

PRESS RELEASE

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BRITISH FASHION COUNCIL CELEBRATES GRADUATE PREVIEW DAY

Imagery from Graduate Preview Day: <https://we.tl/t-EyKPjVTfUq>

Today the British Fashion Council (BFC) hosted the Colleges Council Graduate Preview Day at the Ace Hotel in London, an event which aims to shine a light on the breadth of design talent in the UK while giving the industry first-hand access to the portfolios of this year's graduating fashion design students and an opportunity to meet the course leaders of 21 top fashion institutions in the UK. During the event the BFC announced the 2019 BA and MA scholars graduating this summer and four prestigious awards, supported by industry partners. All recipients and winners were chosen for their ability and potential to make an exceptional contribution to the British fashion industry.

The 2019 BFC Education Foundation BA scholars graduating this summer are:

Andrea Mayer | Ben Sumpter | Jonathon Kidd | Melissa Eakin | Rosie Baird

The 2019 MA scholars graduating this summer are:

Annie Vallis | Harriet Crowther | Maja Leskovsek | Morgane Krischer | Sara Kiani | Shaun Harris |

Uta Sienkiewicz

BRITISH LIBRARY X NABIL NAYAL RESEARCH COMPETITION WINNERS: **Andrew Froud**- University of Brighton and **Victoria Lyons** - Kingston School of Art, were awarded a prize of £3,000 to be shared, along with a year long membership to the British Library.

PIÑATEX® X RICHARD MALONE SUSTAINABILITY COMPETITION WINNER: **Brian McLysaght** - Edinburgh College of Art, was awarded 5 metres of Piñatex textile to contribute to the production of his submitted line-up. Runner up **Maria Streang** - Arts University Bournemouth, was also awarded 3 metres of Piñatex textile.

GIVENCHY FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION WINNER: **Paige Leach** – University of South Wales, will receive a 6-month paid internship at the Givenchy Studios in Paris.

WGSN PORTFOLIO COMMENDATION AWARDS WINNER: **Birmingham University and Edinburgh College of Art** - WGSN and the BFC partnered together to offer the WGSN Portfolio Commendation Awards, to

recognise colleges whose portfolios display outstanding strengths in specific areas decided by the judges at Graduate Preview Day. The winners receive a one-year subscription for their best student to WGSN.

Education is a key pillar of the BFC strategy and is led by Pillar Presidents Sarah Mower MBE and Meribeth Parker, with the aim of attracting the best talent to the industry by giving students a clear understanding of how to study and train for a plethora of industry roles.

The BFC uses its annual Graduate Preview Day to cement its work in education as more important than ever. Working with industry to highlight talented students and the leading fashion design courses across the UK as well as the opportunities to access support through scholarships, the BFC aims to encourage and support young people to access arts education, study at universities and pursue careers in the fashion industry, which employs an estimated **890,000** people and contributes **£32 billion** to the UK economy. In 2018, The British Fashion Council raised over **£2.3 million** for its charities and business support initiatives out of which **£1.1million** will be allocated directly to scholars and designer businesses.

As part of its Education pillar, the BFC's education initiatives are designed to secure the legacy of support for talented students at every stage, safeguarding the opportunity to further education regardless of financial situation. The BFC has been awarding students MA scholarships since 1998 and introduced awards to support BA students in 2015; in the last year alone, the number of scholarships awarded by the BFC's Education Foundation increased from **11 to 21**, taking the BFC's financial commitment to students from **£127,000** to over **£200,000**, making more than a **60%** year on year increase.

This year at London Fashion Week February 2019, the BFC launched the Fashion Studio Assistant apprenticeship, which opens new pathways to the luxury fashion sector other than university and gives insight on how to run a successful fashion business. This was the 400th new government apprenticeship to be approved. The BFC also works on the fashion industry's skills agenda with UK Fashion & Textiles to promote skills development in the fashion sector.

Now in its 26th year, the BFC Colleges Council continues its work to bring together industry and academia, and is stronger than ever with 34 members, including 11 non-fashion courses as members. A total of 270 students have attended the events and the industry led competitions have received over 180 entries from students across the UK.

– ENDS –

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

The British Fashion Council (BFC) was set up in 1983 to promote British fashion internationally and co-ordinate this promotion through fashion weeks, exhibitions and showcasing events. The BFC now supports designers beginning at college level and extending to talent identification, business support and showcasing schemes to help British designer businesses develop their profiles and business globally and promote British fashion and its influential role in Britain and London. The BFC Colleges Council offers support to students through its Foundation, BA and MA scholarships, links with industry through design competitions and Graduate Preview Day. Talent identification and business support schemes include BFC/Vogue Designer Fashion Fund, BFC/GQ

Designer Fashion Fund and NEWGEN which includes womenswear, menswear and accessories. The BFC also runs and owns charities including the BFC Fashion Arts Foundation, the BFC Fashion Trust and the BFC Education Foundation. Showcasing initiatives and events include London Fashion Week, London Fashion Week Men's, LONDON show ROOMS, International Fashion Showcase, London Fashion Week Festival and the annual celebration of creativity and innovation in the fashion industry: The Fashion Awards.

2019 BFC Education Foundation BA & MA Scholars : Of those graduating this year, Andrea Mayer specialises in Womenswear at Central Saint Martins; Annie Vallis specialises in Menswear at University of Westminster; Ben Sumpter specialises in Fashion Design with Knitwear at Central Saint Martins; Harriet Crowther specialises in Menswear at University of Westminster; Jonathon Kidd specialises in Womenswear at Central Saint Martins; Maja Leskovsek specialises in Womenswear at Central Saint Martins; Melissa Eakin specialises in Fashion Design at University of Westminster; Morgane Krischer specialises in Menswear at Westminster University; Rosie Baird specialises in Fashion at Edinburgh College of Art; Sara Kiani specialises in Womenswear at Central St Martins; Shaun Harris specialises in Womenswear at Royal College of Art; Uta Sienkiewicz specialises in Fashion Textiles at Central Saint Martins.

The British Fashion Council Education Foundation is a registered charity in England and Wales with number 1064820. The BFC may transfer information to the BFC Education Foundation to contact donors directly. Past MA scholarship winners include Joseph John Mooney, Creative Director, Menswear and Production, **ASOS** (2001); Erdem Moralioglu, Designer and Founder, **Erdem** (2002); Daphne Karras, Womenswear Design Director, **Lanvin** (2004); Andres Azubel, Senior Menswear Designer, **Givenchy** (2005); Alice Bastin, Ready-to-Wear Designer, **Celine** (2011); Emma Hardstaff, Assistant Designer, **Burberry** (2012).

BFC Colleges Council In order to discover talent, the BFC works with a network of respected design schools, known as the Colleges Council. The BFC Colleges Council was founded by the BFC in 1993 to create an interface between education and industry. The BFC Colleges Council is a membership programme that represents the leading fashion departments in universities and colleges throughout the UK. The purpose of the BFC Colleges Council is to provide opportunities for students to become involved in the industry through various activities including events, seminars and competitions.

Member Colleges Arts University Bournemouth, Bath Spa University, Birmingham City University, Buckinghamshire New University, Central Saint Martins, Coleg Sir Gar (Carmarthen School of Art), Coventry University, De Montfort University, Edinburgh College of Art, Falmouth University, Gray's School of Art, Kingston University, Leeds Arts University, London College of Fashion, Manchester Fashion Institute, Manchester School of Art, Middlesex University London, Northumbria University, Norwich University of the Arts, Nottingham Trent University, Ravensbourne, Royal College of Art, Sheffield Hallam University, University for the Creative Arts Epsom, University for the Creative Arts Rochester, University of Bedfordshire, University of Brighton, University of Hertfordshire, University of Huddersfield, University of Leeds, University of Salford, University of South Wales, University of Westminster, UWE Bristol and Winchester School of Art.