

University of the Arts London (UAL) opens its new Arts Shop at London College of Fashion (LCF)

Join us at East Bank this September as we celebrate the opening of the Arts Shop at London College of Fashion (LCF), part of University of the Arts London.

Located in Stratford's developing cultural quarter, East Bank is fast becoming a destination for creativity — and during London Design Festival 2025, visitors can be among the first to explore this exciting new space.

Marking the launch is a specially commissioned installation from acclaimed design studio Mentsen — an intricate series of pleated Tyvek wall panels, painted, pleated, stretched and woven within Douglas fir frames. Playful yet architectural, the work reflects the craft, innovation, and material exploration at the heart of LCF.



Photos: Mentsen

The wall panels for the Arts Shop respond to their environment and function as part of a material shop within London College of Fashion.

Speaking about the installation, Mentsen said:

“One of the most fascinating aspects of clothes design for us is the way volumes and structures get constructed from light, soft materials. Folding and pleating are simple processes that give a flat sheet of paper or fabric a more rigid structure, while also creating visual interplay with patterns and colour. We designed the pieces to be architectural in form but with softer textural expressions that resonate with the materiality of their surroundings.”

Commenting on the new shop, Caroline Gitsham, Head of Accommodation, Retail and Catering at UAL said:

“We are thrilled to finally open the doors to the long-awaited East Bank Arts Shop. The new shop not only provides a much-needed service to the UAL students at East Bank but also offers the public a new and unique way to engage with UAL’s creative community.”



Photos: Mentsen

About the Arts Shop at East Bank

The Arts Shop is part of LCF's East Bank campus — winner of the RIBA 2025 London Award — which brings all LCF sites together for the first time in 100 years, creating a single home for learning, collaboration and innovation in fashion. It offers state-of-the-art facilities for students and new opportunities for the public to engage with the college's creative community.

The Arts Shop stocks a wide range of art, fashion and design materials to support artists and designers in their practice. Each location's product range is tailored to the courses offered there, ensuring that students have access to the materials they need. By evolving our selection in response to tutor expertise, student feedback and new innovations, we maintain our position as a leading supplier in the art and design materials sector.



Photos: Luca Ulysses Beckerson

East Bank Arts Shop Project team:

Art Work Installation Design and Manufacture - Mentsen
Arts Shop Concept Design – Defne Ayranci and Luca Ulysses Beckerson
Arts Shop Design Team – Mott MacDonald
Arts Shop Shop Fit Out – Facilitate Space
Arts Shop Fit-Out Project Management – Pulse Consult
VM Install – Mega Creative

About Mentsen

Mentsen is a partnership between UAL graduate Japanese designers Yasuyuki Sakurai and Risa Sano, a London-based practice founded in 2011 working between craft and industrial design. The studio name, meaning “lines and surfaces” in Japanese, reflects its work across different mediums and scales — from furniture and product design to one-off handmade objects and flat works.

Mentsen’s work seeks efficiency and elegance while remaining resourceful and often playful. Alongside design projects for commercial and cultural clients, the duo divide their time between bespoke manufacturing in their own workshop and collaborations with architects, interior designers and private clients to create unique one-off pieces made in London.



Yasu and Risa at Studio in Peckham. Photo by Alice Holland

About University of the Arts London

University of the Arts London (UAL) is ranked among the world’s leading creative universities, comprising six renowned colleges including London College of Fashion. UAL offers courses in art, design, fashion, communication and performing arts, shaping the creative industries of tomorrow.