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**London Design Biennale Summit, chaired by Artistic Director Es Devlin, will explore design's role in major global issues– from climate change to its impact on international relations**

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**London, UK --** London Design Biennale announces its inaugural Summit, taking place from **25-26 June 2019**. The Summit focuses on **Resonance**, the theme for London Design Biennale 2020.

The Summit will address the impact of design: its power to cross borders, bridge cultures, and alter behaviours and societies. It will look at how this can improve a variety of major global issues, including climate change (our resonance with the planet); and international relations (how countries resonate with each other).

Es Devlin will headline a day of discussion on Day One (25 June) with a stellar panel of thinkers from design, government and the diplomatic community. Taking place at Google HQ in King's Cross, hosted by Google Arts & Culture, speakers and panellists include:

- **Es Devlin**, Artistic Director, **London Design Biennale**
- **Francesco Bandarin**, Former Assistant Director-General for Culture, **UNESCO**
- **H.E. Ms Baiba Braze**, **Latvian Ambassador to the UK**

- **Eliza Easton**, Head of Policy, Nesta
- **Bjarke Ingels**, Architect
- **Pip Jamieson**, Founder, The Dots
- **Suhair Khan**, Google
- **Priya Khanchandani**, ICON Magazine
- **Jay Osgerby**, Founder, Barber & Osgerby
- **Justine Simons OBE**, Deputy Mayor for Culture and the Creative Industries, Greater London Authority
- **The Future Laboratories**
- **Dr. Christopher Turner**, Keeper of Design, Architecture and Digital, Victoria & Albert Museum
- **Greg Williams**, Editor, Wired Magazine UK

Further speakers will be announced soon.

**Es Devlin explains**, *"As designers, thinkers, artists and makers operating in a global, digital era, we have the power to influence and amaze our audiences into profound shifts of perspective. Our aim is for this Summit to be a collaborative response to the urgency surrounding this inimitable moment in time."*

Day One will culminate in a prestigious government reception at a location to be revealed shortly. Informal conversations around the theme will continue at an exclusive VIP after-party at The Groucho Club, Soho.

Day Two will take place at Somerset House, London Design Biennale's home. A series of surgery sessions, workshops and guided tours will build on the previous day's discussions, allowing designers and embassies to develop ideas for participation at London Design Biennale 2020.

**Will Sorrell, Managing Director, London Design Biennale said**: *"The Summit will gather together some of the best international thinking, with a mix of design thinkers, policy makers, and experts in international relations. This is such a unique blend, and I can't wait to hear their insights, as well as the reaction of everyone who attends."*

**A limited release of tickets are available from £295.** Tickets include access to all Day One events, including the forum at Google, and the evening receptions at a prestigious government location and The

Groucho Club. Places in the surgeries on Day Two are available on request to ticket holders. Book here: [bit.ly/LDB19Summit](https://bit.ly/LDB19Summit)

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Link to download images and assets:

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#LDB20

### About London Design Biennale

Established in 2016 by Sir John Sorrell and Ben Evans, London Design Biennale is a prestigious biannual event and a highlight on the global cultural calendar. The 2018 Biennale welcomed the world's most exciting and ambitious designers, innovators and cultural bodies to the capital with over 200,000 visitors to Somerset House over the three week period.

The third edition of London Design Biennale, 8-27 September 2020, will be curated by Artistic Director Es Devlin. Taking over the entirety of Somerset House, including the Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court and River Terrace, participants will respond to the theme, Resonance.

### About Google Arts & Culture

Google Arts & Culture puts the collections of more than 1,800 museums at your fingertips. It's an immersive way to explore art, history and the wonders of the world, from Van Gogh's bedroom paintings to the women's rights movement and the Taj Mahal. The Google Arts & Culture app is free and available online for iOS and Android. Our team has been an innovation partner for cultural institutions since 2011. We develop technologies that help preserve and share culture and allow curators to create engaging exhibitions online and offline, inside museums. Read about our latest projects on the Google Keyword blog.

### About Es Devlin OBE

Artist and designer Es Devlin creates immersive filmic sculptures which are frequently conceived as environments for performance in opera, concerts, dance and theatre.

Her recent solo exhibitions include MASK II for London Design Biennale 2018 at Somerset House; Please Feed The Lions in collaboration with Google Arts & Culture in Trafalgar Square for London Design Festival 2018; EGG at the XI Gallery in New York 2018; Mirrormaze at Copeland Park, Peckham 2016; The Singing Tree at the V&A 2017; Room 2022 at Miami Art Basel 2017; and PoemPortraits at the Serpentine Gallery 2017.

Her stage sculptures include collaborations with Beyonce, Kanye West, U2, The Weeknd, Adele, The Royal Opera House, The National Theatre and the London and Rio Olympic Ceremonies. Devlin's work has received multiple awards including 3 Olivier Awards and Evening Standard Critics' Circle. She has been made honorary fellow of UAL and named OBE in the Queens Honours list 2015. Devlin was awarded the 2017 London Design Medal for innovation and excellence in design throughout her practice.