

BRITISH COUNCIL

COLLECTION

MUSEUM WITHOUT WALLS

Ed Hall, *British Council Collection Banner*, 2012
Cotton drill, fabric paint
194 x 358 cm
British Council Collection
© The Artist

Explore the Best of 20th & 21st Century British Art

Henry Moore

Dame Barbara Hepworth

Lucian Freud

Paula Rego

Bridget Riley

Grayson Perry

Damian Hirst

Tracey Emin

Larry Achiampong

The British Council Collection reflects the diversity of experience and creative practice in the UK and allows us to explore contemporary questions and issues through art.

Since 1938, the British Council has been collecting works of art and today has over 8,900 paintings, prints and drawings, sculpture, photography and multi-media artworks showcasing the best of UK-based contemporary visual artists.

The Collection features artworks that represent significant periods in British art [history](#) including the 1940s War artists such as [Graham Sutherland](#), [Paul Nash](#) and [Henry Moore](#); Pop and Abstract artists from the 1950s such as [Sir Eduardo Paolozzi](#), [Richard Hamilton](#) and [Bridget Riley](#); the Young British Artists (YBAs) of the 1980s such as [Damien Hirst](#), [Gillian Wearing](#) and [Mat Collishaw](#); and artists working in installation known as New British Sculpture like [Alison Wilding](#), [Tony Cragg](#) and [Antony Gormley](#).

Also in the Collection are artists that the British Council has commissioned to represent the UK at the [Venice Biennale](#) including [Anish Kapoor](#), [Chris Ofili](#), [Tracey Emin](#), and [Sarah Lucas](#).

More recent acquisitions have focused on the diversity of British culture today and include artists working in film/video, textile, sculpture, ephemera and painting like [Lubaina Himid](#), [Hetain Patel](#) and [Larry Achiampong](#).

The Collection is available as a resource from which organisations all over the world can borrow, from individual key loans to series of works by renowned artists. The Visual Arts team helps these works to be widely seen and experienced as part of our collaborative international exhibitions and curatorial programmes.

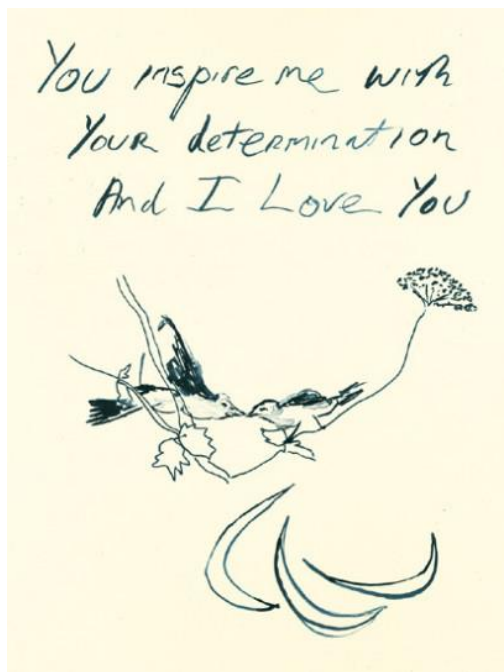
More information about our programmes and how to borrow from the Collection is available below. The full collection can also be accessed via our online database [here](#).



Collection Highlights & Star Loans

(Detail) Grayson Perry, *The Annunciation of The Virgin Deal*, 2012
Jaquard woven tapestries in wool, silk, cotton, acrylic and polyester,
with cotton warp
200 x 400 cm

© The Artist. Photograph: Stephen White
Gift of the artist and Victoria Miro Gallery with the support of
Channel 4 Television, the Art Fund and Sfumato Foundation, with
additional support from Alix Partners.



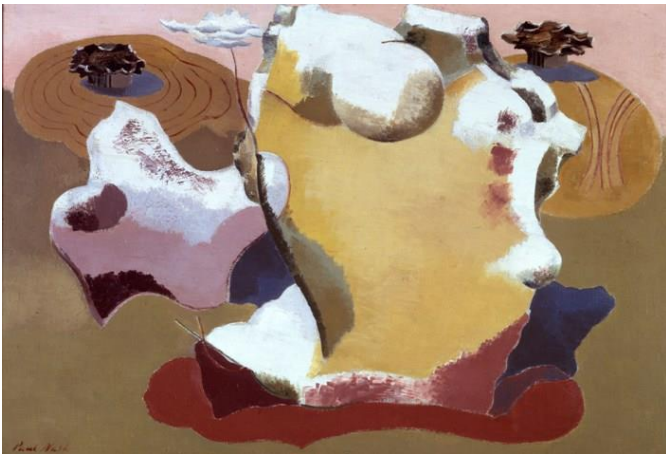
Tracey Emin, *Birds* 2012, 2011
Lithograph
76 x 60 cm
British Council Collection
© Tracey Emin. All rights reserved, DACS 2022



Lucien Freud, *Girl with Roses*, 1947/48
Oil on canvas
756 x 106 cm
British Council Collection
© Lucian Freud Archive, 2014. All Rights Reserved
Bridgeman Art Library



Anish Kapoor, *The Chant of Blue*, 1983
Polystyrene, resin, gesso and pigment in 4 parts
3: 61 X 61 X 61/76 X
British Council Collection
© Anish Kapoor. All Rights Reserved, DACS 2022



Paul Nash, *Landscape of the Megaliths*, 1934
Oil on canvas
49.5 x 73.2 cm
British Council Collection



Paula Rego, *Three Blind Mice, See How They Run!*, 1989
Etching with aquatint
52 x 38 cm
British Council Collection
© The Artist



Chris Ofili, *Painting with Shit On It*, 1993
182.5 X 122 CM
Acrylic and oil on canvas with elephant dung on linen,
resting on two elephant dung supports
British Council Collection
© The Artist



Groups of Works by Individual Artists

David Hockney
'Serenade' From *The Blue Guitar* (Portfolio Of Twenty Prints), 1977
Hardground and softground etching and aquatint
52.3 x 45.7 cm
British Council Collection
© David Hockney



The collection features a number of groups of works by renowned artists such as Grayson Perry, Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, David Hockney, Paula Rego, Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane. These include:

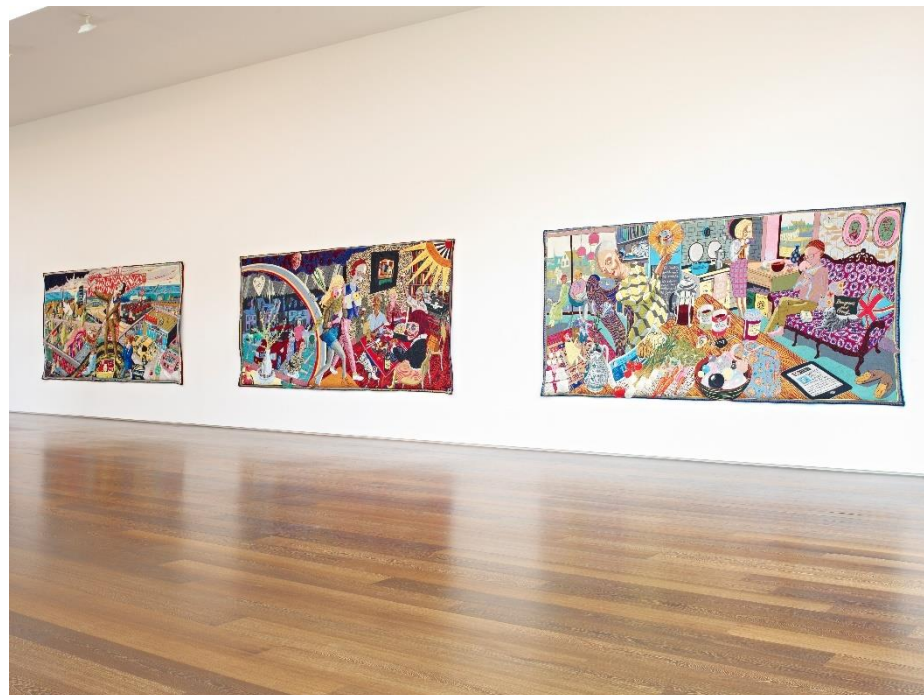
Turner Prize winner Grayson Perry's *The Vanity of Small Differences*, 2012, a series of six large-scale tapestries which explore the British fascination with taste and class.

David Hockney's four major suites of prints produced from 1961-77 including *A Rakes Progress*, *Illustrations for Fourteen Poems from C.P. Cavafy*, *Illustrations for Six Fairy Tales from the Brothers Grimm* and *The Blue Guitar*.

Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane's *Folk Archive*, 2000, which brings together drawing, painting, film, performance, costume and objects to celebrate contemporary popular British culture.

The British Council Collection also has a portfolio of 25 etchings and aquatints by Paula Rego titled *Nursery Rhymes*, 1989.

These can be shown as stand-alone exhibitions and the British Council has created packaged exhibitions that include additional interpretation materials such as catalogue publications, essays, artists' video interviews and supporting visual materials.



(Top): Installation view of Jeremy Deller and Alan Kane's, *Folk Archive*, 2000, at Minsheng Art Museum, Shanghai, 2010

(Bottom): Installation view of Grayson Perry's, *The Vanity of Small Differences*, 2012 at Victoria Miro Gallery, London, 2013



Artists' Moving Image

Gillian Wearing

Douglas Gordon

Elizabeth Price

Steve McQueen

Rosalind Nashashibi

Samson Kambalu

Hetain Patel

Rachel Maclean

The British Council holds an impressive collection of 56 time-based media works, with a particular focus on artists' moving image.

UK-based artists have been at the forefront of artistic experimentation, distribution, and exhibition in moving image, from early filmmaking cooperatives in the 1970s to recent developments in virtual reality and digital creation. The practice of artist moving image boomed in the 1990s, which is where the British Council Collection significantly expands, demonstrating the breadth of the contemporary craft and has been the focus of recent acquisition.

The British Council's Collection of moving image works sits at the intersection of art, technology and history featuring contemporary, ground-breaking presentations of style, aesthetics and technical innovation and provokes audiences to think about the ways sound and image are produced, combined and exhibited.

Larry Achiampong, *Relic 2*, 2019
4k video single channel with audio
British Council Collection
© The Artist. Courtesy the Artist and Copprfield Gallery

The Collection features works from artists such as:

Legacy artist filmmakers: Gillian Wearing, Elizabeth Price, Jane and Louise Wilson and John Akomfrah.

Well-known contemporary visual artists lesser known for video artwork: Jeremy Deller and Charlotte Prodger;

Early works from those who have since become household names in film: Sam Taylor-Johnson and Steve McQueen;

And recent acquisitions of those at the forefront of UK and global artists' moving image: Hetain Patel, Larry Achiampong, Samson Kambalu and Lawrence Lek.

Moving image works are some of the most accessible in the Collection, allowing straightforward and low-risk exhibitions in flexible environmental and security conditions. The works can be suitable for online programmes, gallery/museum exhibition, or display in Black-box/cinemas/theatre-style screenings (dependent on context). All works come with technical specs for exhibition.

All collection works are available for loan or for stand-alone exhibitions.

Our most recent programme *We Are Here: Artists' Moving Image from the British Council Collection and LUX* featured one of our leading international co-curatorial programme offers. *We Are Here* saw curators from all over the world create exhibitions and public programming using the British Council and LUX Collections in conversation with artworks by local artists to facilitate cultural exchange and dialogue. These programmes were facilitated by experts in the field of artist moving image, international partnering museums and arts spaces and British Council.



(Top): Hetain Patel, *Don't Look at The Finger*, 2017
HD video single channel with sound
British Council Collection
© Hetain Patel

(Bottom): Rachel Maclean, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, 2012
High Definition Video
British Council Collection
© Rachel Maclean, 2012, Commissioned by The Edinburgh
Printmaker



Collaborative Curatorial & Exhibition Programmes

Installation view of *Women Tailored to Society*, 2019 at
Gallery of Matica Srpska, Serbia

The British Council Visual Arts team is currently focussed on programmes to support early-career curators to develop their knowledge and experience of exhibition-making. We invite UK and global curators to work collaboratively using the British Council Collection as an essential resource to explore current global challenges through topical themes. Below is an example of how international curators prompted their local museums to respond to the theme of gender equality by using the British Council Collection to form the touring exhibition, *Perceptions*.

Objectives

To give curators the opportunity to build their curatorial practice, work collaboratively, conceive and organise exhibitions across the Western Balkans and build expertise in audience development through public programme.

How

Five curators built exhibitions using a core list of works from the British Council Collection including artworks by Sarah Lucas, Laura Aldridge, Helen Chadwick and Anthea Hamilton. They were supported by the British Council to work together on their curatorial processes, public programming and selection of artwork by local artists within their countries.

Outcomes

By working together, the curators built meaningful relationships between their respective organisations. *Perceptions* set a precedent for engaging wider audiences through parallel public programming and inspired new approaches, perspectives and partnership working. It also gave the museums the opportunity to showcase many local artists who had not been exhibited before, addressing a lack of opportunity and platforms for exhibition.

“What makes this exhibition particularly important is its focus on the topics that have remained a taboo for most women artists even after the freedoms had been gained and areas of women's creativity expanded”

- Minister of Culture, Montenegro.



Installation view of Tracey Emin's *Something's Wrong*, 2002 at the National Museum, Montenegro, 2018. Applique blanket, 200 x 154 cm, © Tracey Emin. All rights reserved, DACS 2022.

Recent Acquisitions

Lubaina Himid

Yinka Shonibare

Hannah Quinlan & Rosie Hastings

Gordon Cheung

Holly Hendry

Tina Keane

Zadie Xa

The British Council continues to acquire significant works of art into the Collection that reflect the rich diversity of UK culture. Many of these works are participatory and performative, addressing the conflation of cultures, identity representation, diaspora communities, and post-colonial legacies in contemporary Britain.

Recent works by some of the best UK-based artists today include Hardeep Pandhal, Delaine Le Bas, Gordon Cheung, Grace Ndiritu, Goshka Macuga, David Shrigley, Anne Tallentire and Flo Brooks.



(Top): Larry Achiampong, *Pan African Flag for The Relic Travellers' Alliance (Ascension)*, 2019-20
Polyester fabric
300 x 200 cm
British Council Collection
© The Artist. Courtesy the Artist and Copperfield Gallery

(Bottom): Flo Brooks, *On My Way*, 2018
Acrylic on wood
85 x 80 x 3 cm
© The Artist



Paula Rego, *Chicken Persuading Woman*, 1982
Acrylic on paper
119 x 152 cm
British Council Collection
© The Artist

Contact us to find out more
about the British Council
Collection at

Visual.arts@britishcouncil.org

To borrow from the Collection
please email the above
address for the attention of
the Head of Collection.

We ask that requests to borrow from the Collection
are submitted at least six months before the
opening date of the exhibition.