

Museums of the Future (London, 19–20 Oct 23)

Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London, UK, Oct 19–20, 2023

Jana Riedel

Please join us at the Victoria and Albert Museum (London, UK) on 19th and 20th October 2023 for the two-day international conference 'Museums of the Future', exploring the future of museums. The conference is generously supported by the Helen Hamlyn Trust.

Time and again, museums have faced and embraced the challenge to reinvent themselves, finding new relevance for the audiences and issues of their day. Just as our predecessors have done in the past, today established institutions and the new contemporary museums are embracing this challenge, creating new and inspiring spaces, reinterpreting and diversifying collections, engaging digitally and focusing on equity and social justice. The conference will bring together architects, museum practitioners, thinkers and young people from around the globe. We will explore cutting-edge museum developments and practice, discuss why museums still matter, and look to the possible futures we can collectively create.

Museums of the Future Conference

19th & 20th October 2023

Lydia and Manfred Gorvy Lecture Theatre, V&A South Kensington

Please note, this programme is subject to change.

PROGRAMME:

Thursday, 19th October

10.00 – 10.20 Registration

10.20 – 10.30 Welcome and introduction

Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

10.30 – 11.15 Architecture and Access: The Transformation of the Modern Museum

Charles Saumarez Smith

11:15 – 13:00 Audiences (1) – Invitations to a New Public

Chaired by Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

Caro Howell, Director General, Imperial War Museum, London

Nusrat Ahmed, Lead Curator of the South Asia Gallery, Manchester Museum

Helen Charman, Director of Young V&A

Q&A

13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 Audiences (2) – Welcoming Places; Curating Spaces

Opening address: Amanda Leveté, Director AL_A, London

Chaired by Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of V&A East

Zak Mensah, Co-CEO Birmingham Museums Trust, Birmingham

Shanay Jhaveri, Head of Visual Arts, Barbican Centre, London

Meneesha Kellay, Senior Curator, Contemporary Art, V&A; Co-Curator British Pavilion, Venice Architecture Biennale 2023

Q&A

16.15 – 16.45 Break

16.45 – 18.00 Opening up the Wonder House: A New Era for Collections Access

Liz Diller, Partner of Diller Scofidio + Renfro (DS+R) and a world-leading architect and designer, in conversation with Tim Reeve and Sjarel Ex

18.15 – 19.45 Drinks Reception, Whiteley Silver Galleries

Friday 20th October

10.00 – 10.20 Registration

10.20 Welcome, Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

In-conversation:

10.30 – 11.15 Decoloniality, Identity and Heritage

Tasneem Mehta, Director, Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai, in conversation with Tristram Hunt

11:15 – 13:00 Equity (1) – Exhibitions; Collections; and Representation

Chaired by Joanna Norman, Director of VARI, NAL and Archives

Christine Checinska, Senior Curator, Africa and Diaspora: Textiles and Fashion, V&A

Nick Merriman, Director, Horniman Museum, London

Tony Butler, Executive Director, Derby Museums, Derby

Q&A

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 16.00 Equity (2) – Ownership, Voice, and the Civic Leadership

Opening address: Lisa Havilah, Chief Executive, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney

Chaired by Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of V&A East

Laura Pye, Director, National Museums Liverpool

Jago Cooper, Executive Director, Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia

Leonie Bell, Director of V&A Dundee

Q&A

16.00 – 16.30 Break

16.30 – 17.15 Roundtable – The Museum of the Future

Chaired by Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

Sonita Alleyne, Master of Jesus College Cambridge

Tilly Blyth, Head of Museum Studies, University of Leicester

Doug Gurr, Director, Natural History Museum, London

Tasneem Mehta, Director, Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Mumbai

17.15 – 17.30 Concluding remarks, Tristram Hunt, Director of the V&A

Reference:

CONF: Museums of the Future (London, 19-20 Oct 23). In: Arthist.net, Sep 28, 2023 (accessed May 10, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/40205>>.