



Fashion Open Studio and British Council launch a series of studio events and workshops with nine international designers for COP26

Fashion Open Studio in partnership with British Council will present a series of ten international digital events in response to the themes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26. Launching at Digital Design Weekend at the V&A, during London Design Festival in September 2021, nine participating designers from across the world have been selected to open up their studios virtually to showcase their creative responses to fashion's environmental impact and the climate talk themes of **Adaptation and Resilience** and **Nature**. The digital event series will take place 25 September - 12 November, forming part of British Council's The Climate Connection global programme and campaign.

Designers will be taking part from Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Zimbabwe. Each designer offers a perspective in response to their own experience. From Cape Town, **Sindiso Khumalo** will be showing that social and environmental issues are interconnected. She will be demonstrating repair techniques and discussing inequality and the need for dignified employment to create resilient communities. **Bhukram** is a Thai brand devoted to preserving and promoting the indigenous Phu Phan community's way of life and its natural environment. Their event will offer a rare glimpse into the founder's home studio in the Bhupan region in north east Thailand and embroidery techniques that tell the stories of community and nature. From Jakarta, Indonesia, **Toton** will be conducting a virtual studio tour, demonstrating their denim upcycling techniques, and sharing the work of an artisan group in Garut, a small town in west Java to highlight their collaboration. **Bora Studio** also works with local indigenous communities around Nepal with natural dyeing and traditional craft techniques and will show how a highly localised supply chain and community works in practice, in harmony with people and planet.

The event series will be animated by a physical activation in Glasgow during COP26 (1-12 November) which will offer the public and COP26 attendees alike an opportunity to interact with the open studio activities in person.

The cohort of designers will have opportunities for skills and knowledge sharing to support and strengthen their work and knowledge, and the workshop series will culminate in a Speedshare networking event exploring the themes of COP26 in depth. The nine designers selected to take part are **Garcia Bello** (Argentina/Netherlands), **Aranya Craft x Rahemur Rahman** (Bangladesh/London), **Iro Iro** (India), **Toton** (Indonesia), **Bora Studio** (Nepal), **Sindiso Khumalo** (South Africa), **Bhukram**, (Thailand), **Huner** (Turkey) and **Vimbai Natasha Naomi**, (Zimbabwe).

Fashion is one of the most damaging industries in terms of its pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. As a significant contributor to climate change, it is important to highlight some of the solutions the creative and innovative change makers in the fashion community are putting into practice. Tangible solutions and small-scale innovations have the potential to transform the burdensome impact of the fashion industry.

Orsola de Castro, Global Creative Director Fashion Revolution says: “Fashion Open Studio engages with young and established brands, with the people who make our clothes, for irreverent and forward thinking debates and workshops that stimulate different viewpoints – COP26 is a crucial moment to put forward viable alternatives to create much needed change to the fashion system.”

Sevra Davis, Director of Architecture Design Fashion at British Council says: “We are excited to be collaborating with Fashion Open Studio to bring important themes of COP26 to life through the work of designers who are leading change in the fashion industry around the world. This exchange is at the heart of the British Council Climate Connection, which puts young people at the centre of climate change solutions in order to participate in dialogue, debate and action.”

COP26 FOS LIVE EVENT PROGRAMME

To bring this Fashion Open Studio series during COP26 to life in Glasgow we have commissioned South-London based design collective Peut-Porter to create a roaming wearable installation based around the concept of human billboards and Victorian ‘Banner Ladies’. Between 5 November - 7 November this installation will pop up in 9 locations across the city which will play host to workshops based around techniques, skills and perspectives shared in the digital events created by each designer. The installation will stop in studios, community spaces and cultural locations in the city to connect with local designers, makers and communities who will learn the techniques from the designers and pass them on to a

public audience to mend, upcycle, repair and regenerate their clothes. The wearable sculpture will shed a piece at each location leaving a trail of smaller sculptures in these host venues across the city.

These small-scale but meaningful and tangible solutions respond to the COP26 themes of Nature and Adaptation & Resilience showing that fashion can play a role in conserving and restoring the environment and in valuing people, communities and their surroundings over profit. The designers have been twinned with spaces, people and communities who share an ethos, practice or approach with their work in order to deepen the relationships between the fashion and environmental community in Glasgow and their counterparts around the world.

Full event listings:

5 November

09.30 - 11.00 Embroidery as repair by Sindiso Khumalo hosted by Glasgow Clyde College, Cardonald Campus

12.00 - 13.30 [A sail's journey to it's second life, as a keychain](#) by huner hosted by Galgaels

15.00 - 16.30 Nature as inspiration by Bhukram hosted by Woodlands Community Garden

6 November

10.00 - 11.30 Autumn leaves eco-printing workshop by Bora Studio hosted by Print Clan

14.00 - 15.30 Zero to IRO IRO by you zero waste pattern workshop by IRO IRO hosted by Alis Le May

16.00 - 17.30 Upcycling techniques for denim by Toton and Rejean Studio Glasgow

7 November

10.00 - 11.30 This garment is connected to my story by Garcia Bello hosted by Apparel Xchange

14.00 - 15.30 Patching stories through stitches by Aranya Craft and Rahemur Rahman hosted by Rags to Riches collective at The Deep End

16.00 - 17.30 RESTORATION performance and mosaic technique workshop by Vimbai Natasha Naomi hosted by Bawn Textiles

Register for tickets on www.fashionopenstudio.com/events/

Please note places are limited and bookings are on a first come first served basis.

You can follow the trail around the city from 8 November - 11 November via the sculptures left at each host venue. For those who are not in Glasgow you can follow the project on the

project website <https://fashionopenstudio.hotglue.me/> and @fashionopenstudio on Instagram.

NOTES TO EDITORS

All events will be free to access and available to book at www.fashionopenstudio.com

**Social media: @fashionopenstudio #FashionOpenStudio @british_design
@britisharts #theClimateConnection**

For press enquiries, interview requests or images, or more information on the Fashion Open Studio, please contact press@fashionrevolution.org

Images are available [here](#)

Fashion Open Studio

Established in 2017, Fashion Open Studio is a Fashion Revolution initiative. As a showcasing platform, the purpose is to shine a spotlight on best practice and innovation being led by fashion and textile designers, biotech start-ups and retail disruptors. As well as radical new start ups, FOS has attracted some of the industry's biggest names to collaborate, including Vivienne Westwood, Bethany Williams and Christopher Raeburn. The designers are selected for their commitment to a clearly defined criteria of responsible design and systemic innovation. Designers share best practice in a transparent and open manner, in a way that offers access and stimulates discussion and questions.

www.fashionopenstudio.com

Fashion Revolution

Fashion Revolution is the world's largest fashion activism movement, formed after the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013 which killed over 1,100 people. Fashion Revolution campaigns for a clean, safe, fair, transparent and accountable fashion industry through research, education, collaboration, mobilisation and advocating for policy change. Fashion Revolution is a global movement with country offices and voluntary teams in 90 countries. Fashion Revolution believes in a global fashion industry that conserves and restores the environment and values people over growth and profit. In order to achieve this goal, the organisation conducts research that shines a light on the fashion industry's practices and impacts, highlights where brands and retailers are moving too slowly and incentivises and promotes transparency and accountability across the supply chain.

www.fashionrevolution.org

British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. In 2019-2020 we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive a 14.5 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

www.britishcouncil.org

British Council The Climate Connection

The Climate Connection is the British Council's global platform for dialogue, cooperation and action against climate change. It will reach millions of people from the UK and the rest of the world through collaborative and creative solutions to the climate crisis. The Climate Connection engages people through three interconnected activity strands in the arts, education and English sectors: Engaging young people; engaging leaders and policymakers and engaging the public.