



Baobab Tree, © Ben Holland, open-ended design

"In an age of disruption & innovation: Where do we go next?"

**New cultural experience 'Technology and Design Lab' launches
September 20th at The House of KOKO**

Panel talks featuring

Diana Alcausin (*WeTransfer*)
Emily Benn (*Editor, Councillor City of London*)
Shajay Bhooshan (*Zaha Hadid Architects*)
Sougwen Chung (*Artist*)
Es Devlin (*Artist & Designer*)
Tom Dixon OBE (*Tom Dixon*)
Dara Huang (*Architect*)
Amon Kale (*Central Saint Martins*)
Karen Kang (*TikTok*)
Arthur Mamou-Mani (*Mamou-Mani Architects*)
Freya Murray (*Google Arts & Culture*)
Ed O'Brien (*Creative Technologist*)
Dayo Olopade (*Amazon Studios*)
Mariasole Pastori (*Diorama*)
Whitney Richardson (*Apple, The New York Times*)
Greg Robson (*Kintanna Ventures*)
Maxim Zhestkov (*Artist*)

Part of London Design Festival, curated by Suhair Khan and open-ended design

Limited (free) tickets available for the public [here](#)

Tuesday September 20th

2:00pm - 6:30pm
The House of KOKO, 74 Crowndale Road, London

open-ended design, in partnership with **London Design Festival** and **The House of KOKO**, will host **Technology & Design Lab** on **Tuesday 20th September**. It is the first iteration of a forward-looking cultural experience curated by **Suhair Khan**.

The event is generously supported by House of KOKO, WeTransfer, Diorama, Gaia Art Foundation and Lito.io. Tickets are limited and are available from **9am on Friday 2nd September** from [here](#).

Through a series of conversations and performances, ticket holders will get a front-row seat to the dreams, challenges, and projects at the forefront for London's futurists. Speakers include innovators from tech and the creative industries, with a critical lens of cross-disciplinary collaboration, speculative creative outcomes and hybrid realities.

With Technology & Design Lab, the mission is to connect visionary creatives and technologists, to catalyse, seed and build around new ideas. There is a need for spaces to foster a shared language between technology and design, two often siloed disciplines. open-ended design asks the question: "In an age of disruption & innovation: where do we go next?"

Suhair Khan, Founder of open-ended design: *"I've spent my career working with the world's leading designers and technologists; driving to see and create what's beyond possible. The future of creativity will lie in bringing these two disciplines together to create new spaces around the ideas and questions that matter. We are proud to be part of the London Design Festival's official programme and to have collaborated with Ben Evans and his team; and to celebrate London as the world's cultural hub of creativity and entrepreneurship. At KOKO, we will be bringing an incredible group of cultural leaders together in a shared space which we hope will spark new conversations and encourage impactful change."*

Olly Bengough, Founder and Creative Director of KOKO: *"We are excited to be hosting the inaugural edition of Technology & Design Lab with open-ended design and Suhair Khan, a world leading tech and design innovator. KOKO sits at the heart of design, culture, music, and the digital future of creativity. This is a great opportunity for us to bring together the best of the global creative industries and to foster new conversations, performances and ideas."*

This series of performances and conversations tackles serious questions about the role of technology in how we live, connect, and create. There is an emphasis on real critical thinking in design and the future of creativity.

Highlights:

Es Devlin will be in conversation with Suhair Khan about how to thoughtfully engage and leverage technology to push the boundaries of imagination across art, culture, design.

Freya Murray, head of Google Arts & Culture Lab and performance artist Sougwen Chung will talk about bringing technologies such as machine learning and robotics to artistic practice.

Designers Tom Dixon and Dara Huang will connect with Diana Alcausin from WeTransfer and Karen Kang from TikTok to consider the role of creatives across digital platforms.

Arthur Mamou-Mani, head of architecture studio Mamou-Mani and Shajay Bhooshan, who heads computational design at Zaha Hadid Architects, will speak with Dazed Media founder Jefferson Hack about designing, building and placemaking in virtual worlds and the metaverse.

And more....

For more information visit [London Design Festival](#) or [open-ended design](#).

The event is generously supported by House of KOKO, WeTransfer, Gaia Foundation, and Lito.io.

NOTES TO EDITORS

ABOUT OPEN ENDED DESIGN

[open-ended design](#) is a platform that aims to cultivate new ideas at the intersection of technology, culture, and design by incubating conversations, events, and as a creative agency / studio. With Technology & Design Lab, the mission is to connect visionary creatives and technologists, to catalyse, seed and build around new ideas. A critical lens is important, and open-ended design asks the question: "In an age of disruption & innovation: where do we go next?"

ABOUT SUHAIR KHAN

Based in London, Suhair is a technology entrepreneur and creative leader. She is the founder of open-ended design, a platform for impact-driven work across design, culture and tech. In over a decade at Google, Suhair worked with the world's leading technologists and engineers to build new narratives for connection, impact, and scale. She worked with and led entrepreneurial teams – launching new tech products, new initiatives in emerging markets, and a new platform for environmental sustainability. As lead of Google Arts & Culture UK and global projects, she led initiatives which merged cutting edge technology with arts, culture, and design.

She is chair of the board of trustees of world-renowned dance choreographer, Studio Wayne McGregor, and advisor to a number of major cultural organisations globally, including Sadler's Wells, the Design Museum, London Design Biennale and the UK's Museum of the Year Prize. A graduate of Cornell and Harvard University, she is a visiting lecturer at Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design.



Suhair Khan, 2022, © Hassan Gilani

ABOUT KOKO

After three years of construction and restoration, overcoming challenges of a biblical nature - a blazing fire, colossal water damage and a global pandemic - Founder and CEO Olly Bengough has persevered with his ground-breaking vision to redefine live music and entertainment, with a mission to support and empower the next generation of musicians. Six years of planning saw Bengough working with loving care and attention on the planning and restoration of the new building alongside English Heritage, Camden Council, Archer Humphryes Architects (Chiltern Firehouse, The Peninsula Hotel, The Standard) and Interior Designers Pirajean Lees (Bab Hotel Marrakesh, 105 Ibiza).

The new KOKO includes the new Fly Tower 'venue within a venue'; a 50 foot tall shaft housing the original 19th century machinery to operate the theatre stage, which was a surprise discovery during the restoration process, and stands alone as an intimate, 200 capacity venue within the theatre itself. In a Fly Tower show the artist performs facing the reverse, with the audience on surrounding balconies and on the stage itself. The Luno, is a further stunning new multi format space at the top of the 19th century theatre which has its own entrance and will host late night DJ shows, digital art exhibitions, and immersive events. The Luno promises to deliver informative talks and workshops for the public, focusing on decentralising technology, cryptocurrencies and how they are revolutionising the relationship between music, artists and fans.

In addition to the theatre and the Fly Tower, KOKO will return with two new venues on the ground floor for the public; a new shop/DJ space which will feature exclusive merch drops and artist collaborations, and a morning to late-night pizzeria and tap bar, with Cafe KOKO hosting intimate live performances for artists. KOKO returns with a new tiered membership offering. Those who become members of The House of KOKO will give members access to: a stunning new roof terrace and conservatory,

dome cocktail bar, penthouse and recording studio, piano room, library, a hidden speakeasy, stage kitchen and vinyl rooms. Further spaces within the members' floors will allow artists to perform in Ellen's Jazz bar, acoustically on the roof terrace, in the penthouse studio, in the dome or in the stage kitchen.

High-spec broadcasting, recording and live streaming capabilities have been built into the very fabric of the Grade II listed theatre and its new four storey extension which spans 50,000 square feet, meaning musicians now have access to a truly one-of-a-kind physical space and media facility. In the new KOKO, artists can not only perform live in one of the many new spaces, but can co-produce, stream and distribute their music to a global audience with the newly formed KOKO Studio, whilst a new KOKO radio station will help break new and emerging artists.

ABOUT WETRANSFER

Founded in 2009 as the simplest way to send big files around the world, WeTransfer has since grown into an ecosystem of creative productivity tools. The company's suite of tools is specifically designed for creative professionals, enabling collaboration, co-creation and client management across their workflow process. As a certified B Corporation™, WeTransfer has long been a champion of using business as a force for good. The company famously donates 30% of its advertising real estate to raise awareness for artists and creative work.

ABOUT GAIA ART FOUNDATION

Gaia Art Foundation is a non-profit initiative that facilitates cross-disciplinary projects that foster innovation and positive social change. Since 2014, GAF has nurtured cultural initiatives through seed-funding and partnerships, providing a fertile space for originators working within the arts, humanities, sciences and technology to come together and explore ideas that aspire to improve our collective future. IG @gaiaartfoundation / twitter @gaiaartfdn

ABOUT LITO.IO

Based in Bregenz, Austria, LITO lets you live with a masterpiece. Using proprietary technology developed over the past two decades, the company scans, digitises and prints 3D artwork editions that are over 99% accurate. In turn, this creates comprehensive digital archives that may be applied to research, the Metaverse and more. LITO renders its editions in direct collaboration with contemporary artists, artist estates, museums and institutions globally, as well as collaborators from within and outside the art world. Using a dynamic retail model of online drops, partnerships and more, LITO stands to revolutionize the editions market—and, by extension, the art experience. www.lito.io / @lito.io

ABOUT DIORAMA

Diorama is based in Milan and Paris, but spends most of its time in the metaverse. Founded by architects Gilberto Bonelli and Gianni Vesentini in 2016, Diorama is specialised in the creation of digital assets for a variety of disciplines on an international level, ranging from architecture to design, fashion, cinema and art. The company offers a solid expertise and a vision, strengthened by a defined artistic direction both for its clients and its own channels. By relying on the latest technologies, Diorama can offer the unique opportunity to overcome reality and allow you to experience anything you can imagine. www.diorama.eu

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