



STANLEY PICKER GALLERY & DORICH HOUSE MUSEUM ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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INTRODUCTION:



Stanley Picker Gallery and **Dorich House Museum** are **Kingston University's** unique cultural venues. We stage public events and exhibitions, working closely with contemporary artists, designers, students and academics to commission and present **innovative ideas** and **ambitious new practice** celebrating our **diverse community heritage**.

Last year, Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum undertook a strategic review and developed a new Vision Statement and Strategic Plan 2023/4-2028/9, aligned with **Kingston University's Town House Strategy**, transformative **Future Skills** programme and core values: **Inclusive, Ambitious, Innovative** and **Enterprising**.

The Gallery and Museum both operate as 'expanded studios', where our ambitious work is developed and shared, inspired by the enterprising spirit and global outlook of collector and arts patron **Stanley Picker** (1913-1982) and artist and designer **Dora Gordine** (1895-1991), who each created exemplary modernist homes and collections in Kingston, from where they pursued successful international careers.

We work inclusively to nurture and develop **creative talent** including our renowned **Stanley Picker Fellowships in Art & Design**. We provide our **students** with inspirational **learning and professional development** opportunities, and support **staff research** and **knowledge exchange**. We support and encourage creativity for personal wellbeing with our **local communities**, and foster connections with specialist **cultural networks** nationally and internationally.

Offering **free entry** to all, the Stanley Picker Gallery is supported by the **Stanley Picker Trust** and forms part of the **Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio**, and Dorich House Museum has **Arts Council England Museum Accreditation** and is part of the international **Iconic Houses Network**.

As we approach the Stanley Picker Gallery's **30th Anniversary** in 2027, and look towards our next 30 years and beyond, we are working with key external stakeholders, including Arts Council England, Stanley Picker Trust and a network of local community partners, to develop an ambitious new vision to become **The Greenest Gallery in the UK**, building upon our heritage as the island site of a water-mill, once entirely powered by nature, and the growing reputation of our environmental programming.

PROGRAMME SUCCESS:

During 2024-25, the Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum welcomed over **10,000 visitors** to our two venues. Our national and international programmes and commissions reached an estimated **audience of 200,000** across the UK, Europe, Asia and USA.

In 2024, two of our Stanley Picker Fellows, **Maeve Brennan** and **Larry Achiampong**, were nominated for the **Film London Jarman Award**. Premiered with us at the Stanley Picker Gallery, Brennan's Fellowship commission has since been shown in Hong Kong, New York and Germany.

Stanley Picker Gallery is partnering with the internationally renowned commissioning agency **Artangel** on their 'Making Time' residencies, together with Science Gallery (King's College, London), Radar Gallery (Loughborough University) and Mead Gallery (University of Warwick). The programme supports artists to work with academics as they reflect on their own practice amidst an ever-growing awareness of environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change. Recently appointed Stanley Picker Fellow **Abbas Zahedi**, who is currently showing new work at **Tate Modern**, formed part of the previous 'Making Time' cohort alongside other Stanley Picker Fellows **FRAUD** and **Dani Admiss**.

'Under Construction' by Takeshi Hayatsu & Collaborators, launched at the Gallery for **London Design Festival 2024**, was selected in **The Guardian Design Highlights of 2024** by Andrew Nairne, Director of **Kettle's Yard** at Cambridge University. The exhibition provided a survey of 11 years of innovative live-build projects led Hayatsu, including current students and alumni, w.in.c (women's independent collective) films, and 121 collective, an architectural practice specialising in participatory design. The Gallery also presented major new Stanley Picker Fellowship commissions by artists **Débora Delmar**, attended by the **Mexican Embassy**, and **Ilona Sagar**, supported by the **Saastamoinen Foundation** and the **Aalto Foundation**.

Dorich House Museum works closely with staff and students to showcase research and develop public programming. Highlights this year included 'Here, Somewhere', a successful self-initiated curatorial project with recent Kingston School of Art graduate Honey Birch, supported by an **Arts Council England Diversity Matters** grant. Our collaborative Instagram post for the show had c.290k views and c.30k likes, making it the most viewed piece of Kingston University social media content. The Museum also hosted Kingston School of Art PhD candidate Lauren Warner-Treloar on a one-year TECHNE placement to research the Museum's Russian prints collection. With Kingston University Research Fellow Dr. Louise Hardiman, Lauren co-convened a successful workshop and international symposium, 'Behind the Glass: Deconstructing the Hare-Gordine Print Collection', supported by the **Association for Art History**, **Association for Print Scholars** and **TECHNE/UKRI-Arts and Humanities Research Council**.

Other staff and student projects at Dorich House Museum have included 'The Raw Origins of a Diaspora: Part Two' with staff member **Angela Ford/Studio Raw Origins**, dance research project 'The Pleasure Patchwork' with Kingston School of Art PhD candidate

Rosalind Holgate-Smith and an exhibition of the undergraduate student winners of the **REMET Art Prize** for bronze casting, sponsored by REMET and AB Foundry.

Our inaugural Stanley Picker Curatorship **Borbála Soós** concluded her successful tenure with us by going on to become co-curator of the OFF-Biennale Budapest, Hungary.

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Under Construction: Takeshi Hayatsu & Collaborators at Stanley Picker Gallery, Kingston University



This ambitious exhibition brilliantly celebrates a decade of projects led by architect Takeshi Hayatsu, working with architecture and landscape students. With a superb sensitivity for materials and craft, Takeshi's practice feels both ancient and ground-breaking. Having set up his own practice in 2017 (after training in Japan and London and working for Haworth Tompkins and 6a Architects) his projects are both inspiring and generative. Among those he now works with are the innovative 121 Collective, made up of his ex-students. There is a rare modesty about his work, with its focus on the local, the hand-built and a collaborative approach to sustainability. Yet the implications are global. We see the potential for a new generation of architects, like scattered seeds, to be catalysts for change.

📷 A structure on show at Under Construction by Takeshi Hayatsu and Collaborators. Stanley Picker Gallery.
Photograph: Jim Stephenson

Chosen by Andrew Nairne, director of
Kettle's Yard

FUTURE SKILLS & STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES:



The Gallery and Museum continue to proactively **support student recruitment, attainment and employability**, offering diverse opportunities through course-related projects, enrichment activities and a professional development programme.

This has included acting as an industry partner for a **Future Skills Apply** project with Dr Leah Kardos' 2024-25 cohort of BA Music Technology students, which was presented at a Senior Leadership Group meeting, taking part in open days, and working with

the student enrichment team to develop initiatives to support student mental health and wellbeing.

Notable student projects this year have included 'Calico Woven Metamorphosis' with BA Fashion Promotion & Communication at Dorich House Museum and 'Studio KT1 Trusts Stanley Picker Gallery' in conjunction with Débora Delmar's Fellowship show 'Trust' at Stanley Picker Gallery.

With support from the Stanley Picker Trust, our **Professional Development Programme** directly supports the Future Skills and employment opportunities of students from under-represented groups, with over 130 students applying to join the scheme through open call this year.



Key successes of our Professional Development programme this year include Honey Birch securing their first academic role as a direct result of their Diversity Matters project at Dorich House Museum, and Jaime Young obtaining a contracted position at Studio Voltaire through skills developed while leading elements of the Gallery's Participation Programme.



"Planning and facilitating creative workshops for Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum helped me develop valuable skills and secure my first professional role on completing my studies"

Jaime Young

Kingston University Graphic Design Graduate

The Museum and Gallery continue to support special Kingston University student and staff study visits to the Picker House, in addition to the Stanley Picker Trust's own programme of public guided tours.

STRATEGY & GOVERNANCE:

Stanley Picker Gallery continues to advance its external profile as a highly successful cultural sector model combining Higher Education (Kingston University), Public Sector (Arts Council England National Portfolio) and Private Philanthropic support (Stanley Picker Trust). With its 30th Anniversary in 2027, ACE are now developing the Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University as a successful Case Study for the wider cultural sector.



The Gallery & Museum Advisory Group, chaired by cultural sector consultant Kath Wood, have been developing an ambitious new vision for the Stanley Picker Gallery to become **The Greenest Gallery in the UK**. Working towards this goal, with University colleagues and the Borough's Green Economy Lead, Stanley Picker Gallery, Dorich House Museum and the Rose Theatre have been included in an application to the **Mayor of London's Zero Carbon Accelerator** programme.

Looking towards the building's own centenary in 2035, Dorich House Museum received Arts Council England funding under its **Fund the Future** programme to work with a fundraising consultancy to explore the Museum's future support needs and develop a new fundraising strategy.

In June 2025, the Stanley Picker Gallery invited **ACE London Director Michelle Walker** to visit Kingston, together with Sabine Unamun, London Head of Visual Arts & Environmental Responsibility Lead, and new Relationship Manager Julie Hawksworth. The group visited Town House Library, Kingston School of Art Degree Shows, Stanley Picker Gallery and Dorich House Museum, as well as meeting key local cultural partners including FuseBox, Community Brain, The Rose Theatre and the organiser of Kingston's East & South-East Asian Festival. **ACE CEO Darren Henley** is also due to visit Kingston University this coming autumn at Vice Chancellor Steven Spier's invitation.

Kingston University has an ambitious **Middle Mill** campus project in development that, if it proceeds, would place Stanley Picker Gallery at the very heart of a new '**Creative Quarter**' within an expanded campus at Kingston School of Art and will significantly increase footfall across the Gallery's unique Hogsmill island site. Pending Board approval and Planning Consent, the new Middle Mill development would be completed in 2029, and the Gallery is working to maximise the future benefits of its improved surroundings, access and visibility as a key part of its wider environmental ambitions.

The Gallery concluded the academic year by hosting Kingston University's Honorary Doctorate presentation to renowned London-based Korean artist **Do Ho Suh**, coinciding with his major solo retrospective at Tate Modern.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKS

Artangel Extraordinary art
Unexpected places



The Museum and Gallery continue to forge strong international partnerships to enhance the reputation of Kingston University.

Activity this year has included a 4-year loan of two works by Dora Gordine to **National Gallery Singapore** and a collaboration with **Ateneo Art Gallery**, Ateneo de Manila University, to present curator **Ligaya Salazar**'s Stanley Picker Fellowship commission, due to open in February 2026. A development event to celebrate these two significant projects, and promote our work across the region, is planned to take place during Singapore Art Week in January 2026.

The Museum's digital guide on **Bloomberg Connects** is now available in over 40 languages including South, Southeast and East Asian languages, making the house and collection increasingly accessible to our international students and global communities.

As well as partnering with **Artangel** on the second iteration of their 'Making Time' residencies, the Gallery is co-convening 'Re:Design Residencies', an international collaboration with **IASPIS**, the Swedish Arts Grants Committee's international programme for visual and applied arts, to develop a network of design residency providers and publication (forthcoming 2025/26).

Dorich House Museum continues to play an active role as a member of the international **Iconic Houses Network**, this year hosting a network meeting at Kingston University in November, supported by the **Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands** and participating in a Network meeting in Barcelona looking at developing markets in Asia. The Museum also forms part of the European **Artist's Studio Museum Network** and the Gallery forms part of the national **Contemporary Visual Arts Network (CVAN)**.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:



The Gallery and Museum continue to work closely with the **Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames**, this year contributing to the **Kingston 2025 Festival** with a heritage and sculpture trail by artist Diana Puntar, staged across multiple sites including Town House Library, Kingston Museum and All Saints Church, and an exhibition of Icheon ceramics by Korean artist Han Do-hyun at Dorich House Museum.

Gallery Director David Falkner sat on the community selection panel for permanent public artworks for the new **Unilever Campus** in Kingston, with the Gallery presenting one of the

winning proposals by **Action Space** artist Ian Wornast. He was also an invited judge for a competition to redesign the signage for the local **Korean Community Centre**. The Museum and Gallery take part in the borough's **East & Southeast Asian Festival**, **Kingston Artists Open Studios**, **Heritage Open Days** and **Open House Festival** each year.

The Museum has loaned key works by Gordine to **Kingston Museum** for the exhibitions 'K-Women: Celebrating Korean Female Artists' (Nov 2024 - Apr 2025) and 'Kingston Glamour: Art, Innovation & the Suburbs' (May - Oct 2025).

Working in collaboration with the University's Public Affairs & Stakeholder Engagement team, Dorich House Museum hosted a dinner for **Sir Ed Davey MP** and a Korean delegation, and we welcomed **Sarah Olney MP** for a personal tour of the Gallery, Museum and Kingston School of Art.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION:



The Gallery and Museum are important local cultural connectors, with our successful **Communities Forum** meeting regularly for sharing knowledge. We promote lifelong learning, creativity and wellbeing for our students and local communities.

The Gallery delivers a weekly Art Club for The Bradbury Day Centre for older people and collaborated with **Your Healthcare Kingston & Richmond** to stage an exhibition by local neurodivergent artists. The Museum hosts weekly Mindful Movement to Boost Mental Wellbeing classes in partnership with **Kingston Adult Education**. Both venues regularly host **Ariadne's Thread**, an initiative by Kingston School of Art MA Museum & Galleries graduate Magdalena Glowacka, to support the migrant and refugee community to collaborate to preserve cultural heritage. Our diverse community partners this year have also included **Refugee Action Kingston**, **Kingston Association for the Blind**, **Forest Schooling**, **Kingston Parent Carer Forum**, **Hogsmill Community Garden**, **United**

Response, Creative Youth, Kingston Women's Hub and Mill Street Residents' Association.

We also work extensively with **local schools, colleges, special educational need facilities** and **pupil referral units**, holding regular After School Art Clubs targeting Pupil Premium children, tailored activity for SEND children and young people, creative industries briefings for teachers, a Saturday Art Club, pre-school activities, and a vibrant programme of workshops and events, many led by our students with training and support from our Participation Curator.

Our developing specialism with SEND audiences has led to collaborations with **KU Autism Peer Network** and the **Disabled Students Society**. Our Participation Curator is contributing to the borough's new Autism & ADHD Strategy and has joined the Steering Committee for Kingston Parent Carer Forum and a panel for SEND provision in the borough. We now also have two Museum guides specially trained by **Vocal Eyes** to provide tours for blind and partially sighted visitors.

COLLECTIONS & DISPLAYS:

Recent improvements to the management of the Dorich House Museum collections have included a conservation review of the Museum's Russian prints by an accredited paper conservator and a conservation mount and framing conservator, a full review of the Museum's emergency plan and security arrangements, and the integration of the Museum's collections management system with that of Kingston University Special Collections & Archives, supported by the University's IT department.



In addition to the Gordine and Hare holdings at Dorich House Museum, the Museum and Gallery manage the University's art collection (c. 200 artworks), including public displays on campus and contemporary commissions at Town House. Development of the collection this year has included planning the display of a recently gifted portrait sculpture of the late Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll by Eduardo Paolozzi for the Dame Esteve-Coll Centre at Kingston School of Art (to be installed August 2025).

Securing improved storage for the University's art collection has been identified as a key priority to support its future management. The University's Estates team are working to locate a suitable permanent storage space on campus.



stanleypickergallery:



DORICH HOUSE
MUSEUM

Studio Home of Dora Gordine & Richard Hare



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