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Frieze, PAD and the best of the rest: London's art festival season

Pop culture, old masters, parties and photo studios: where to head for art and design this October

BY ALICE FISHER PUBLISHED: 08 OCTOBER 2026



Linda Nyland

London's autumn art and design bonanza returns for another year this month. PAD London, Frieze London and Frieze Masters all welcome new exhibitors, and there's a plethora of interesting satellite events to discover across the capital.

Frieze London (14-18 October) Regent's Park



KEI OKANO

'Retina/Yellow RAM 2' by Shinro Ohtake

American artist Alex da Corte's specially commissioned sculpture, 'Princess Daffodil' is going to loom over the fair at a whopping 3.5m tall so you won't be

able to miss that, but also look out for 'The Code Universe', a show put together by Beijing-based curator Carol Yinghua Lu which focuses on pop culture and features work by Japanese sculptor Shinro Ohtake and Indonesian artist Oototol amongst others.

This year's artist-to-artist section – which invites a well known artist to nominate a peer who deserves more public attention – is also worth a visit. Yinka Shonibare has nominated South African artist Unathi Mkonto, a sculptor who makes beautiful wood creations and Dominican-born artist Firelei Báez has nominated Eilen Itzel do Espírito Santo, an Afro-Dominican American artist who's showing her vast abstract paintings in a womb-like installation. [frieze.com](https://www.frieze.com)

Frieze Masters (14-18 October) Regent's Park



Courtesy Of Frieze

'Columbina Superba' teapot (1982) by Matteo Thun from the 'Reflections' section of Frieze Masters

Masters' focus on pre-21st century art gives it a wide remit and 2026's schedule is no exception. 'Reflections' – a section which looks at art and design – returns for a second year with a show inspired by Casa Luis Barragán, the home of the celebrated modernist Mexican architect, and Charles and Maggie Jencks's Cosmic House. And if de Corte's kitsch sculpture at Frieze London isn't your taste, you can go big at Masters too: Colnaghi Gallery will present van Dyck's nearly two-metre-tall 'Portrait of a Nobleman' (c 1627-1632) a near lifesize portrait thought to be of Abbe Cesare. Or you could go to Rupert Wace's stand and see the 26th-Dynasty bronze figure of Ptah, Egyptian god of craftsmen, once owned by William

Randolph Hearst and thought to have inspired the original Oscar statuette in 1927.

[frieze.com](https://www.frieze.com)

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PAD London (13-18 October) Berkeley Square



Courtesy Of Maria Sipińska And PAD London

‘Sea Foam’ credenza by Maria Sipińska (2026)

Twelve new galleries and designers will be found in PAD London's Mayfair tent this year, including Bessa Pereira Gallery which celebrates Brazilian modernist design with 'The Ways of Seating' featuring chairs, stools, and sofas by the likes of Joaquim Tenreiro and Carlo Hauner. Polish furniture designer Maria Sipińska will show her luminous and tactile furniture pieces at Mia Karlova Galerie. If you visit make sure you also check out the glassware and ceramics at PIK'D, the Beirut gallery founded by Randa Missir. PIK'D started to champion emerging Lebanese makers after Missir was seriously injured and most of her glassware collection was destroyed in the 2020 explosion in the Port of Beirut. It's a great spot to see new young talent. [paddesignart.com](https://www.paddesignart.com)

Mount Street Neighbourhood Arts Festival (12-17 October) Mayfair

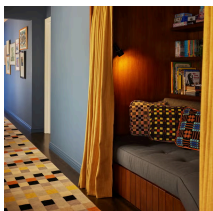


Courtesy Of Mount Street Neighbourhood Festival

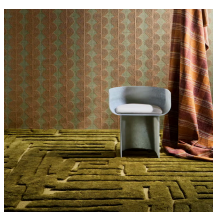
Miles Aldridge's photo studio for Mount Street Neighbourhood Festival

This is the second outing for this festival of art, fashion, food and culture across Mount Street, South Audley Street and Carlos Place. This year photographer Miles Aldridge will bring his studio to 62 South Audley Street and you'll be about to book in for a one-off Polaroid portrait by the *Vogue Italia* and *New York Times* photographer. He's using his signature orange backdrop, first used when he shot Elton John for *Time* magazine icon of the year. Do try your hand at the 'Art Pub Quiz' which will be at The Audley Public House with question masters and hosts including cabaret artist David Hoyle. mountstreetneighbourhood.com

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Minor Attractions art fair (13-17 October) Fitzrovia



Sam Hutchinson

Opening party of last year's Minor Attractions

Minor Attractions takes place in The Newman Hotel in Fitzrovia this year, with around 75 galleries and not-for profits taking over this 81-bedroom hotel. This fair, founded by London gallerists Jonny Tanna and Jacob Barnes, has become an insiders' favourite in recent years and it's a great spot to unwind and party away from the major shows. For 2026 you can go there to play mahjong with games social club Mahjong Palace or to hear writer Simon Amstell in conversation with Ghislain Pascale, director of queer art gallery Boys!Boys!Boys!.. There'll be live radio broadcasts and performance throughout the fair's run, as well as galleries from 15 different countries including Trespassing, MATTER and Slinger Copyright. minorattractions.com

JW Anderson (14-21 October) Pimlico Road



Courtesy Of JW Anderson

Vase by Akiko Hirai from 'Composition' at JW Anderson Pimlico

This store is a must-see stop for fans of design and art and the show for Frieze week is no exception. 'A Composition' centres on a new series of 30 wind chimes

developed by Welsh artist Cerith Wyn Evans specifically for JW Anderson, but also features ceramics from Akiko Hirai, paintings by Mary Stephenson and sculptures by Shawanda Corbett. The show is sponsored by America Express The Platinum Card and cardholders will receive a gift from JW Anderson with purchase during the preview day on 14 October.

‘Cerith makes you look at things differently,’ says Jonathan Anderson. ‘There’s always something familiar in the work, but it never stays familiar for long. That idea of shifting the ordinary is something I’ve always been interested in. Bringing Cerith’s work into the Pimlico store feels interesting because it puts it into conversation with the artists, makers and craftspeople we work with there. I like the idea of these different disciplines existing alongside one another without hierarchy – art, craft, objects, fashion – and seeing what happens when they meet.’ jwanderson.com

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