

**LONDON  
DESIGN  
BIENNALE  
2020**



**London Design Biennale Summit**  
**An exploration of design's potential on sustainability,  
politics and the digital world**

**Chaired by 2020 Artistic Director Es Devlin at  
Google HQ King's Cross, 25-26 June**

**5 June 2019, London, UK** -- London Design Biennale reveals programme and further speakers its first-ever Summit - a series of talks and panel conversations led by artistic director Es Devlin exploring the theme of **Resonance**, informing the pending agenda of the 2020 London Design Biennale.

The day of discussion and debate will take place at **Google HQ in King's Cross**, with Summit talks addressing the impact of design: its power to cross borders, bridge cultures and alter behaviours and societies. The talks will look at how design can resonate in the fields of sustainability, politics, the digital world and how the work presented at the Biennale can resonate to global audiences with leading thinkers from design, government, and the diplomatic community.

Summit ticket holders will join a select audience of Ambassadors and senior contacts from UK embassies of over 30 countries; and leaders of business and institutes.

**Mike Gunton**, Creative Director, BBC Natural History Unit - the world's largest production unit dedicated to wildlife filmmaking - will lead a keynote speech on the power and reach of programmes such as Blue Planet and Planet Earth to resonate with, and change perspectives of, audiences internationally.

The role design can play in proposing potential solutions to climate change and sustainability will be explored by leading thinkers including **Francesco Bandarin**, former Assistant Director-General, UNESCO.

**Justine Simons**, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries; **Meherunnisa Asad**, Director of the Lel Collection; **Eliza Easton**, Head of Policy at NESTA; and **Sarah Mann**, Director of ADF, British Council; will look at the relationship between design and politics across the globe.

The connections between design, data and the digital world will be confronted by **Suhair Khan**, Google Arts & Culture; **Greg Williams**, Editor, WIRED UK; and **Pip Jamieson**, Founder, The Dots.

Es Devlin & celebrated architect **Bjarke Ingels** will be in conversation, looking to the future of sustainable development practices that bring architecture, design, urbanism and nature together.

The day will culminate in a prestigious government reception at the **Durbar Court, Foreign & Commonwealth Office**. Informal conversations around the theme will continue at an exclusive VIP after party at the **Groucho Club, Soho**.

Day Two will take place at **Somerset House**, London Design Biennale's home. A series of surgery sessions, workshops and guided tours will build on the previous day's discussions, allowing designers and embassies to develop ideas for participation at London Design Biennale 2020.

**Limited tickets are available. To secure your place, book here:**  
[bit.ly/LDB19Summit](https://bit.ly/LDB19Summit)

**Es Devlin explains**, "As designers, thinkers, artists and makers operating in a global, digital era, we have the power to influence and amaze our audiences into profound shifts of perspective. Our aim is for this Summit to be a collaborative response to the urgency surrounding this inimitable moment in time."

**Will Sorrell, Managing Director, London Design Biennale says**: "The Summit will gather together some of the best international thinking, with a mix of design thinkers, policy makers, and experts in international relations. This is a unique blend of speakers, and we look forward to furthering the conversation around the positive impact of design in the global challenges that we face."

**A full list of speakers, images and assets are available [here](#)**

**ENDS**

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## About London Design Biennale

Established in 2016 by Sir John Sorrell and Ben Evans, London Design Biennale is a prestigious biannual event and a highlight on the global cultural calendar. The 2018 Biennale welcomed the world's most exciting and ambitious designers, innovators and cultural bodies to the capital with over 200,000 visitors to Somerset House over the three-week period.

The third edition of London Design Biennale, 8-27 September 2020, will be curated by Artistic Director Es Devlin. Taking over the entirety of Somerset House, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and River Terrace, participants will respond to the theme, Resonance.

## About Google Arts & Culture

Google Arts & Culture puts the collections of more than 1,800 museums at your fingertips. It's an immersive way to explore art, history and the wonders of the world, from Van Gogh's bedroom paintings to the women's rights movement and the Taj Mahal. The Google Arts & Culture app is free and available online for iOS and Android. Our team has been an innovation partner for cultural institutions since 2011. We develop technologies that help preserve and share culture and allow curators to create engaging exhibitions online and offline, inside museums. Read about our latest projects on the Google Keyword blog.

## About Es Devlin OBE

Artist and designer Es Devlin creates immersive filmic sculptures which are frequently conceived as environments for performance in opera, concerts, dance and theatre.

Her recent solo exhibitions include MASK II for London Design Biennale 2018 at Somerset House; Please Feed The Lions in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture in Trafalgar Square for London Design Festival 2018; EGG at the XI Gallery in New York 2018; Mirrormaze at Copeland Park, Peckham 2016; The Singing Tree at the V&A 2017; Room 2022 at Miami Art Basel 2017; and PoemPortraits at the Serpentine Gallery 2017.

Her stage sculptures include collaborations with Beyonce, Kanye West, U2, The Weeknd, Adele, The Royal Opera House, The National Theatre and the London and Rio Olympic Ceremonies.

Devlin's work has received multiple awards including 3 Olivier Awards and Evening Standard Critics' Circle. She has been made honorary fellow of UAL and named OBE in the Queens Honours list 2015. Devlin was awarded the 2017 London Design Medal for innovation and excellence in design throughout her practice.

## About Somerset House

A unique part of London's cultural scene, Somerset House is a historic building where surprising and original work comes to life. From its 18th-century origins, Somerset House has been a centre for debate and discussion – an intellectual powerhouse for the nation. Somerset House is today a key cultural destination in London in which to experience a broad range of artistic activity, engage with artists, designers and makers and be part of a major creative forum – an environment that is relaxed, welcoming, and inspirational to visit while providing a stimulating workplace for the cultural and creative industries.

Since its opening in 2000, Somerset House has built up a distinctive outdoor public programme including Skate, concerts, an open-air film season and a diverse range of temporary exhibitions throughout the site focusing on contemporary culture, with accompanying extensive learning programmes.

In October 2016, Somerset House launched Somerset House Studios, a new experimental workspace connecting artists, makers and thinkers with audiences. The Studios provide a platform for creative projects and collaboration, promoting work that pushes bold ideas, engages with urgent issues and pioneers new technologies. Somerset House is one of the biggest communities of creative organisations in the capital, including The Courtauld Gallery and Institute of Art, King's College London Cultural Institute and over 100 other creative businesses. It currently attracts approximately 3.2 million visitors each year.