

THE AGENDA

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO CULTURE IN THE CAPITAL

Edited by: **Anna Solomon**

1

Cornelia Parker, Tate Britain

The OBE artist's exhibition on Millbank promises to be big, bold, and visually enthralling. *Cold Dark Matter: An Exploded View* (pictured) explores the 'archetypal' image of the explosion – something Parker claims we are constantly exposed to from cartoon violence to a never-ending news cycle on the horrors of war. By suspending the fragments of a denotated shed, she gives something fleeting duration. Equally captivating are Parker's large-scale sculptures *Thirty Pieces of Silver* and *Magna Carta*, and the immersive *War Room* is a must-see.

£16 for adults, 18 May – 16 October,
tate.org.uk



COLD DARK MATTER: AN
EXPLODED VIEW, 1991, CORNELIA
PARKER. TATE © CORNELIA PARKER

2

Fashioning Masculinities: *The Art of Menswear,* The V&A



After decades of limited scope and rigid confines, menswear is becoming less clearly defined. But creativity in this (arguably neglected) arena does not begin and end with Harry Styles wearing a dress, or even Billy Porter's fabulous red carpet ensembles. *Fashioning Masculinities: The Art of Menswear* traces the evolution of men's clothes throughout the centuries, from silhouettes favoured by the Habsburg dynasty to notions of aesthetics in 1970s Bradford. The V&A's first major exhibition on the subject will interrogate the construction and performance of masculinity via the work of designers, stylists, tailors and artists, as well as their clients and sitters, showcasing around 100 outfits that go far beyond the staid suit-shirt-and-tie trifecta.

£20 (free for members), 19 March –
6 November, vam.ac.uk

ABOVE HARRIS REED FLUID
ROMANTICISM 001.
PHOTOGRAPHER: GIOVANNI CORABI
THIS IMAGE OMAR VICTOR DIOP, JEAN-BAPTISTE BELLEY, 2014.
COURTESY MAGNIN-A GALLERY, PARIS © OMAR VICTOR DIOP

3

*Football: Designing
the Beautiful Game,*
The Design Museum



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE DESIGN MUSEUM

It is estimated that more than half the planet's population (approximately 3.5 billion people) tuned into the FIFA World Cup in 2018 – football has the unique ability to unite people, transcending borders, beliefs and backgrounds. This Design Museum exhibition explores the beautiful game through the lens of design, from the master-planning of super-stadia like Camp Nou in Barcelona to the innovative materials used in

today's boots, the graphic design of team badges and the grassroots initiatives pushing back against football's commercialisation. The international fervour surrounding the sport has pushed visual, technological and architectural limits; *Designing the Beautiful Game* offers a rare insight into the people and processes that have made this possible.

*Price TBC (free for members),
8 April – 29 August, designmuseum.org*

4

Madama Butterfly, Royal Opera House

Giacomo Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* tells of the heartbreak of young geisha deserted by her American husband, who then returns years later only to take their son away. This is one of the most powerful operas to come out of Italy, made all the more poignant for its simplicity.

From £11, 14 June – 6 July, roh.org.uk



Raphael, The National Gallery

Raphael stands alongside Da Vinci and Michelangelo as one of the masters of the High Renaissance. But, unlike his fellow proponents, Raphael achieved his fame in just two decades, dying at the age of 37. His works, which capture both the human and the divine, are prolific – many can be found in the Vatican Palace, where the frescoed Raphael Rooms illustrate the magnitude of his talent. With loans from the Vatican, as well as the Hermitage, Louvre, Uffizi and others, this is one of the first exhibitions to explore Raphael's career across all mediums.

*£24 (free for members), 9 April –
31 July, nationalgallery.org.uk*

5

ABOVE SAINT CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, RAPHAEL, C. 1507. © THE NATIONAL GALLERY
LEFT AN ALLEGORY ('VISION OF A KNIGHT'), RAPHAEL, C. 1504. © THE NATIONAL GALLERY

6

The Forsythe Evening, Sadler's Wells Theatre

In 2018, master choreographer William Forsythe produced a show juxtaposing classicism with neo-soul and house beats (reflecting his desire to push the boundaries of ballet). It was such a success that the English National Ballet decided to do it again: this time, audiences can expect tracks from Khalid, Barry White and Lion Babe, up to 30 dancers on stage at one time, and ever-more astounding levels of athleticism.

From £15, 31 March – 10 April,
sadlerswells.com

PHOTO BY JASON BELL,
CREATIVE DIRECTION BY
CHARLOTTE WILKINSON STUDIO

7

The Seagull, Harold Pinter Theatre

Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke's West End debut was short-lived when it had to close during previews at the start of the pandemic. Now, after a two-year hiatus, *The Seagull* is returning for an 11-week run. Chekhov's tragic comedy, which tackles the relentless passage of time and futile pursuit of love, has been thoroughly modernised for the 21st century by director Jamie Lloyd (who has just



wrapped up the critically-acclaimed *Cyrano*). Appearing alongside Clarke is a who's-who of British talent, including *GoT* colleague Indira Varma and Sophie Wu (*Fresh Meat*).

From £15, 29 June – 10 September,
haroldpintertheatre.co.uk

8

Summer Exhibition 2022, Royal Academy of Arts

INSTALLATION VIEW OF THE
SUMMER EXHIBITION 2021
AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF
ARTS, LONDON. PHOTO:
© ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS,
LONDON / DAVID PARRY

The Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition has never, in its 250-year history, missed a show – not even during the Covid pandemic, when it was moved to the winter. A highlight in London's cultural calendar, the exhibition has featured works by the likes of David Hockney, Wolfgang Tillmans, Tracey Emin, Bruce Nauman, Wim Wenders and Ed Ruscha. But generally, around two thirds are by non-Academicians – as the world's oldest open submission show, anyone can enter their work to the Summer Exhibition, from

leading artists to household names and emerging talent. This year, the theme is 'climate' – expect artworks across a wide array of media ranging from painting to sculpture, photography, printmaking, architecture and film, expounding on this most urgent of subjects. Most of the exhibits on display will be available to buy, giving guests the opportunity to support both the artists and the RA's charitable work. ■

From £20, 21 June – 21 August,
royalacademy.org.uk

