

ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART GRADUATES LAUNCH “TENDER REVOLUTION” EXHIBITION IN RESPONSE TO A SOFTER WORLD THEME

13th-21st September
237 Brompton Road, London, SW7 2RW

25th August 2025

LONDON, 13-21 September 2025 – Tender Revolution brings together designers, artists, and makers from the Royal College of Art in an exhibition at Brompton Design District, South Kensington, as part of London Design Festival. Responding to this year's curatorial theme A Softer World, the showcase presents new work spanning furniture, textiles, and objects, offering thoughtful reflections on design as an act of care, connection, and renewal.

Designers and artists from the Royal College of Art respond to the rigid boundaries of the systems we inhabit with practices that foreground care, attentiveness, and the possibility of transformation.



Image Credit: Ruikun Guo, 2025

Dominant systems demand conformity, suppressing human complexity and erasing stories that fall outside their binaries. As lived realities become increasingly subject to replication and commodification, this exhibition asks: what if contradiction, vulnerability, and embodied experience could themselves become sites of renewal?

For more information, high resolution images,
or to arrange an interview
please contact Ellen Nacey:
naceyellen@gmail.com
+44 7796805526

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Tender Revolution emerges as a collective response, where design becomes both an offering and an act of resistance – gentle, yet radical in its insistence on care. Rather than chasing speed or spectacle, the practitioners in this exhibition ground their work in listening, questioning, and making with intent. In doing so, they surface hidden narratives and propose new forms of renewal rooted in lived experience. Design here unfolds in symbiosis with materials, communities, the everyday, and the self – taking stock of the present in order to chart pathways toward futures that centre tenderness.



Image Credit: Saym Hussain, 2025



Image Credit: Eileen Morely, 2025

From acts of noticing and extending empathy to designing through personal, cultural, and local perspectives, the works in Tender Revolution both provoke and respond. Introspection and intuition become methods of practice, reimagining a future shaped not by universal systems but by situated interventions and storytelling. Attending closely to experience, tactility, and memory, the practitioners demonstrate how small gestures can return agency to people, places, and moments too often excluded from dominant narratives.

We invite all to experience Tender Revolution and join our nine-day programme of events during London Design Festival, featuring work from Design Products (MA), Fashion (MA), Ceramics and Glass (MA), Innovation Design Engineering (MA/MSc), Jewellery and Metal (MA), and Textiles (MA). Entry is free, with events throughout the festival.

Saturday 13th September, 2-3:30pm

Screening + Q&A - Pot Dialogues: Short Film Screening + Discussion, Saym Hussain

Sunday 14th September, 2-4pm

Talk - Footwear Reimagined: An Anatomical Approach to Shoe Design, Patrycja Koziara

Monday 15th September, 2-4pm

Workshop- Lime Bike Landscape: Using corporate assets as sculpture material, Maxim Lester

Thursday 18th September, 6-9pm

Public View - A celebration of "Tender Revolution", light refreshments provided

Friday 19th September, 12-4pm

Open Studio - Artist at Work: Live Window Studio, Lydia Hill

Saturday 20th September, 12-2pm

Workshop - Save Our Seas: Activism for Ocean Awareness, Ruwanthi Gajadeera

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Postgraduate Art & Design

Saturday 20th September, 3-5pm

Panel Discussion - Beyond Biomimicry: Designing for the More-than-Human, Rosalie Valentiny

Sunday 21st September, 2-3pm

Workshop - Flour Painting: Play with Everyday Materials, Shumeng Zhang



Image Credit: Yang Xiao, 2025



Image Credit: Sarah Tibbles, 2025



Image Credit: Natalie Dubrovskaya, 2025

Exhibiting Artists & Designers

Alexander Clark, Alexandre P. Manko, Ana Maria Alarcon, Audra Grays, Avis Dou, Carmen Danae Azor, Chenrui Zhang, Eileen Morely, Ellen Nacey, Huili Jin, Hyein Lee, Jinjin Zhang, Linlin Guan, Luca Maremmi, Lydia Hill, Lydia Lin, Maxim Lester, Mengyan Guo, Miyuki Guo, Natalie Dubrovskaya, Patrycja Koziara, Rosalie Valentiny, Ruikun Guo, Ruwanthi Gajadeera, Sarah Tibbles, Saym Hussain, Shino Hitosugi, Shumeng Zhang, Sofia Ortmann, Yang Xiao, Yidan Xu, Zhibo Yang

Opening hours:

13th September - 21st September

10 am - 6 pm daily

Public View: Thursday 18th September 6 pm - 9 pm

237 Brompton Road, London, SW7 2RW

Free to enter

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

1. Media are welcome to attend any of the events in "Tender Revolution" exhibition. To arrange this please contact Ellen Nacey on +44 7796805526 or naceyellen@gmail.com.
2. The Royal College of Art is the world's only Postgraduate Art and Design University, offering degrees to students from over 60 countries. Founded in 1837, The Royal College of Art has been named the No. 1 Art and Design university in the world for the 11th executive year. Above all, the institution seeks to foster a collaborative and inclusive environment aiming to address global impacting issues and innovation within art and design through research based practices.
3. The School of Design as part of the Royal College of Art states: 'Research in the School of Design interrogates the systems that integrate design into daily life, dealing with designed objects, services, and the ways in which they are produced and used.'

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