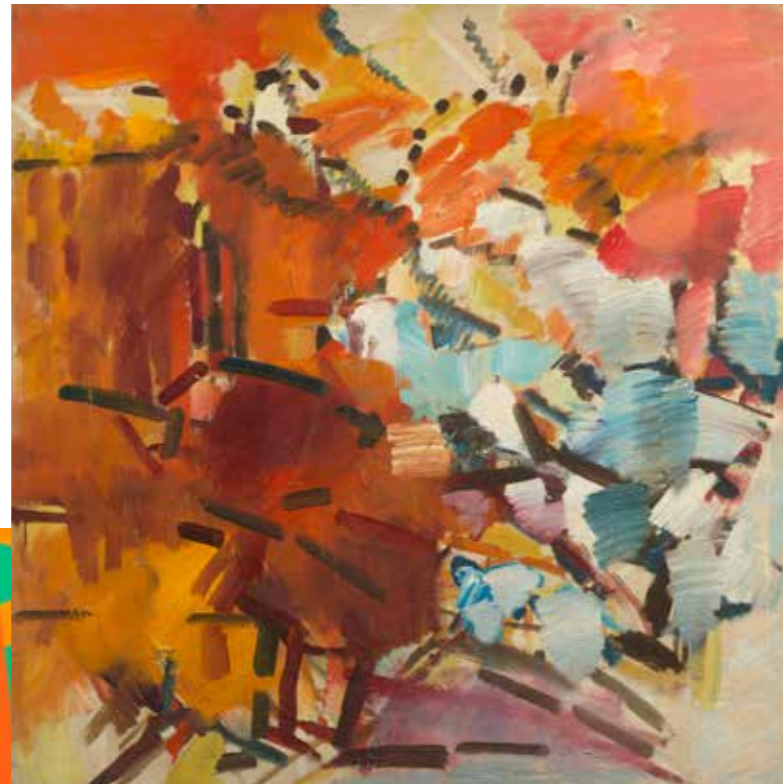


# THE AGENDA

YOUR CURATED GUIDE TO CULTURE IN THE CAPITAL

Words: Anna Solomon

**1** *London Art Fair,*  
Business Design Centre



Every January, art savants flock to North London to browse and buy major artworks at the London Art Fair – last year, sales included pieces by Grayson Perry and David Bomberg. The fair also provides a platform for fresh new talent (Chris Ofili and Jenny Saville were crowned ‘rising stars’ here in the 1990s), so keep your eyes peeled for the ‘next big thing’. Having launched in 1989 with 36 galleries, today the fair showcases more than 100 and is embracing an increasingly contemporary and international outlook.

£18 (day pass), 19-23 January 2022,  
[londonartfair.co.uk](http://londonartfair.co.uk)

**Left** Vanessa Jackson RA, *Terpsichoral*, 2021,  
214 x 183 cm, Courtesy of Candida Stevens Gallery  
**Above** Dennis Creffield, *Lewes Crescent*, 1970, oil on  
canvas, Courtesy of Waterhouse & Dodd Gallery

# 2

*London  
Fashion Week,*  
Various locations



One of the ‘Big Four’ fashion weeks, February’s LFW will represent the pinnacle of London’s cultural reopening after two years of physical-digital hybrids, showcasing more than 250 of the UK’s biggest, best, and most up-and-coming labels. Alongside the unveiling of mould-breaking SS21 collections, the British Fashion Council will curate a programme of talks, activities, and experiences that embrace the creativity, community and cultural commentary that fashion week is all about.

Various events, 18-22 February 2022,  
[londonfashionweek.co.uk](http://londonfashionweek.co.uk)



# 3 Hogarth and Europe, Tate Britain



Above Marriage A-la-Mode: 2. The Tête à Tête, William Hogarth, 1743

Hogarth's work documents and critiques 18<sup>th</sup> century society, a time of extreme wealth and crippling poverty. This exhibition unveils more than 60 rarely-seen works. In one, a woman is so intoxicated that she drops her baby. Elsewhere, soldiers drink and womanise at Tottenham Court Turnpike. But what was going on at this time in Europe? Were our continental

counterparts equally badly behaved? To paint a picture of the state of early modern Europe, Hogarth is exhibited alongside contemporaries like Jean-Siméon Chardin and Pietro Longhi, who observe everyday life in their own cities.

£18 (free for members), until 20 March 2022, [tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)



Above Images by Joel Palmer



# 4 Cabaret, the Playhouse Theatre

The Playhouse Theatre has been infiltrated by the Kit Kat Club, a hedonistic Berlin nightclub and a place where, during the dying days of the Weimar Republic as the Nazis were gaining power, 'everyone could be free'. Kander and Ebb's musical, starring Eddie Redmayne, returns to the West End for an intoxicating immersive performance.

Tickets from £30, 15 November – 10 December 2021, [theplayhousetheatre.co.uk](http://theplayhousetheatre.co.uk)

# 5 Four Quartets, Harold Pinter Theatre

Star of *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *James Bond* franchise Ralph Fiennes delivers a tour de force in the world premiere stage adaptation of T. S. Eliot's final masterpiece. Written mostly during the Second World War, when the Blitz closed the nation's theatres, *Four Quartets* comprises interlinked meditations on time, faith and the quest for spiritual enlightenment, as well as some enduring reflections on surviving periods of national crisis. This is a limited run of 36 performances, so get your hands on tickets ASAP.

Tickets from £20, 18 November – 18 December 2021, [haroldpintertheatre.co.uk](http://haroldpintertheatre.co.uk)



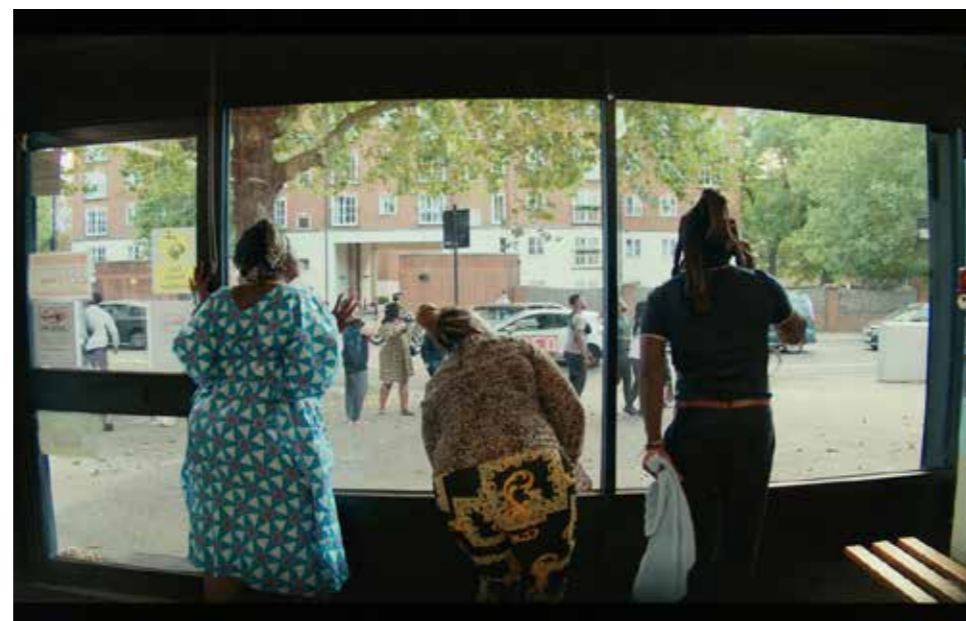
Image by Matt Humphrey



# 6 London Short Film Festival, The Cinema Museum

This celebration of boundary-pushing cinema presents hundreds of British and international short films over 10 days of screenings. Award categories such as 'Best Low-Budget Film' ensure that a multiplicity of backgrounds are platformed, and it is also a golden networking opportunity: the BAFTA-qualifying event has hosted rising stars in the industry, so you might just bump into the next Quentin Tarantino.

14-23 January 2022, [shortfilms.org.uk](http://shortfilms.org.uk)



Below LSFF 2022, *Precious Hair & Beauty*, John Ogunmuyiwa, UK, 2021

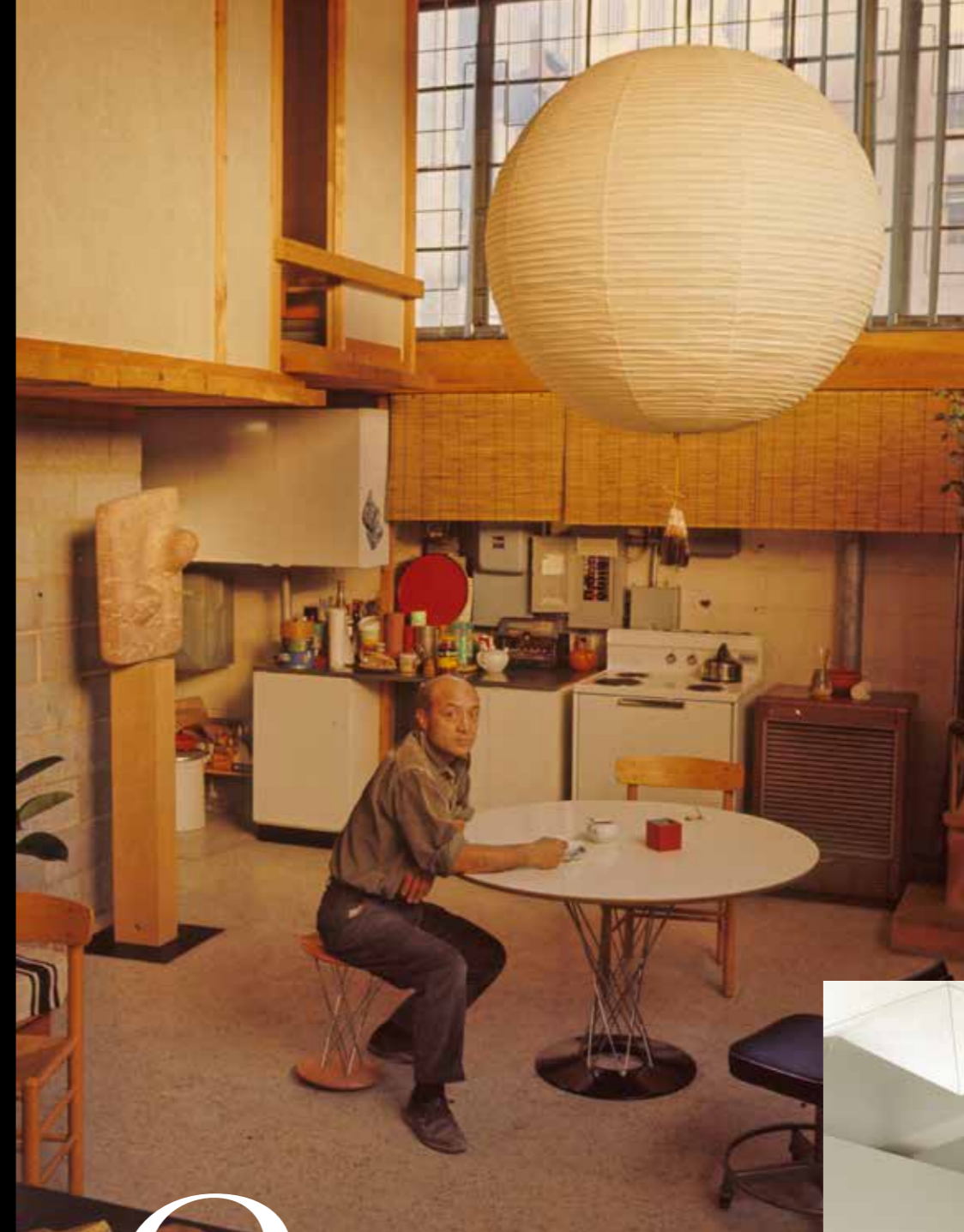


# 7 Francis Bacon: Man and Beast, The Royal Academy

Francis Bacon is known for his focus on the human form that, he said, strove to render the 'brutality of fact'. But he was also fascinated by animals, amassing a huge collection of wildlife books during his life. This exhibition examines the blurred line between man and beast in Bacon's catalogue of work: whether it was bulls, dogs, or birds, the artist felt he could better understand humankind by watching the behaviour of animals. Certainly, those he depicts – rapacious, stalked, and caged – seem to send a message about the human condition.

From £22, 29 January – 17 April 2022, [royalacademy.org.uk](http://royalacademy.org.uk)

Left Francis Bacon, *Study for Chimpanzee*, 1957



Below *Leda, Globular, Positional Shape, Red Seed*, 1928, photographed by Lewis Ronald

# 8

## Noguchi, The Barbican Centre

The work of Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi merges sculpture and design – he created theatre sets, playground models, and furniture (including the iconic Noguchi coffee table), as well as art made in stone, ceramics, wood and aluminium. Through both disciplines, an awareness of artists such as Picasso, Duchamp, Calder, Max Ernst, and Brancusi (whom he worked with for some time) is evident, as is his belief in the environmental, social and spiritual impact of sculpture. ■

£18, until 9 January 2022, [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk)

