

BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL | FASHION ARTS FOUNDATION

**PRESS RELEASE**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2018

**BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL AND ROYAL ACADEMY SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE  
FIVE NEW PAIRS FOR THE FASHION ARTS COMMISSIONS**

The BFC Fashion Arts Foundation and the Royal Academy Schools are thrilled to announce the collaboration of five new pairs for the Fashion Arts Commissions, an innovative project bringing together the worlds of fashion and art. Launched in 2016, The Fashion Arts Commissions aims to foster creativity and encourage future talent to collaborate across a variety of art forms.

The project sees collaborations between five of the most talented graduates from the RA Schools paired with the best new talents from the BFC's NEWGEN scheme. For its second edition, the Fashion Arts Commissions includes:

**Liam Hodges & Nicky Carvell**

**Paula Knorr & Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom**

**Richard Malone & Marco Palmieri**

**Sadie Williams & Carla Busuttill**

**Samuel Ross of A-COLD-WALL\* & Julie Born Schwartz**

The artworks were previewed at London Fashion Week from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and will be showcased at a public exhibition from 12<sup>th</sup>– 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Christie's King Street Gallery. The exclusive creations will be available to purchase at Christie's during the event with all profits donated to BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, one of the BFC's registered charities established in 2010.

*"With this special project, we are taking fashion in a new direction" says **Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive, British Fashion Council.** "The worlds of fashion and art have long since been intertwined, with many fashion designers looking at art for creative inspiration. The Fashion*

*Arts Commissions aims to celebrate this intersection by bringing together future talents across these creative disciplines. Last year's collaborations really proved how art and fashion combined have the power to create new expressions and our aim with this project is to shine a light on collective creative influence, through our brilliant design talents, both in the UK and internationally."*

**Eliza Bonham Carter, Head of the Royal Academy Schools and curator of Fashion Art Commissions** said: *"The Royal Academy Schools is delighted to be working for a second year with the British Fashion Council to bring together emerging artists and designers. The exchange between the designer and artist of differing approaches, attitudes, material and manual knowledge and their personal processes of thinking, result in the creation of previously unimagined objects, images, installations and ideas. The value of this process lies not only in these bold, surprising and intriguing works of art, but also in the process by which they are achieved, which will inform the practice of each participant long into the future".*

**Paola Saracino, Specialist, Head of Midseason and E-Commerce Auctions, Post-War & Contemporary Art, Christie's London** added, *"Christie's is once again thrilled to showcase these exciting one-of-a-kind collaborations in an exhibition in our King Street Galleries. This partnership, now in its second year, generates funds for the Fashion Art Commissions and nurtures future talent. Working alongside the Royal Academy Schools and the British Fashion Council, we are proud to offer a platform for these artistic pairs, from different visual backgrounds, who come together and produce works that are fresh, innovative and offer a glimpse into the contemporary creative field of today."*

The Fashion Arts Foundation trustees are Caroline Rush CBE, Jane Boardman and Valeria Napoleone since its inauguration the project has facilitated successful design collaborations between Agi & Sam and Joe Frazer, Alex Mullins and Amy Petra Woodward, Diego Vanassibara and Victoria Adam, Kit Neale and Jonathan Trayte.

– ENDS –

[britishfashioncouncil.com/fashionartsfoundation](https://britishfashioncouncil.com/fashionartsfoundation)

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**EDITOR'S NOTES**

**Participants' Biographies**

**Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom**

Born in 1984, Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom lives and works in London. As a multi-media artist he creates hybrid performances where sculpture, photography, sound, archive and self-produced moving image are kinetically combined to form a language of connectivity and multiplicity. Often the work takes on the appearance of an installation where a considered gesture is performed and act out. Informed by popular culture, Appau Jnr Boakye-Yiadom often exploits performative possibilities. Researching and working with archive materials that include video footage, images, text and recorded sound, alongside ready-made objects. Creating works with multi-layered references.

**Carla Busuttill**

Carla Busuttill was born in Johannesburg in 1982 and works across different mediums, primarily paint, but also film, installation, digital media and sculpture. Busuttill often explores and addresses notions of power in a digital age. By platforming and interrogating the parallel themes of growing economic inequality and information abundance, much of Busuttill's recent work looks at tendencies toward increased isolation and fortification, based on economic and technological strata.

**Julie Born Schwartz**

Julie Born Schwartz (b. Chicago, USA, 1981, lives and works in Copenhagen) studied at Goldsmiths and Royal Academy Schools in London. She is represented by Union Pacific in London. Beginning with periods of extensive research and thorough engagement with a social context or a particular situation or material, Born Schwartz's practice is focused on presenting stylized narratives. Evolving usually over long periods of time or as a specific response to an experience or place they find their form in installations employing video, photography and sculpture.

**Liam Hodges**

British born, London based, Liam Hodges has interest in 'an expressive, polysyllabic masculinity'. His brand has been labeled a luxury brand for the mad and bad ones who are desirous of everything and those who forsake conformity everyday not just at the weekend. Signature Liam Hodges means wide silhouettes, patch working, hard wearing workwear and sportswear; influences drawn from modern male subcultures, English paganism, Hip-Hop skatewear, UK streetwear and Post-Punk. Liam graduated from London's Royal College of Art in 2013 after studying menswear under the tutorage of stylist Simon Foxtan. In 2014 Liam debuted a collection for Fashion East before gaining catwalk sponsorship under the prestigious Topman backed MAN show for three seasons. Spring/Summer 18 will see Liam's fourth standalone show thanks to NEWGEN sponsorship.

**Marco Palmieri**

Marco Palmieri (b. 1984, Tulsa, USA) is an artist who lives and works in Rome. Over the past years, Palmieri has worked with imagery of leisurely and classical heritage – primarily in the production of paintings, but also objects such as wallpaper, ceramics, and tailored clothing. The protagonists in the paintings are typically distracted, bored, pensive, or melancholic. Their mood is one of emptiness and loss – lost not only in thought, but also lost in time. Like a scent that lingers long after its wearer has departed, the figures, the poses, and the scenes, each carry the trace of other artists and historical periods, from Matisse to the Etruscan era.

**Nicky Carvell**

Born in 1983 in Hertfordshire, UK Nicky lives and Works in London. Carvell studied at both Chelsea School of Art and Goldsmiths College before completing a Postgraduate Diploma at the Royal Academy Schools. Her work, which I have come to term as 'Naff Grafix' is an emphatic embrace of dynamic formalism encasing the grit of British suburbia. Working mostly in digital print with Photoshop as her conduit and aluminium as it's support, her works are the proposition of an uplifting otherworld. Resulting in abstract digital paintings, they are lyrical,

confrontational and excitable. Having come from a suburban teen goth background, Nicky is deeply affected by underground movements and the way in which these can visually rile up society.

#### **Paula Knorr**

German born womenswear designer Paula Knorr lives and works in London. She graduated from Royal College of Art in 2015 and won the ITS Fashion Award in Trieste in the same year. Afterwards, she worked as a freelance designer for Peter Pilotto and on different projects with well-known fashion stylists to capitalise on her strength in creating innovative draping and cutting techniques. In late 2015 she found her own fashion label and being awarded NEWGEN by the British Fashion Council, one of the most internationally recognised talent identification schemes, she presents her collections on Schedule at London Fashion Week. Her feminine designs are manufactured in Germany using exceptional material from Italian and French mills.

#### **Richard Malone**

Irish designer Richard Malone, 26, is fast becoming London's go-to designer for resourcefulness with no shortage of rebellion. In 2017 alone, he presented a catwalk show that was the runaway success of London Fashion Week, was shortlisted for the LVMH Prize, and was commissioned by the New York's Museum of Modern Art to create a custom piece for its first fashion exhibition in seventy years. Malone graduated from Central Saint Martins BA Fashion Womenswear in 2014, where he was awarded the prestigious LVMH Grand Prix scholarship. Malone's unique style takes great inspiration from sculpture. Nearly all of his research is conducted primarily by engaging in his surroundings, taking much of his inspiration from Ireland's rebellious working class teens.

#### **Sadie Williams**

London born designer Sadie Williams creates modern textile driven fashion, juxtaposing modernity with craft. Her sensibility for combining a sporty tomboyish with grown-up femininity has been a signature since graduating with Distinction from the CSM MA Fashion course in 2013. She went on to become a Selfridges 'Bright Young Thing' and was included in 'Designs of The Year Exhibition 2014' at The Design Museum. She has worked for designers including Marc By Marc Jacobs, J W Anderson and Katie Hillier and many stylists over the years. Since designing an incredibly successful collection for & Other Stories she has undertaken numerous special projects and commissions for Vogue Festival, Carhartt WIP, Manchester Art Gallery, Google & Squarespace. After being awarded a place on the 'Swarovski collective 2017' she has incorporated crystals into her work to playful and original effect. 2018 sees a forthcoming collaboration with the Royal Academy and Christies Auction House.

#### **Samuel Ross**

Samuel Ross' distinctly multidisciplinary vision is present in handcrafted graphic garments and silhouettes untethered by the need for symmetry. Each A-COLD-WALL\* release blurs the line between materials and fabrics - fashion and the arts – and continues its conceptual trajectory. A-COLD-WALL\* exists within a conceptual space bordered by atypical contemporary design, citified cultural influence and audio/visual implementation. A sartorial response to London street culture and the zeitgeist of Britain's working class, Samuel Ross launched A-Cold-Wall\* in the fall of 2015 to reflect hegemonic disparities and youth expression in contemporary fashion.

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#### **Fashion Arts Foundation**

The Fashion Arts Foundation is a registered charity, established in 2010. It aims to nurture collaborations and foster relationships between fashion, film, music and art. Through this strategy the BFC aims to highlight London's position as a leading creative capital and reaffirm the UK fashion industry's reputation for innovation. In 2010 the Fashion Arts Foundation, supported by Harper's Bazaar, partnered with Sony to launch an album series entitled 'The Collection for London Fashion Week'. Each season an album was curated by a different designer. As part of the London 2012 Festival the Fashion Arts Foundation launched Britain Creates. The commissioning project paired fashion designers with other visual artists to create major works of art. Designers and artists involved in the project included Gavin Turk, Hussein Chalayan, Mark Titchner, Mat Collishaw, Matthew Williamson, Mary Katrantzou, Paul Smith, Peter Pilotto and Stephen Jones among others. The artworks were exhibited at the Victoria & Albert Museum and auctioned to raise money for the Fashion Arts Foundation. In September 2013 the Fashion Arts Foundation funded an event to support the life-saving work of The Global Fund through a creative partnership with the BFC, Green Carpet Challenge, American Vogue and Red. In 2016 the Fashion Arts Foundation launched Fashion Arts Commissions with the RA Schools, bringing together emerging designers from the NEWGEN and NEWGEN MEN initiatives and graduates from the RA Schools. Trustees of the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation are Jane Boardman and Valeria Napoleone. The registered charity number is: 1147729.

### **British Fashion Council**

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its Foundation, BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund and NEWGEN. The BFC supports Boden's Future British initiative. The BFC also runs and owns charities including the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, the BFC Fashion Trust and the BFC Education Foundation. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, LONDON show ROOMS, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Week Festival and the annual celebration of excellence in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.

### **Royal Academy Schools**

The Royal Academy Schools is an independent school of contemporary art that offers up to 17 artists each year the opportunity to participate in a free, three year, postgraduate programme.

Founded in 1769, the Royal Academy Schools remains independent to this day. This independence enables the postgraduate programme to constantly adapt to the individual needs of each student. Discussion and debate is fuelled by a variety of lectures, artist talks, group critiques and tutorials given by leading contemporary artists, Royal Academicians, critics, writers and theorists. Graduates of the Royal Academy Schools include Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Matthew Darbyshire, Eddie Peake, Anthony Caro RA, JMW Turner and William Blake. The Keeper of the Royal Academy is Rebecca Salter RA.

### **Royal Academy of Arts**

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded by King George III in 1768. It has a unique position in being an independent, privately funded institution led by eminent artists and architects whose purpose is to be a clear, strong voice for art and artists. Its public programme promotes the creation, enjoyment and appreciation of the visual arts through exhibitions, education and debate.

The RA is undergoing a transformative redevelopment which will be completed in time for its 250th anniversary in 2018. Led by the internationally-acclaimed architect Sir David Chipperfield RA and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), the plans will link Burlington House on Piccadilly and Burlington Gardens for the first time, uniting the two-acre site. The redevelopment will also reveal the elements that make the RA unique, sharing with the public the historic treasures in its Collection, the work of its Academicians and the Royal Academy Schools, alongside its world-class exhibitions programme. For more information on the RA visit [www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk/ra250#video)

### **Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction, private and digital sales in 2017 that totalled £5.1 billion / \$6.6 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and international expertise. Christie's offers around 350 auctions annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War & Contemporary, Impressionist & Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery.

Alongside regular sales online, Christie's has a global presence in 46 countries, with 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, Hong Kong, and Shanghai.