

Future Matter: Crafting Sustainable Futures

A curated exhibition exploring sustainable materials, contemporary craft and the evolving relationship between people, objects and the natural world

London, September 2026: As part of the official **London Design Festival 2026** programme, *Future Matter: Crafting Sustainable Futures* brings together emerging and established designers, makers, artists, material innovators and researchers to consider how materials can shape more sustainable ways of making, living and relating to the world around us.

Curated by **Emma (Xinyan) Gu** and presented by **Nest – A Lab**, the exhibition takes place at **ASC Handbag Factory, London, from 12 to 14 September 2026**. Bringing together contemporary design, craft, innovative products and research-led practices, *Future Matter* examines the changing relationship between materials, objects and everyday life.

Taking the **object as a connecting thread**, the exhibition follows different stages of an object's life, from material sourcing and development to application and everyday experience. It considers how materials are found, transformed and used, and how these processes shape the ways people interact with the objects around them.

The exhibition brings together **Abe Yantin, Aleksandra Tarnowska, Andrea Dritschel, Anna-Maria Stavreva, Can-Fen Wang, Junghyun Kim, Margo Misiak-Orlovic, Tom Blackmore and YouJin Seo**, whose practices engage with circular materials, responsible production, speculative design, traditional craftsmanship, urban mining and experimental material research.

Traditional materials and emerging material innovations are placed in dialogue throughout the exhibition. Several works investigate the recyclability, reuse and fuller utilisation of existing resources, while others explore newly developed materials and alternative processes. Together, these approaches offer different perspectives on how material practices can respond to environmental challenges and support more sustainable forms of production and consumption.

Through home **objects, wearable objects, installations, material samples, prototypes and research**, *Future Matter* considers how sustainable practices can develop alongside meaningful connections between people and everyday objects. The exhibition reflects on the potential for materials and objects to contribute to a longer-term, more environmentally conscious relationship between people, material culture and the natural world.

With **Dr. Sofie Boons as Academic Advisor**, the exhibition provides a space to encounter diverse approaches to material innovation and to consider how decisions made throughout an object's life can contribute to the material futures we create.

The public programme includes an **Artist Talk with Dr. Sofie Boons on 12 September from 4:30pm**, followed by an **Opening Reception from 6pm to 9pm**. Admission is **free and open to the public**.

Exhibition Information

Future Matter: Crafting Sustainable Futures

12 to 14 September 2026

ASC Handbag Factory, London

Part of the official London Design Festival 2026 programme

Free admission

Curated by: Emma (Xinyan) Gu

Presented by: Nest – A Lab

Academic Advisor: Dr. Sofie Boons

Exhibiting Artists:

Abe Yanti

Aleksandra Tarnowska

Andrea Dritschel

Anna-Maria Stavreva

Can-Fen Wang

Junghyun Kim

Margo Misiak-Orlovic

Tom Blackmore

YouJin Seo

Public Programme:

Artist Talk with Dr. Sofie Boons

12 September, 4:30pm

Opening Reception

12 September, 6pm to 9pm

Press Contact:

Nest – A Lab

[Instagram: @nest_a_lab](#)

Press Images:

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