



**LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
WINNERS OF THE 2021 LONDON DESIGN MEDALS:
ILSE CRAWFORD, EYAL WEIZMAN, MAC COLLINS
AND MICHAEL WOLFF**

18–26 SEPTEMBER 2021
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UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 2PM BST 8 SEPTEMBER, 2021: London Design Festival today announces the winners of the 2021 London Design Medals.

o London Design Medal:	Ilse Crawford CBE
o Design Innovation Medal:	Eyal Weizman MBE
o Emerging Design Medal:	Mac Collins
o Lifetime Achievement Medal:	Michael Wolff

Each year, London Design Festival recognises the contribution made by leading design figures and emerging talents to London and the industry with four London Design Medals awarded: The London Design Medal, Design Innovation Medal, Emerging Design Medal and Lifetime Achievement Medal.

A panel of established designers, industry commentators and previous winners meet to debate and judge the possible recipients of the four Medals. This year's jury members included: Ozwald Boateng OBE, Sarah Douglas, Ben Evans CBE, Tristram Hunt, Domenic Lippa, Jay Osgerby OBE, Justine Simons OBE, Sir John Sorrell CBE, Paul Thompson and Jane Withers.

This year's winners will receive their Medals at an awards ceremony on the evening of Monday 20 September 2021 at The Royal Exchange, supported by Fortnum & Mason and Spirit Partner No.3 Gin.

Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival Director, said: *"Each year the London Design Festival Jury comes together to select four individuals who have made a significant contribution to the design industry. Following a passionate debate, this year's judges have selected an incredibly deserving mix of winners who have and are continuing to shape our industry."*

The 2021 winners are as follows:

Ilse Crawford CBE

The London Design Medal, is the highest accolade bestowed upon an individual who has distinguished themselves within the industry and demonstrated consistent design excellence.

This year's winner, Ilse Crawford, is a designer, academic and creative director. Over two decades she has pioneered humanistic design in its real life application to environments, objects and experiences, by identifying and addressing fundamental human needs. Crawford has championed design's ability to support and enhance the human experience: as founder of eponymous design studio Studioilse; the founding editor of Elle Decoration; the founding head of the Man & Wellbeing department at the Design Academy Eindhoven; and as author of three seminal books on the role and value of design in everyday life.

Crawford studied history with history of architecture at university, developing her beliefs at an early age from understanding the symbiotic relationship between

architecture, design and human behaviour. When she launched Elle Decoration in 1989, her “modern and emotional” approach to living was radical in the industry. Intelligent and historically attuned, yet warm and inspiring, Crawford’s interpretation of architecture and interiors, and how design could enhance the lives of people who reside in them, was revolutionary.

A progressive collaborator, Crawford has partnered with some of the world’s most recognisable companies, introducing the power and potential of design to their worlds: from IKEA to the Soho House group; Cathay Pacific’s global airline lounge concept to the blueprint for the branches of Fidelity financial services in the US; Ett Hem in Stockholm to The Carlyle club in Hong Kong. She has delivered several social projects including Refettorio Felix and the Anna Freud Centre/Kantor Centre of Excellence in London, pushing for the inclusion of design into sectors where it is frequently excluded yet needed most.

Ilse Crawford, said: *“I couldn’t be more proud to win this award. London is in my DNA. I was born in Powis Square, went to school at Avondale, W11, and went to uni here too. I’ve seen its many different sides in jobs from cleaner to cook, Debenhams shoe salesgirl to secretary - and as editor of Elle Decoration I went inside so many of its homes.*

In 2003, the same date that the London Design Festival began, I started Studioilse here in London. Without question, LDF has transformed the city’s entire attitude to design. From a city that scarcely knew the meaning of the word to one that celebrates it. And put it on the map for design from a global perspective.”

Eyal Weizman MBE

The Design Innovation Medal, celebrates entrepreneurship in all its forms, both locally and internationally. It honours an individual for whom design lies at the core of their development and success.

Few designers or architects have been more truly innovative than Eyal Weizman, who has reinvented design and architecture as tools of restorative social justice through his work at Forensic Architecture, where he is Founding Director.

A research agency based at Goldsmiths, University of London, Forensic Architecture investigates human rights violations including violence committed by states, police forces, militaries, and corporations. They work in partnership with institutions across civil society, from grassroots activists, to legal teams, to international NGOs and media organisations, to carry out investigations with and on behalf of communities and individuals affected by conflict, police brutality, border regimes and environmental violence.

Their investigations employ pioneering techniques in spatial and architectural analysis, open source investigation, digital modelling, and immersive technologies, as well as documentary research, situated interviews, and

academic collaboration. Findings from their investigations have been presented in national and international courtrooms, parliamentary inquiries, and exhibitions at some of the world's leading cultural institutions.

The author of over 15 books, Weizman has also held positions in universities worldwide including Princeton, ETH Zurich and the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He is a member of the Technology Advisory Board of the International Criminal Court and the Centre for Investigative Journalism. In 2020 he was elected the Richard von Weizsäcker fellow at the Bosch Academy.

Eyal Weizman, said: *“I receive this medal on behalf of Forensic Architecture and the frontline communities we work with as a recognition of our common work against racist policing in the UK and elsewhere. As we do so we remember Mark Duggan – shot unarmed by metropolitan police officers – almost exactly ten years ago.”*

Mac Collins

Emerging Design Medal, recognises an impact made on the design scene within five or so years of graduation.

Mac Collins is an emerging British designer, maker and artist from Nottingham. Collins graduated with a degree in Three-Dimensional Design from Northumbria University, Newcastle, in the summer of 2018. In the years since graduating, Collins has been committed to designing and making narrative-rich and impactful furniture and objects. In this pursuit, Collins focuses on manipulating, yet still celebrating, the inherent beauty of the materials that he works with.

Alongside this material driven approach, Collins brings personal and cultural narratives into his work, and deems his practice as a means of exploring his own identity and position within the African Diaspora. As a designer of Jamaican descent, Collins draws on his Caribbean lineage to create artefacts that are often informed by the stories and the charisma of his elders. Wider to this, Collins responds to his social surroundings and experiences, using his work to convey and evoke particular mind-sets in response.

While researching ideas for his graduate project at Northumbria University, Collins developed the Iklwa Chair, an afrofuturist furniture piece which won the designer the 2018 Cræftiga prize and went on to be produced by revered furniture maker Benchmark. His upcoming projects include a piece for 'Discovered' at the Design Museum – curated by Wallpaper* Magazine and the American Hardwood Export Company (AHEC), and debut pieces created for Finnish brand Vaarnii, which exclusively crafts its collections in Finnish pine and will be launching at this year's London Design Festival.

Mac Collins is a lecturer in Furniture and Product Design. He has previously lectured at Nottingham Trent University and will begin teaching at Northumbria

University, Newcastle in 2021, where he is also currently a Resident Designer. Collins is also a Steering Committee member for Design Can, London.

Mac Collins, said: *“It is humbling to have been awarded the Emerging Talent Medal for London Design Festival 2021. I was surprised to receive the news and am pleased to have had my practice recognised in this way. My thanks go to all those involved in the decision-making process, and to those who have supported and mentored me over the past couple of years. I intend to push my practice further forward, and this award is a hugely motivating and inspiring force.”*

Michael Wolff

Lifetime Achievement Medal, honours a significant and fundamental contribution to the design industry over the course of a career.

Michael Wolff is one of the key trailblazers of British graphic design. Across more than six decades, he has remained a passionate advocate for design’s essential role in improving every aspect of our lives.

After studying architecture, Wolff worked in product and interior design before co-founding Wolff Olins with Wally Olins in 1965. One of the world’s most iconic design companies, clients included Apple Records, Volkswagen and Audi, and sowed the seeds of what we now call ‘branding’.

Bringing wit, imagination, art and humanism to corporate identity, Wolff has been a pioneer in the field of graphic design. He has worked at grassroots level with emerging designers and communities and has inspired and influenced generations of creatives. A powerful advocate for inclusive design, addressing issues around dignity and fairness, his work is as relevant today as it was in the 1960s.

Wolff is Patron of the Inclusive Design Challenge with the Helen Hamlyn Centre at the RCA, was a member of the Government sponsored Design and Technology Alliance against crime and former Chairman of the Legible London initiative with Transport for London, a visiting Professor at the University of the Arts in London and a Senior Fellow of the RCA.

Michael Wolff, said: *“I feel deeply honoured to have received this lifetime achievement award. Few of us got to where we are alone and so I owe this award to all of those who’ve supported me. Without my partners, my many colleagues, as well as some of my clients, many of whom also had the qualities, talents and abilities I lacked, this award could not have found me.*

I’ve always believed - and I continue to believe – that my best work is what I’m going to do next.”

- ENDS -

NOTES TO EDITORS

For further information, please contact Bianca Gidwani on +447853848640 and bianca@londondesignfestival.com

For all images and assets, please download here: <https://bit.ly/LDF21-Medal-Awards-Winners>

ABOUT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL

Established in 2003 by Sir John Sorrell CBE and Ben Evans CBE, London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world.

London Design Festival has since earned the reputation as a key calendar moment of London's autumn creative season, alongside London Fashion Week, Frieze Art Fair and the London Film Festival, attracting the greatest thinkers, practitioners, retailers and educators to the capital, in a citywide celebration.

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