

# LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE 2020

## Victoria Broackes announced as London Design Biennale Director

Monday 5 November 2019, London, UK – London Design Biennale have today appointed Victoria Broackes as it's new Director.

Broackes, a former Senior Curator for the V&A Department of Theatre & Performance, was Head of London Design Festival at the V&A from 2009 to 2018. In 2016, she was the V&A curator for the British entry for the inaugural London Design Biennale, with *Forecast*, by Barber & Osgerby. She will take over from Will Sorrell who is moving to Canada with his family in the new year.

Established by the founders of London Design Festival, Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Biennale is a global biannual event that brings together international designers, curators and design institutions. The third edition will take place from 8-27 September 2020 at Somerset House and will address the theme *Resonance*, encouraging participating nations to consider the ripple effect of design concepts on the way we live; the impact of big thinking on the way we behave; and the choices we make.

Of her appointment, Broackes comments: "Drawing on my experience as Head of London Design Festival at the V&A, I look forward to working on the 2020 Biennale with Artistic Director Es Devlin and the team. London Design Biennale has the potential to inspire current and future generations to tackle the most pressing issues of our time through the power of design, and I'm thrilled to be part of making this happen."

### Victoria Broackes Biography

Victoria Broackes has curated multiple successful exhibitions at the V&A. This includes *Pink Floyd, Their Mortal Remains* (2017), *You Say You Want a Revolution? Records and Rebels, 1966-70* (2016) and *David Bowie* (2013), *Kylie: The Exhibition* (2007), *The Story of the Supremes* (2008) and *The House of Annie Lennox* (2011). She co-presented the film *David Bowie is Happening Now* and featured in the documentary about *You Say You Want a Revolution?* which was presented at the Mill Valley Film Festival in California.

Broackes is a Trustee of Handel & Hendrix in London, alumni member of the Court of the Royal College of Art, and an Assistant of Goldsmiths' Company, where she sits on the Modern Collection, Publications and the Communications and Marketing Committees. Broackes has four daughters.

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#### About London Design Biennale

Established in 2016 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, 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 Es Devlin OBE

Es Devlin OBE practises across the worlds of art, opera, music and technology. She is known for creating large-scale performative sculptures and environments that fuse technology and poetry. Her luminous fluorescent red Please Feed The Lion sculpture roared AI-generated collective poetry to crowds in Trafalgar Square in September 2018 for London Design Festival. The Singing Tree, a collective choral installation at the Victoria and Albert Museum, merged machine-learning with sound and light in 2017. The 2016 Mirrormaze in Peckham, London, and 2017 ROOM 2022 at Miami Art Basel both explored reflective labyrinthine narratives and geometries. Devlin has conceived touring stage sculptures for Beyoncé, U2, The Weeknd, Adele and Kanye West, and collaborated with celebrated theoretical physicist Carlo Rovelli on an interpretation of his book The Order of Time, read by actor Benedict Cumberbatch, at BOLD Peckham in September 2018. Es Devlin has pioneered an artistically and technically ambitious approach to her practice that bridges the gap between audience and performance, often using surface, light, projection and reflection to create dramatic and ambiguous spatial and psychological environments. Devlin's work was the subject of a documentary in the Netflix series Abstract: The Art of Design, and she has recently been named winner of the much-coveted commission to design the UK Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai. The 2020 PoemPavilion will continue to explore the concept of the AI-generated collective poetry first conceived with Hans Ulrich Obrist at London's Serpentine Galleries in 2017.