

## COLLECT 2023: HIGHLIGHTS AND CONTEMPORARY CRAFT & DESIGN TRENDS

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Textiles and ceramics, contemporary art jewelry, the African diaspora's cross-cultural fertilisation, and K-Culture are among the key trends of Collect 2023.

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*Collect 2023 at Somerset House – All photos by David Parry/PA Wire, courtesy of Collect.*

[Design](#), [Crafts](#) – The 19th edition of [Collect](#), the international contemporary craft & design fair, returns to Somerset House in London [March 3-5, [Tickets](#) – [Map](#)]. Organised by the [British Crafts Council](#), *Collect 2023* invites collectors, interior designers, art advisors, and enthusiasts to discover a line-up of close to 40 international galleries and representing over 400 artist makers who present pieces made in the last five years, which are often created especially for the fair.



*London Glassblowing Gallery at Collect.*

**AT THE FAIR** – Highlights include 20 textile markers, more than 80 ceramic artists, and other materials, including metalwork, fibre, wood, glass, and non-traditional materials such as resin and plastics, as well as repurposed materials.

*“The increasingly diverse range of galleries and artistic voices featured at this year’s fair will make the show richer in content and discovery than ever before.”* Says Isobel Dennis, Collect fair director.



*Objekti display at Collect.*

Alongside international galleries, **Collect Open**, the fair’s platform for pioneering and thought-provoking craft installations by individual artists and collectives, returns with 14 exciting projects by artists hailing from the USA, Poland, and from all over the UK, including Northern Ireland.



*Theo Brooks at Collect Open.*

**FOUR KEY TRENDS** – According to a Craft Council’s market report, there is a growing desire for authenticity, experiences, and ethical and sustainable consumption habits. Collect 2023 presents an array of **sustainable artist-makers** as the commitment of collectors to buy high-quality, sustainable pieces continues, as is the responsible purchasing habits that fund diversity and equality.



Indeed, a distinct **sense of place** serves as thematic inspiration for many gallerists. “*This year’s fair is a thoughtful and timely consideration of our surroundings: the natural world, the seasons, interior spaces and the home, and even Somerset House.*” Explain the fair’s organisers.



*The New Craftsmen presents a journey into British flora with pieces made from grasses, willow, barks, and other plants that grow in the UK.*

The line of artists presents an interest mix of cross-cultural and cross fertilisation work with strong representation from artists of the **African diaspora**, as well as a diaspora of artists working in their native crafts but living abroad and who are increasingly bringing traditional crafts into a contemporary setting.



*Xanthe Somers, presented by Galerie REVEL, displays vases inspired by the colonial history of Zimbabwe.*

With the rising popularity of **K-culture** in the UK, Collect 2023 sees the strong return of galleries from Asia with a notable presence from Korean galleries and artists.

Works by 28 jewelry-makers reflect the rising trend of **art jewelry** in contemporary craft with **wearable glass, ceramics, textiles, and sculptural metal**.



*Keeryong Choi, presented by Bullseye Gallery, exhibits glassworks blending South Korean and Scottish heritage. All photos by David Parry/PA Wire. Courtesy of Collect 2023.*



*Textiles crafts by Elodie Blanchard and ceramic works by Onka Allmayer Beck. Presented by SEEDS Gallery.*



*Joseph Harrington's glass sculptures take shape from the ice and salt erosion process. Represented by Bullseye Projects – Courtesy of the artist.*