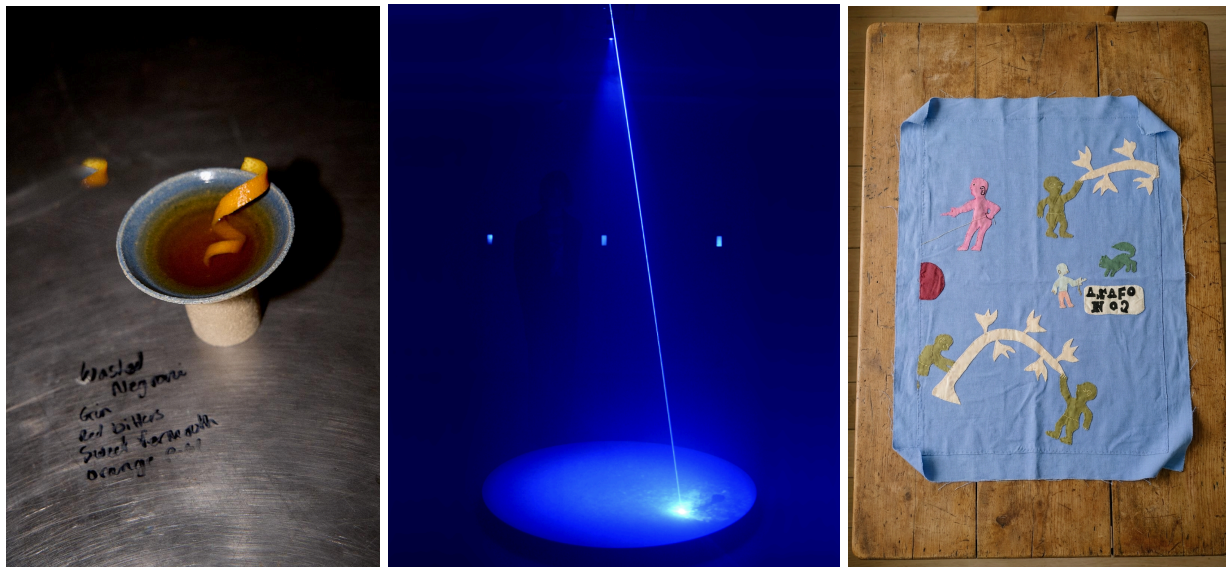


Press release | August 2026

Atelier Seventy-Six presents *Sense of Place* during London Design Festival 2026

An immersive, house-wide exhibition exploring the five senses through contemporary craft, design and material innovation, featuring Emma Louise Payne, Amechi Mandi, Studio Above & Below and Mentsen.



Emma Louise Payne in collaboration with The Henley Distillery © Jana Roberge, Quantum Trace by Studio Above&Below © Studio Above&Below, Asafo Collection by Amechi Mandi © Charlotte Page

For London Design Festival 2026 (12th - 20th September), Atelier Seventy-Six presents *Sense of Place*, an immersive exhibition curated by ceramic artist Emma Louise Payne that invites visitors to experience design through all five senses.

Occupying the rooms of Atelier Seventy-Six's domestic setting, *Sense of Place* challenges the visual bias that has long dominated contemporary design. Instead of asking simply how objects look, the exhibition explores how they are touched, heard, smelled, tasted and ultimately experienced. Each room becomes a sensory environment where designers, artists and makers investigate the emotional and physical relationships we form with the objects that shape everyday life.

At the heart of the exhibition, **Taste** is explored by **Emma Louise Payne** through *Wasted*, a new collection of ceramic cocktail glasses, carafes and small plates that transforms discarded materials into objects for gathering. Created from reclaimed clay, reprocessed ceramics and

surplus glazes from Payne's studio practice, the collection reveals the stories held within waste while exploring how sustainability can enrich the rituals of food, drink and shared experience.

The installation will be brought to life in collaboration with The Henley Distillery, whose micro-distillery has crafted a series of experimental spirits using ingredients typically discarded as kitchen and garden waste. Extending the exhibition's wider conversation around circularity, the tasting experience demonstrates how overlooked materials can become the starting point for flavour, craftsmanship and shared experience, transforming waste into moments of hospitality and celebration.

London-based art and technology practice **Studio Above&Below** presents *Quantum Trace*, a new immersive installation that uses **Sound** as well as laser light, projection and custom software to transform quantum computation into a continuously evolving sensory experience. Blurring the boundaries between digital art, sculpture and living systems, the work reimagines technology as an atmospheric presence woven seamlessly into everyday life rather than a screen demanding attention.

Elsewhere throughout the house, each sense is explored through a specially commissioned installation from leading creative practitioners. Textile designer **Amechi Mandi** investigates **Touch** through a series of richly tactile woven textiles, including cushions from his new Asafo Happy cushion collection. Rooted in the visual language of Ghana's Fante Asafo art, the collection reinterprets the symbolic birds, animals and figures traditionally found on Asafo flags into bold contemporary designs that celebrate storytelling, community and cultural heritage while inviting visitors to engage physically with texture, craft and material.

Completing the mix, design studio **Mentsen** interprets **Sight** with *Tobali*, a sculptural suspension light combining an aluminium frame, LED strip and washi paper diffuser. Available in plain or patterned paper, the design can be adjusted in height and aperture to alter the quality and volume of light, functioning as an ambient light source or an illuminated artwork.

Rather than existing as individual installations, each intervention contributes to a single narrative about how sensory experience shapes our understanding of home. Together they encourage visitors to slow down, engage more deeply with their surroundings and reconsider design as something lived with rather than simply viewed.

Emma Louise Payne says:

"Design is often judged first by what we see, yet our strongest memories of objects and places are frequently shaped by scent, touch, sound or taste. *Sense of Place* asks what happens when we design for the whole body rather than just the eye. By bringing together collaborators from different creative disciplines, we hope to create an experience that encourages visitors to reconnect with the rituals, emotions and material qualities that make our memories feel truly alive."

Founded in 2025 by ceramic artist Emma Louise Payne, Atelier Seventy-Six is an evolving platform dedicated to fostering meaningful dialogue between makers, materials and audiences.

Through exhibitions, collaborations and public programming, it champions contemporary craft while creating opportunities for cross-disciplinary exchange. *Sense of Place* continues this mission by bringing together artists, designers and brands who share a commitment to material innovation, sensory experience and thoughtful making.

For further information, please contact Martha McNaughton - martha@maycommunications.co.uk / +447515169628.

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Editor's Notes

Opening dates and times:

Saturday 12th - Sunday 20th September, 13.00 - 18.00

Launch Party, Wednesday 16th September, 18.00-21.00

Address: 76 Sussex Square, London London W2 2SS

Featured collaborators:

- [Emma Louise Payne](#) — Taste
- [Amechi Mandi](#) — Touch
- [Mentsen](#) — Sight
- [Studio Above & Below](#) — Sound

About the collaborators:

Studio Above&Below is a London-based art and technology practice founded in 2018 by German-British duo Daria Jelonek (b. 1988) and Perry-James Sugden (b. 1992), both graduates of the Royal College of Art. Their practice is research-driven and installation-based, working with digital media, data, and immersive environments to explore relationships between humans, technology, and the environment.

They have exhibited internationally at institutions including Tate Modern, the Royal Academy of Arts, the Victoria and Albert Museum, SONAR+D Barcelona, the Venice Biennale, and UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Shanghai. Their work has been commissioned by ATHR and recognised with awards including the STARTS City of the Future Prize and Bloomberg bursaries.

www.studioaboveandbelow.com

Amechi is a London-based design studio founded by Cameroonian-born designer Amechi Mandi. Inspired by the indigenous cultures, textiles and craftsmanship of pre-colonial Africa, the studio creates contemporary furniture, textiles and homeware that celebrate the continent's rich cultural heritage while bringing bold character to modern interiors. Drawing on Mandi's background in fashion and furniture design, each collection combines cultural research with contemporary craftsmanship to challenge conventional perceptions of African design. As a purpose-led business, Amechi also partners with social enterprises across Africa to support local communities and preserve traditional knowledge through design.

<https://amechihome.com/>

Emma Louise Payne is a ceramic designer and curator whose practice bridges function, form, and architectural integration. With a master's in ceramic design from Copenhagen, she explores the tactile potential of clay to transform both domestic objects and built environments. Based in her rural studio near Henley-on-Thames, she creates everything from refined tableware to bespoke tiles and lighting. Collaborations include RedDeer, Simon Astridge, and Access Art. Her *London Plane* collection expands on everyday rituals through warm, elemental ceramics that reflect her sculptural sensibility and deep material understanding.

www.emmalouisepayne.com

Mentsen is a partnership between Japanese designers Yasuyuki Sakurai and Risa Sano, and a London based practice founded in 2011 working somewhere between craft and industrial design. The studio name, meaning 'lines and surfaces' in Japanese, references the studio's work in different mediums and scales; from furniture and product design to one-off hand made objects and flat works.

<https://www.mentsen.co.uk/>