture – and its global impact – to tell a long-overdue story of Black excellence, struggle, resilience, and joy. Celebrating 125 years of Black music in Britain from Jazz to Reggae, 2 Tone, Drum & Bass, Trip Hop, UK Garage, Grime and beyond, it unveils hidden stories behind early 20th Century pioneers, international music makers and today's groundbreaking artists from Sampha to Little Simz, Jorja Smith, Ezra Collective and more. To coincide, V&A East will launch a

major partnership with BBC Music and collaborate on *The Music is Black Festival* with East Bank partners on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

The Music Is Black: A British Story at V&A East Museum is supported by the Ford Foundation with further support from the Huo Family Foundation and GRoW @ Annenberg. Sound Experience by Sennheiser.

Young V&A



Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends

Opens 12 February 2026

Young V&A's third exhibition, *Inside Aardman: Wallace & Gromit and Friends*, unpacks the making of some of the most well known and loved animated characters of all time. Coinciding with the studio's 50th anniversary year, the exhibition invites visitors to explore the familiar and fantastical worlds of Aardman Animations – creators of Wallace & Gromit, Chicken Run, Shaun the Sheep, Morph, and more. Created primarily for children and families, interactive activities will enable visitors to go behind the scenes of the animation process, from idea development and storyboarding to model making, filming and production, and post-production. Over 150 objects will be on display, including never-before-seen models, sets, and storyboards from Aardman's archives.

V&A Dundee



Catwalk: The Art of the Fashion Show

Opening 3 April 2026

A UK exclusive to V&A Dundee, *Catwalk: The Art of the Fashion Show* charts the dramatic evolution of the catwalk, from the private salons of the late 19th century to today's immersive, live-streamed runway experiences. Celebrating the creativity and energy of the fashion show, *Catwalk* brings together landmark examples from renowned houses including Alexander McQueen, Balenciaga, Chanel, Dior, Maison Margiela, Prada, Paco Rabanne, Viktor & Rolf, Louis Vuitton, and Yohji Yamamoto, among others. Through a rich mix of film, photography, original garments, stage props, and archival materials, the exhibition marks seminal moments from iconic runway presentations throughout the last century and explores their lasting cultural impact. Join us to discover the spectacle, innovation and artistry behind some of fashion's most legendary moments. *Catwalk: The Art of the Fashion Show* is a new exhibition by the Vitra Design Museum and V&A Dundee.



Design and Disability

Opening 4 June 2026

Design and Disability is both a celebration of Disabled-led design and a call for action, affirming the importance of embedding the experiences and expertise of Disabled people in design processes. Spanning from the 1940s to today the exhibition will feature around 170 objects across three themes – Visibility, Tools and Living – within

design, art, architecture, fashion and photography. It will show how Disabled people have designed for every aspect of life through their own experience and expertise, tracing the political and social history of design and disability. Through examples of disability-first practices showcasing the work of Disabled people and collaborators, the exhibition will demonstrate how design can be made more equitable and accessible and aim towards design justice.

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For further PRESS information please contact the V&A press office on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502 or email press.office@vam.ac.uk (not for publication).

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

Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art - Vogue 1940; Designer Elsa Schiaparelli wearing black silk dress with crocheted collar of her own design and a turban (Photo by Fredrich Baker Condé Nast via Getty Images)

Rising Voices: Contemporary art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific - Beizam headdress (Black bamboo triple hammerhead shark) THAIDAY Sr, Ken, 1950

V&A East Museum - V&A East Museum © Niall Hodson

The Music Is Black - Sepia Butterfly, London, 1993 © Jennie Baptiste

Inside Aardman: Wallace and Gromit and Friends - 'Wallace & Gromit at Young V&A, Bethnal Green. Photo by David Parry for the V&A.

Catwalk: The Art of the Fashion Show - Backstage at Alexander McQueen Autumn_Winter 2009, © Robert Fairer Archive

Design and Disability - Rebirth Garments, photo by Colectivo Multipolar