



**LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES WINNERS
OF THE 2024 LONDON DESIGN MEDALS: PAT
MCGRATH DBE, NATSAI AUDREY CHIEZA, HARRY
BLAKISTON HOUSTON AND REI KAWAKUBO**

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#LDF24

5 September 2024, London, UK: London Design Festival today announces the winners of the 2024 London Design Medals.

London Design Medal:	Pat McGrath DBE
Design Innovation Medal:	Natsai Audrey Chieza
Emerging Design Medal:	Harry Blakiston Houston
Lifetime Achievement Medal:	Rei Kawakubo

Each year, London Design Festival recognises the contribution made by leading design figures and emerging talents to London and the industry with four London Design Medals awarded: The London Design Medal, Design Innovation Medal, Emerging Design Medal and Lifetime Achievement Medal.

A panel of established designers, industry commentators and previous winners meet to debate and judge the possible recipients of the four Medals. This year's jury members included: **Ozward Boateng OBE, Es Devlin CBE, Ben Evans CBE, Philip Holliday, Tristram Hunt, Yinka Ilori MBE, Indy Johar MBE, Jay Osgerby OBE, Ben Parker, Dr Rathna Ramanathan, Alice Rawsthorn OBE, Jemma Read, Raoul Shah, Wai Shin Li, Justine Simons OBE and Jane Withers.**

This year's winners are pioneers of creativity and innovation across a range of fields: from redefining beauty and fashion to advancing sustainable design and humanitarian solutions. They are shaping new narratives, pushing boundaries, and fostering a more inclusive, sustainable, and forward-looking creative landscape.

The Festival is delighted to announce **Bentley Motors** as Sponsor of the Design Innovation Medal, **Johnnie Walker Blue Label** as Sponsor of the London Design Medal, and to continue the Festival's long-standing partnership with **Fortnum & Mason** as the Supporting Partner of the London Design Medals 2024. The winners will receive their Medals at an awards ceremony on the evening of **Monday 16 September 2024** at **Space House**.

Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival Director, said: *"The 2024 London Design Medal winners exemplify the remarkable diversity and ingenuity that define our design and creative industries today. Their work demonstrates the boundless potential of design to inspire change, challenge conventions, and shape our future. We celebrate their extraordinary achievements and thank them for their impactful contributions to the global design community and beyond."*

The 2024 winners are as follows:

Pat McGrath DBE
The London Design Medal
Supported by Johnnie Walker Blue Label

The London Design Medal, is the highest accolade bestowed upon an individual who has distinguished themselves within the industry and demonstrated consistent design

excellence.

Pat McGrath is the world's most influential and in-demand makeup artist. For over 25 years, McGrath's creative vision has made her a tour de force who has transformed both beauty and fashion on a global scale.

Throughout her illustrious career, she has been recognised with honours and accolades: she was the first makeup artist selected for the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America Founder's Award) in 2017; was placed in Time magazine's 2019 '100 Most Influential People' list as a "titan" of the fashion industry; and was awarded the DBE for services to the fashion and beauty industry, and diversity, in the Queen's 2021 Honours List.

Since launching Pat McGrath Labs in 2015, she has become the biggest selling beauty brand in Selfridges' history, and has launched ground-breaking international collaborations with brands such as Marc Jacobs, Prada, Comme des Garçons and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Pat McGrath, said: *"Design is at the core of everything I do as a makeup artist, so to have my dedication to design recognised and celebrated with the London Design Medal – and in the city where I got my start, no less – is a complete full-circle moment for me."*

Natsai Audrey Chieza

**The Design Innovation Medal
Supported by Bentley Motors**

Design Innovation Medal, celebrates entrepreneurship in all its forms, both locally and internationally. It honours an individual for whom design lies at the core of their development and success.

Natsai Audrey Chieza is a visionary designer and thought leader. She is the founder and CEO of Faber Futures: launched in 2018 to bridge the gap between scientific advancements and real-world applications, fostering a resilient bioeconomy through collaborations with biotechnology and creative industries, and working with partners including the World Economic Forum, Ginkgo Bioworks. and the Design Museum.

In 2023, she cofounded Normal Phenomena of Life, making tangible how biotechnology can generate new materials that can be beautifully designed to support climate goals. As a member of the WEF's Global Futures Council on Synthetic Biology, Chieza advocates for the integration of design and culture in policy development for bioeconomies powered by biotechnology.

Natsai sits on Fondation USM's Future Lab advisory panel, and is a member of the WEF's Global Futures Council on Synthetic Biology, advocating for the integration of design and culture in policy development for bioeconomies powered by biotechnology. She is a TED speaker and has taught at Central Saint Martins and the Bartlett School of Architecture. She received the INDEX award in 2019, among other progressive 'one to

watch' accolades.

Natsai Audrey Chieza, said: *"In a rapidly evolving world interdisciplinary collaboration is essential for making positive change. It demands us to push beyond traditional models, boundaries and expectations. That's why it's particularly meaningful to see the work we do at Faber Futures—where design, biotechnology and society converge—acknowledged for its role in shaping the possibilities of tomorrow. I am honoured to share this recognition with my dedicated team, collaborators, partners, and clients, whose collective efforts bring these visions to life."*

Harry Blakiston Houston Emerging Design Medal

Emerging Design Medal, recognises an individual or practice that has made a recent impact on the design scene and has an emerging practice showing design promise.

Harry Blakiston Houston grew up in Northern Ireland's Sperrin Mountains, before studying engineering mathematics at the University of Bristol, and beginning a PhD in biotechnology at Cambridge University.

In 2023, Blakiston Houston founded Insulate Ukraine, an initiative conceived to install low-cost, triple-glazed temporary polyethylene windows in bomb-damaged homes in the war-torn country – to an innovative design tough enough to survive nearby explosions but built from readily available materials and tools.

Insulate Ukraine has liaised with local governments and charities across Ukraine to install several thousand of its windows in homes, schools and orphanages, while setting up window replacement hubs and training local people to run them. It's a humanitarian initiative as simple as it is essential, and a startling example of Houston's brilliant initiative in applying intuitive engineering to the most fundamental of real-world issues.

Harry Blakiston Houston, said: *"I see myself as an inventor who uses systems to solve problems. When I was told I would be awarded the Emerging Design Medal, I asked if it could go to the people on the ground in Ukraine, the civilians who stayed to help their community. They are putting their lives on the line every single day. I didn't win this award. They did."*

Rei Kawakubo Lifetime Achievement Medal

Lifetime Achievement Medal, honours an individual who has made significant and fundamental contributions to the design industry over their career

Rei Kawakubo has defied convention to redefine fashion for nearly five decades. Since founding Comme des Garçons in 1969, Kawakubo's iconoclastic vision has made her one of the most influential garment designers of the 20th century; subverting shape and function, reframing ideas of beauty, and proposing a new relationship between body and

dress.

Kawakubo was the first Japanese designer to bring their brand to the Paris Fashion Week schedule and, 40 years in, she continues to set international trends. In 2004, Kawakubo and her husband Adrian Joffe opened Dover Street Market in London's Mayfair district – conceived to sell new, conceptual and trendsetting brands, and which later expanded to Ginza, New York, Singapore, Beijing, Los Angeles and Paris.

In 2017, she was the focus of a major retrospective at the New York Met, 'Art of the In-Between' – the first living designer to be honoured as such since Yves Saint Laurent in 1983.

Alice Rawsthorn OBE, design critic and author, and London Design Medal jury member, said: *“One of the extraordinary things about Rei Kawakubo is how she uses her practice and the brand to allow her to experiment with anything that seems to interest her. Every aspect of her work reflects her own sensibility, and also our perceptions of her. Other designers have done this in the past but none of them have done it quite as compellingly and critically, as audaciously, as Kawakubo.”*

- ENDS -

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ABOUT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

Established in 2003 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world.

London Design Festival has since earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London's autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

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ABOUT JOHNNIE WALKER BLUE LABEL

Johnnie Walker is the world's number 1 Scotch Whisky brand* (IWSR 2023) and the world's number one International Spirits Brand* (IWSR 2023 Relative Market Share), enjoyed by people in over 180 countries around the world. Since the time of its founder, John Walker, those who blend its whiskies have pursued flavour and quality above all else. Today's range of award-winning whiskies includes Johnnie Walker Red Label, Blonde, Black Label, Double Black, Green Label, Gold Label Reserve, Aged 18 Years, and Blue Label. Together they account for over 22 million cases sold annually (IWSR, 2023). Johnnie Walker is also the number one best-selling Scotch and number one trending Scotch (Drinks International, 2024).

*In value 2023

ABOUT BENTLEY MOTORS

About Bentley Motors Bentley Motors, renowned for its unparalleled luxury, seamlessly combines generations of fine craftsmanship with engineering expertise and cutting-edge design. Bentley has evolved over the decades, channelling its brand DNA into new realms of contemporary luxury lifestyle. By collaborating with masterful craftspeople, engineers, and designers, Bentley now extends its ethos into luxury furniture, architecture, and exclusive experiences, offering the ultimate in personalised self-expression and exclusivity to the world's most discerning clientele.

ABOUT FORTNUM & MASON

Fortnum & Mason is essential for anyone seeking extraordinary food, joy-giving gifts, unforgettable experiences, and exceptional service. First founded in London in 1707, after Queen Anne permitted her footman William Fortnum to sell discarded candles from St James's Palace, Fortnum's has forged a close relationship with the British Royal household ever since. Fortnum & Mason holds two Royal Warrants, one from His Majesty The King and one from Her Majesty The Queen.

A London retail institution and pioneer in the hospitality sector, innovation has always been a central pillar at Fortnum's. From inventing the Scotch Egg and providing supplies to the 1922 Everest expedition to beekeeping in Piccadilly's rooftop hives and launching the Food & Drink Awards to celebrate people and talent, Fortnum's has been a trusted disruptor and authority in the food & drink space, at home and internationally, from the very beginning.

Proud of its storied past and innovation, Fortnum's mission remains to make joy for every customer, whether they're shopping in-store or from around the world at the award-winning www.fortnumandmason.com. Follow Fortnum's on Instagram and Facebook (@fortnums)