



STANLEY PICKER GALLERY & DORICH HOUSE MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNANCE:

In 2023-24 Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum undertook a strategic review and developed a new Vision Statement and Strategic Plan 2023/4-2028/9, aligned with **Kingston University's Town House Strategy** and core values **Inclusive, Ambitious, Innovative** and **Enterprising**:

Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum are Kingston University's unique cultural venues. We stage public events and exhibitions, working closely with contemporary artists, designers, students and academics to commission and present innovative ideas and ambitious new practice celebrating our diverse community heritage.

*The Gallery and Museum operate as 'expanded studios', where our ambitious work is developed and shared, inspired by the enterprising spirit and global outlook of collector and arts patron **Stanley Picker** (1913-1982) and artist and designer **Dora Gordine** (1895-1991), who each created exemplary modernist homes and collections in Kingston, from where they pursued successful international careers.*

*We work inclusively to nurture and develop **creative talent** including our renowned **Stanley Picker Fellowships in Art & Design**. We provide our **students** with inspirational learning and professional development opportunities, and actively support **staff research** and **knowledge exchange**. We support and encourage creativity for personal wellbeing with our **local communities**, and foster connections with specialist **cultural networks** nationally and internationally.*

*Offering **free entry** to all, the Stanley Picker Gallery is supported by the **Stanley Picker Trust** and forms part of **Arts Council England National Portfolio**, and Dorich House Museum has **Arts Council England Museum Accreditation** and is part of the international **Iconic Houses Network**.*

This year we welcomed new **Advisory Group Chair Kath Wood** (right), who has worked in the contemporary visual arts sector for over 30 years. Kath has extensive experience as Founding Director of award-winning contemporary visual arts organisation Firstsite, Colchester (1994-2012) and through her freelance practice over the last 10 years with clients including Tate, British Council, Wysing and New Contemporaries. Our previous Chair Catherine Ince, a former KU student who went on to become Chief Curator at V&A East, left as she took up her new post as Director of Exhibitions & Programmes at ARoS Aarhus Art Museum in Denmark. **Aoife Donnelly** and **Angela Ford** (KSA MA Architecture & 3D Workshops) were appointed new internal members through open call with shared responsibility as Environmental Champions.



We are very proud that the Stanley Picker Gallery sustained its vital core funding as part of the prestigious **Arts Council England National Portfolio** in a highly competitive funding round aligned with their ten-year strategy *Let's Create*. The **Stanley Picker Trust** continues to support our Stanley Picker Fellowships and student activity across both the Gallery and Fine Art Department. This year we welcomed renowned choreographer and educator Stephen Pelton as their new Trustee.

Over the last year, projects at the Gallery and Museum have received additional funding from **Decorative Arts Society, IASPIS** (Stockholm), **Estonian Embassy in London, Estonian Ministry for Culture, Estonian Contemporary Art Development Center, London Museum Development** and **State Culture Capital Foundation, Latvia**. We work with the university's **Development, Alumni Relations, and Engagement** team to generate support and the Museum raises additional income from its café, shop, and commercial hires for private and corporate events, photo shoots and filming. Recent clients have included fashion brand **Zara, W Magazine**, and jewellery brand **886 Royal Mint**.

PROGRAMME SUCCESS:

Dorich House Museum and Stanley Picker Gallery offer free entry to all. We work closely together, developing ambitious and innovative programmes with and for Kingston University staff and students, members of the local community and specialist audiences. Visitor numbers at our venues have grown significantly since the pandemic.

Our renowned **Stanley Picker Fellowships in Art & Design** support contemporary practitioners to research, create and present a significant body of new work as part of our university community.

Appointed through public open call, each Fellowship provides a generous grant, production budget and valuable access to the workshops, resources, and expertise of KSA and the wider university, towards staging an exhibition of international standing. Current Fellows with projects in development include **Ilona Sagar** and **Débora Delmar**, with **FRAUD** and **Davinia-Ann Robinson** newly appointed in 2023 by a selection panel including Sumitra Upham, Crafts Council Head of Programmes and co-curator of the 2023 British Pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale. The new Fellowship commissions premiered in 2023-24 were **Larry Achiampong's 'A Letter, A Pledge'** (right, featured in *Apollo Magazine*) and **Thomas Pausz's 'Haunted Ecologies'** (front cover, bottom image), whilst previous Fellow **Maeve Brennan** presented her Fellowship commission 'An Excavation' at VISUAL Carlow in Ireland, and **Ben Judd** secured Arts Council England funding for a new publication about his Fellowship project 'The Origin'.

We are very proud that both **Brennan** and **Achiampong** have been shortlisted for the **Film London Jarman Award 2024** for their recent work, including their respective Stanley Picker Fellowship commissions. **Oreet Ashery** won the award in 2017 following her own Stanley Picker Fellowship.

In 2023 we initiated a new 18-month **Stanley Picker Gallery Curatorship**, to encourage and promote diverse curatorial voices through our programme, appointing **Borbála Soós** whose innovative curatorial work explores the intersections between art, ecology and community.

With the support of key cultural partners in Estonia and Latvia, the Gallery and Museum collaborated to present 'Host & Parasites' the first institutional UK solo show by Estonian artist **Flo Kasearu** at Stanley Picker Gallery (left, Kasearu talking to students) and a new collaborative commission with Kasearu and Latvian artist **Elina Vītola** at Dorich House Museum. The project was supported by Richmond Park staff and volunteers, KSA metal casting and laser cutting technicians, KSA students and alumni, and a team of *Disorder Patrol* volunteers from our local community. *Host & Parasites* was visited by the **Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia** Heidi Purga (left), and the **Estonian Ambassador** in London, H.E. Mr Viljar Lubi. Works created for the show are being presented at **Art Basel** in June 2024, by Tallin-based Temnikova Kasela Gallery.



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Ongoing research into the Dorich House Museum collections has included an externally funded project on the Russian decorative arts holdings. Dr Louise Hardiman, who worked on the project, has been appointed a KSA visiting Research Fellow. The Museum regularly takes part in national and regional programming including Heritage Open Days and London Open House.

Significant press and media coverage on Dorich House Museum in 2023-24 has included **BBC Antiques Roadshow** (5 May 2024), publicity linked to commercial hire (Frankie Corio photo shoot for **EXIT magazine**) and the Museum recently featured in the **Financial Times** column **'The World's Best House Museums'** (25 May 2024).



FT Series
The world's best house museums

Step inside the homes of some of the world's most illustrious writers, artists and other historical personalities — and see how interiors can reveal interior lives



House museums #69: Dorich House
Dora Gordine's bronze sculptures, made at her home at Richmond Park, were the first by a woman to be acquired by the Tate Gallery

House museums #68: Casa Guidi
The Florentine home of the poets Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning is a memorial to their lives and love story

STAFF & STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES & FUTURE SKILLS:

"Being a Museum & Gallery Assistant has given me the opportunity to gain an insight into the cultural sector that I wouldn't have otherwise. The support and advice from the gallery and museum was invaluable planning and installing "Freeyard" with Splinter Collective."

Honey Birch (BA Product & Furniture Design Graduate)



The Gallery and Museum work inclusively to support **student recruitment, student and staff research** and **personal and career development opportunities for students and recent graduates**, through collaborations with taught courses, opportunities to work with visiting researchers and Stanley Picker Fellows, opportunities to create, document and present new work, placements, mini-residencies and Future Skills opportunities, including paid employment through our student professional development programme.

Staff highlights this year include 'Hemp, Earth + Politics' by KSA's **Angela Ford/Studio Raw Origins** (below left), accompanying Ligaya Salazar's Fellowship commission 'A World of Islands', through which Ford has been approached to show at the V&A Museum as part of **London Design Festival 2024**. The Gallery and Museum supported the creation and presentation of a new film 'Future Ruins, Future Archives' on the **Ben Kelly Design Archive** (below right), creating opportunities for Kelly to collaborate with current staff and alumni, including w.in.c film collective, and hosted a workshop as part of **MaHoMe** research project on migrant and refugee home-making and policy-making, led by KSA's Professor Fran Lloyd in partnership with Lund University in Sweden and Roskilde University in Denmark.





Exhibition opportunities for students have included *Dailiness and Atmosphere* by **KSA PhD candidates** Il Sun Moon (artist) and Yoojin Kim (curator) at the Gallery, and student finalists of the **REMET Prize** for bronze casting at the Museum. Other activities include a student-led **Autism Awareness** project for neurodivergent audiences, and ongoing support for graduate **P.O.C.** design collective **Splinter Collective**, this year including a dual-site community banner-making workshop (left) for **Cultural Diversity Week**, reflecting themes of home, community, climate crisis and migration.

Special **student projects** this year have included a competition to design new crockery for the Dorich House Museum café, won by Eylul Oguz (MA Illustration), and a specially commissioned wayfinding design project 'Connect Create Contemplate' (right) to develop audiences and help them navigate between our venues (Alice Bush, BA Illustration & Animation; Alex Stillwell, Graphic Design graduate), plus **professional development opportunities** for KSA Fine Art student Lydia Arney and recent KSA Architecture graduate Reuben Truman who supported the production of the artworks for Flo Kasearu and Elina Vitola.



UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS & DISPLAYS:

As part of our wider responsibility for the care and development of the **university's art collections**, the Gallery and Museum re-displayed the artworks in the public spaces and Senior Leadership Team offices at Holmwood House and had cleaned and conserved both **Yemi Awosile's** textile work *Gele* (2021) (right) at Town House, and an important painting *Green Apples* (1962) by the British artist **Euan Uglow**.

Working in collaboration with **Kingston Museum & Heritage Service**, we have supported the presentation and interpretation of the Royal Borough of Kingston's **Eadweard Muybridge Collection** that is now archived at Town House, including the acquisition of a new museum-standard display case, the creation of new information panels, and the branding of the ground floor Town House café as *Eadweard's*.

In association with the **Development, Alumni Relations & Engagement** team, we arranged the display of three works by **Charles Lewis**, Head of Sculpture at KSA for 30 years from 1947. The works were kindly donated by his daughter, Madeleine Weston Lewis, in conjunction with a student bursary.



NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS:

The Gallery and Museum work with an extensive range of national and international partners to develop and deliver the rich programmes across our two venues. Dorich House Museum is a member of the **Museums Association** and **Art UK** and is participating in **The Museum Data Service**, an ambitious initiative (Art UK, Collections Trust, University of Leicester, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the Arts and Humanities Research Council) to connect and share all the object records across all UK museums, large and small. The Museum has a digital guide on the international Bloomberg Connects digital platform.



Our international memberships include the **International Council of Museums, Iconic Houses**, a network of curators and custodians of architecturally significant modern houses (left),



Artist's Studio Museum Network which connects and promotes museums in the former homes and studios of visual artists and **Contemporary Visual Arts Network England (CVAN)**.

Stanley Picker Gallery has been collaborating with **IASPIS** (Stockholm), to develop an ongoing international research project entitled *What Does a Design Residency Do?* mapping and exploring existing and future models of design residences. Accompanying curator Ligaya Salazar's Fellowship exhibition, *A World of Islands*, and forming part of **London Design Festival 2023**, the second forum took place at Stanley Picker Gallery (right) with over 40 participants, onsite and online, including residency providers, curators, academics, journalists, practitioners, Stanley Picker Fellows and our own PhD researchers, staff and students.



Artangel have invited the Gallery to partner on phase two of their *Making Time* environmental residencies together with Science Gallery (UCL), Radar (Loughborough University) and Mead Gallery (University of Warwick). These residencies aim to address the climate crisis and provide time for the chosen practitioners to undertake meaningful research to make a step change in their careers. Appointed from a list nominated by the project partners, the selected artists will be invited develop their research in collaboration with academics using the resources of all the partner organisations. *Making Time* phase one residencies included Stanley Picker Fellows Dani Admiss and FRAUD.

National Gallery Singapore has asked to borrow five Gordine works from the Museum to complement Gordine sculpture in its permanent collection, as part of a re-presentation of the history of art in Singapore, recognising Gordine's significance as one of the first artists to create public sculpture for the modern city of Singapore.

The Gallery and Museum have submitted **British Council** funding applications for collaborative projects in India and the Philippines to support the presentation of Ligaya Salazar's Fellowship project, *A World of Islands*, at Ateneo Gallery at the University of Manila and R&D Studio (Rachel Davies, KSA Graphic Design/Moving Image & Daniel Saul RCA/UAL Animation) to work with The Museum of Goa.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNITY & PARTICIPATION:



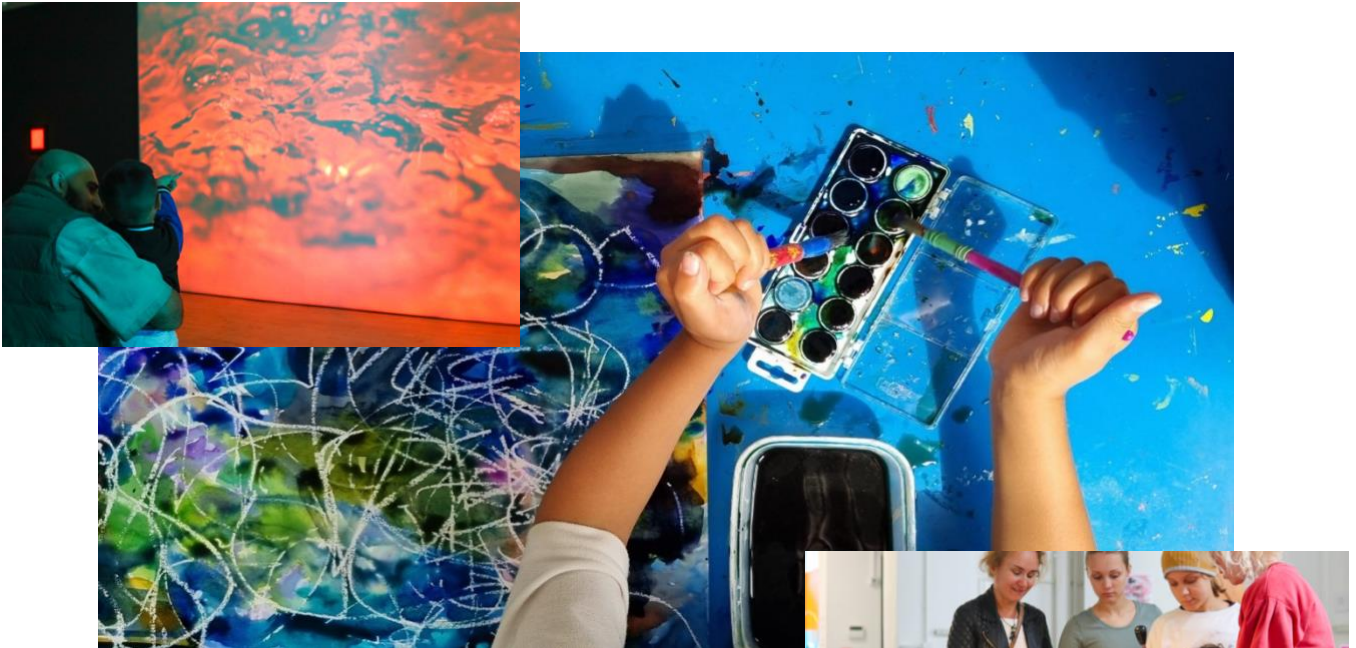
The Gallery and Museum play an important role as local cultural connectors. Launched in 2022, our highly successful **Communities Forum** (bottom right) meets once a term over an informal meal for networking and discussion. We work closely with Kingston Museum and Heritage Service. This year we have taken part in the borough-wide autumn **Heritage Festival**, been involved in a consultation with the Royal Borough of Kingston on the upcoming **Kingston 2025 Festival** and sat on the **Unilever** commissioning panel to appoint two artists to create new public sculpture for the new Unilever Campus in the town centre.

We support the creative economy in Kingston. This year we have collaborated with **Not My Beautiful House** (created by Kingston School of Art students with support from Union of Kingston Students & Studio KT1) to sell work by students, alumni, and local makers, with **Kingston Artists Open Studios** to host artists without studios to take part in KAOS Open Studios, and with **Kingston International Film Festival** to support emerging creatives.

"A serene, relaxing environment for learning and group events. Perfect for evoking the senses and a feeling of mindfulness and calmness."

We work locally to promote lifelong learning, creativity, health and wellbeing to improve student lives and the lives of those in our borough. Through Larry Achiampong's show at the Gallery, we partnered with the **Samaritans** and **Mind** and at Dorich House Museum we host weekly **Mindful Movement to Boost Mental Wellbeing** classes (bottom left) in partnership with Kingston Adult Education. We regularly host **Ariadne's Thread** (top right) an initiative by MA Museum & Galleries graduate Magdalena Glowacka to support the migrant and refugee community to collaborate to preserve cultural heritage and shape a brighter future through creativity. We have piloted **Quiet Open** for neurodivergent audiences and **Early Open** for families with young children and run workshops on a wide range of themes.

We work closely with **local schools and colleges**, holding regular After School Art Clubs, workshops with SEND students and Anstee Bridge creative referral unit, creative industries briefings for teachers, a Saturday Art Club, new pre-school activities, and a vibrant programme of workshops and events, many led by our students with training and support from our Participation Curator.



Recent **community partners** include Mind, Samaritans, Achieving for Children, Bradbury Centre, Ariadne's Thread, Home-Start Kingston, Hogsmill Community Garden, United Response, Creative Youth, Kingston U3A, CARAS: Asylum Seeker & Refugee Support Group, Refugee Action Kingston, and alumni architecture group 121 Collective.



This year we have strengthened our connections with **KU Inclusion & Student Development**, **ELEVATE**, the **KU Autism Peer Network**, P.O.C. graduate design group **Splinter Collective**, and the **Kingston LGBTQ+ Collective**, and have worked with and supported students from courses across the university.



stanleypickergallery:



DORICH HOUSE
MUSEUM

Studio Home of Dora Gordine & Richard Hare



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