

# Es Devlin to unveil her first European retrospective at the Design Museum

## Es Devlin: Other Worlds

02 October 2026 — 04 April 2027

the Design Museum



Es Devlin photographed amongst her archive. Photo Credit Daniel Devlin / @susakpress

- [PRESS IMAGES AVAILABLE HERE](#)

The Design Museum in London today announces full details of its upcoming major exhibition by British artist and designer Es Devlin. It will be Devlin's first retrospective in Europe.

Opening in October, *Es Devlin: Other Worlds* will explore the expansive and intricate vision behind Devlin's extraordinary 30-year career working across sculpture, stage design, music, language and light.

The exhibition will explore Devlin's genre-defying practice and the vast range of projects she has brought to life around the world. On display will be artworks, installations and film alongside the largest solo presentation of Devlin's archive to date.

The show has been conceived and designed in close collaboration with Devlin, with the aim of immersing visitors in her imaginative world. She invites the audience into a collective experience that goes beyond a traditional exhibition setting and which invites new perspectives.

Es Devlin is one of the most innovative British artists and designers working today. She is globally renowned, with a wide-ranging practice that began in small-scale theatre, and is now experienced by millions of people in some of the world's most prominent museums, galleries, opera houses, arena and stadia. She received the London Design Medal in 2017, multiple Olivier, Tony, Emmy and Critics Circle awards and a CBE for services to design.

**Es Devlin** said: "I am moving my studio and practically my entire 30-year archive into the Design Museum for this show. It's an immense privilege to have this opportunity to share my working process and practice with visitors and to create a new large-scale installation."

**Tim Marlow, Director and CEO of the Design Museum**, said: "Our exhibitions at the Design Museum often explore what might best be called 'design in an expanded field', a multi-faceted, interdisciplinary approach which breaks down many of the boundaries around creative practice. Es Devlin shares this ethos. Her remarkable boundary-blurring work across art, activism, poetry, sculpture, music and architecture is the embodiment of enlightened design thinking and her emphasis on collective experience and audience participation makes this exhibition one of the most exciting and ambitious to be staged in our galleries."

*Es Devlin: Other Worlds* is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, a long-term supporter of both Es Devlin and the Design Museum, and tickets have gone on sale today.

## **Exhibition Highlights**

### **Studio**

Visitors will begin their journey in Devlin's world by being welcomed into a replica of her South London studio. Shelves will be filled with her books, objects and maquettes, and her desk will be covered with drawings, tools and paints. The room will come to life with a projection-mapped film narrated by Devlin, before visitors are invited to enter the exhibition to explore many of the projects that have come to life after their inception in this studio.

### **Come Home Again**

First shown in London in September 2022 to great acclaim, *Come Home Again* will return to the city for this exhibition. It will be shown in a new and reimagined form made specially for the Design Museum.

Originally shown outside Tate Modern, it featured a cross section of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral with brilliantly illuminated cut-out sketches of endangered moths, birds, beetles, wildflowers, fish and fungi. It was commissioned by Cartier and made with guidance from the London Wildlife Trust. For the Design Museum, it will be redisplayed in a new constellation that speaks to Devlin's desire to craft ever-evolving atmospheres and landscapes.

### **30-Year Desk**

This newly conceived display will see a series of concentric circular desks filled with archival items that explore some of Devlin's most groundbreaking projects from around the world. It has been created as an art installation in its own right.

Hundreds of items will be displayed, spanning concept drawings, photographs, personal objects and ephemera. Many of these items have never been seen in public before.

Also included will be over 30 intricate models from Devlin’s design phases, or maquette-scale recreations. These striking and detailed works show projects that went on to become major public sculptures, stage designs and choral installations, and have never previously been displayed in Britain.

The projects spotlighted in *30-Year Desk* will include works such as Devlin’s set design for The Lehman Trilogy theatre production in 2018 and the *Forest of Us* installation shown in Miami from 2021, as well as her work on the London 2012 Olympic Games Closing Ceremony, the 2022 Super Bowl halftime show, and ambitious kinetic stage sculptures for concert tours by the world’s most celebrated musicians.

Seen together, the installation will allow visitors to trace the evolution of Devlin’s practice and the common themes at the heart of her work.

### **Archive Unboxed**

*Archive Unboxed* will span the length of the gallery walls, and will feature early sketches, paintings, collages, diaries and prints which Devlin produced at school, university and art college, and which she has continued to create throughout her practice. These works demonstrate Devlin’s love of drawing and how all her projects originate from this art form.

### **Additional Information + Quotes**

**Johanna Agerman Ross, Conran Foundation Chief Curator at the Design Museum and curator of *Es Devlin: Other Worlds*,** said: “Visitors will be able to step inside a mesmerising creative landscape at the Design Museum this autumn, one that has been crafted from three decades of Es Devlin’s boundary-pushing work. It has been a huge joy to explore Es’ archive alongside her, and to shine a light on how and why she builds the worlds that she does.”

**Danielle Thom Senior Curator at the Design Museum and co-curator of *Es Devlin: Other Worlds*** said: “We’re excited to show some of Devlin’s most-loved recent works such as *Come Home*

*Again*, as well as new surprises and less-well known creations. We look forward to welcoming visitors into Es' world later this year.”

*Es Devlin: Other Worlds* runs at the Design Museum from 02 October 2026 until 04 April 2027. Tickets have gone on sale today.

Published to coincide with the exhibition will be *A Concise Atlas of Es Devlin*, a new version of 2023's volume *An Atlas Of Es Devlin* It will be published by Thames & Hudson.

The digital guide to *Es Devlin: Other Worlds* will be available exclusively on Bloomberg Connects. The guide will offer fresh perspectives on Devlin's work and career through insights from the artist. It will go live when the exhibition opens, on [the Design Museum's Bloomberg Connects guide](#).

The exhibition has been curated by Johanna Agerman Ross and Danielle Thom with Margherita Dosi Delfini at the Design Museum, and in close collaboration with Es Devlin and her studio.

**-Ends-**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **Listing information**

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W: [designmuseum.org/exhibitions/es-devlin-other-worlds](https://designmuseum.org/exhibitions/es-devlin-other-worlds)

### **PRESS ENQUIRIES:**

Maxwell Blowfield, Senior Media and PR Manager

E: [maxwell.blowfield@designmuseum.org](mailto:maxwell.blowfield@designmuseum.org)

Press Office

E: [pr@designmuseum.org](mailto:pr@designmuseum.org)

### **About Bloomberg Connects:**

Bloomberg Connects is a free digital platform featuring more than 1,500 cultural organisations around the world, making it easy to access and

engage with arts and culture anytime and anywhere. The app is part of Bloomberg Philanthropies' longstanding commitment to supporting digital innovation in the arts. Participating organisations include botanical gardens, historic houses, outdoor sculpture parks, and world-class museums. The app is available in more than 50 languages through Google Translate, helping cultural institutions connect with audiences around the world.

**About the Design Museum:**

The Design Museum is a multifaceted museum, an ever-changing space for the public, industry and education to come together and explore new ideas. A registered charity, the museum's innovative exhibitions, partnerships, research and learning programmes evidence how design can enable this planet and its inhabitants to thrive. Our landmark building in Kensington is the centre of our national network and a global hub for the transformative potential of design.



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