

# **LONDON FASHION WEEK**

**16-20 FEBRUARY 2018**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018**

### **THE QUEEN AT LONDON FASHION WEEK FEBRUARY 2018**

Today, Her Majesty The Queen visited London Fashion Week to present the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design.

Her Majesty was greeted upon arrival at London Fashion Week by Caroline Rush CBE, Chief Executive of the British Fashion Council (BFC). The Queen toured the Designer Showrooms to view the collections and met Headonism and Rock Vault designers Completedworks, DAOU, Frances Wadsworth Jones, Harvey Santos, Lily Kamper, Rachel Boston, Shimell and Madden and The Season Hats. Her Majesty was then introduced by Sarah Mower MBE, BFC Ambassador for Emerging Talent to a group of NEWGEN designers including Ben Cottrell, Charles Jeffrey, Grace Wales Bonner, Liam Hodges, Marta Jakubowski, Matthew Dainty, Michael Halpern, Nicholas Daley, Paula Knorr, Phoebe English, Richard Malone and Sadie Williams.

Her Majesty then attended Richard Quinn's runway show before presenting him with The Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design. The Award, initiated in recognition of the role the fashion industry plays in society and diplomacy, will be awarded annually to an emerging British fashion designer who shows exceptional talent and originality, whilst demonstrating value to the community and/or strong sustainable policies. The first recipient of the Award is British fashion designer Richard Quinn.

London born designer Richard Quinn established his namesake label in 2016 upon graduating from the Fashion MA course at Central Saint Martins. Specialising in womenswear and textiles, his collections are bold and emotive creating a forward thinking unafraid vision. Richard Quinn has been recognised for his exceptional prints and for his ability to combine unique handcrafted skill with a refined high fashion sensibility. Already supplying leading stores around the world, Richard's ethos of collaboration goes beyond his design business to include the creation of a print studio which offers high quality, accessible services to students and his peer group of emerging designers.

The Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design has been designed by Her Majesty's Personal Advisor, Ms Angela Kelly, who has orchestrated The Queen's wardrobe for the past 26 years.

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**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 Fashion Film; BFC Rock Vault; BFC Headonism; BFC/GQ Designer Menswear Fund; 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.

#### **The Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design**

Following The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, it was agreed that an award would be created to recognise emerging British fashion talent in the name of Queen Elizabeth II. The Award aims to provide a legacy of support for the industry in recognition the role fashion has played throughout Her Majesty's Reign and continues to play in diplomacy, culture and communications. Each year a designer will be selected by the BFC, in collaboration with the Royal Household to be recognised by this Award. The Award will be presented by a Member of the Royal Family. The Award, designed by Angela Kelly, inspired by the Queen Elizabeth rose, has been hand-produced by Lucy Price at Bauhinia Studios in Birmingham's famous jewellery quarter.