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Amy: Beyond the Stage

26 November 2021 – 10 April 2022
the Design Museum

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Celebrate the creativity and legacy of one of the great artists of our time in this first major retrospective exhibition on the British musician Amy Winehouse at the Design Museum

Step backstage and relive iconic performances, examine her eclectic style and explore her creative process, from concept to stage

Marking the 10-year anniversary of Amy's death, the exhibition delves into her emergence as an artist, the musical influences that she drew on, her key albums *Frank* and *Back to Black*, and the story behind her iconic beehive, as well as many of her most memorable fashion moments

Meet the incredible musical artists who influenced Amy's career from Dinah Washington to Frank Sinatra, Sarah Vaughan to The Supremes and find out about the range of genres she drew on, from jazz to 1960s pop

This autumn, the Design Museum presents *Amy: Beyond the Stage*, a celebration of a cultural icon that the world lost too soon. Opening on

Friday 26 November 2021, the first major retrospective exhibition on Amy Winehouse explores the creative process, powerful music and unforgettable style of a musician whose work drew a unique line between genres such as Jazz and R&B, through to artists such as The Ronnettes and Mark Ronson, designers such as D&G, Moschino and more.

Born in North London, Amy showed a passion for music from a young age, later attending the Brit School and recording her first demo aged sixteen. Starting at the early stages of her career, visitors can follow Amy's rise to stardom; get to know Amy through previously unseen personal items including her teenage notebooks, photographs and handwritten lyrics; then explore her love of music, from jazz to soul, R&B to hip-hop, and her down-to-earth enthusiasm for vintage fashion, design and culture.

One of the most beloved artists of the early noughties, Amy's unmistakable voice and confessional lyrics have resonated with audiences across the globe. From jazz to soul, hip hop to R&B, the exhibition pays tribute to Amy's voice, her authenticity and her ability to cross genres by drawing on a rich range of music influences – including Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughn, Aretha Franklin, Frank Sinatra, the Shagri-Las, the Ronettes, Motown, Salt-N-Pepa, Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badhu, The Specials, Mark Ronson, Salaam Remi and more.

Priya Khanchandani, Head of Curatorial and Exhibition Curator said:

"Amy's amazing voice, confessional lyrics and provocative manner made her one of the most important artists of our time. With a sound characterised by 1960s American pop and jazz fused with soul and R&B, she resisted the singular nature of genre, and this was reflected in her image. Although outwardly, Amy defied the notion of design and was incredibly down-to-earth, she had an unmistakable style and drew on a curated set of eclectic and diverse influences. This exhibition pays tribute to the collage of references Amy drew on and which made her a character that was and remains larger than life."

Janis Winehouse, Amy's mother said:

"I keep every photo of Amy because that's what I do, it's lovely to see and remember her. Amy liked to pose. She would always sit and smile at our old dining table, mucking around with things, pretending to be a big girl. I also remember our really lovely holidays. The warmth of the sun shining on Amy in one of the photographs in the exhibition, is a reflection of the warmth she was feeling towards me. We always had a wonderful relationship from the very start, I know she loved me and made a fuss of me. She would say 'Mum, be careful, be careful' – she was so caring. It just brings a smile to my face that everyone will be able to see these wonderful moments with Amy inside the exhibition."

Amy released two albums: Frank (2003) and Back to Black (2008), which sold millions of copies and was the most influential album of its time. Visitors can experience a studio space inspired by Metropolis recording

studio, where Back to Black was recorded, and enter an immersive experience based on the track Tears Dry on Their Own, both created by the renowned set designer Chiara Stephenson, with digital design by Luke Halls Studio and artwork by Studio Moross. Visitors will also have the chance to delve into Amy's confessional lyrics through her personal annotations and uncover the graphic design stories behind her critically acclaimed albums.

The exhibition presents Amy's distinct personal style through a range of artistic photography and the original outfits she wore during her greatest performances, from high-street clothes to designer brands such as Preen and Moschino for the Brit Awards in 2007, Dior and John Galliano. Covering the Frank and Back to Black eras, see how Amy's style evolved from the loose-flowing hair and retro wardrobe of the early 2000s to the iconic bold eyeliner, beehive hairstyle and contemporary look that she wore for the launch of her second album. Visitors can see her impact on the fashion world and meet some of the designers who collaborated with Amy, including Fred Perry, and explore the culture behind the artist's favourite accessories, from her popular 'dolly pump' shoes to hair adornments.

In the final section, visitors will delve into Amy's incredible legacy in both music and design. The exhibition celebrates the ways in which designers and musicians have paid homage to her work, from musical tributes to runway fashion by Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel.

The exhibition, a collaboration with Amy's family, will see her close friend and stylist Naomi Parry advise the Design Museum on this never-before-seen showcase of how she combined music and design to create her look, style and voice.

Amy: Beyond the Stage opens on Friday 26 November 2021 at the Design Museum. Tickets are available from designmuseum.org.

-Ends-

Notes to Editor

Curated by

Priya Khanchandani, Curator

Maria McLintock, Assistant Curator

Special Advisor

Naomi Parry

Exhibition Experience Design

Chiara Stephenson

3D Exhibition Design

All Things Studio

2D Exhibition Design

Studio Moross

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A Berlin-based startup with the mission to accelerate the transformation of visual art experiences by delivering digital, trusted value. The community of artists, museums, collectors and individual fans forms the premier marketplace for displaying digital imagery. Together, we developed exclusive ways to make digital art and content as unique as any analog object.



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Amy: Beyond Black Book published by Thames and Hudson

An affectionate, upbeat and evocative illustrated book by Amy's stylist and close friend Naomi Parry.

Publishing a decade after the artist's untimely death, Amy Winehouse: Beyond Black is the story of Amy Winehouse's life and career told through photographs, memorabilia and recollections from those who knew her best. Amy Winehouse: Beyond Black will be published on 14 September 2021.

Property from the Life and Career of Amy Winehouse

Julien's Auctions, the world-record breaking auction house to the stars, will pay tribute to the British singer and songwriter who the BBC's Garry Mulholland called "the pre-eminent vocal talent of her generation" with PROPERTY FROM THE LIFE AND CAREER OF AMY WINEHOUSE, a two-day auction event taking place live Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th, 2021 at Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills and online at juliensauctions.com. Hundreds of Amy Winehouse's most iconic stage, photo shoot and performance worn dresses, shoes, jewelry and accessories that were synonymous with the individualistic style and signature artistry of the five-time GRAMMY Award®-winning retro-soul music superstar and pop diva as well as her most personal items will be presented for the first time at auction. 100% of the proceeds from the sale will benefit The Amy Winehouse Foundation. The Amy Winehouse Foundation was established by her parents Mitch and Janis Winehouse

with its mission of raising awareness and support for vulnerable, young adults with addiction problems.

About the Design Museum:

The Design Museum is the world's leading museum devoted to contemporary architecture and design. Its work encompasses all elements of design, including fashion, product and graphic design. Since it opened its doors in 1989 the museum has displayed everything from an AK-47 to high heels designed by Christian Louboutin. It has staged over 100 exhibitions, welcomed over seven million visitors and showcased the work of some of the world's most celebrated designers and architects including Paul Smith, Zaha Hadid, Jonathan Ive, Frank Gehry, Eileen Gray and Dieter Rams. On 24 November 2016, the Design Museum relocated to Kensington, west London. John Pawson converted the interior of a 1960s modernist building to create a new home for the Design Museum giving it three times more space in which to show a wider range of exhibitions and significantly extend its learning programme.

In October 2020, the Design Museum was awarded £2,968,634 by Arts Council England from the Culture Recovery Fund announced by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

In July 2020, the Design Museum was awarded nearly £1 million National Lottery funding through the Arts Council's Emergency Response Fund.

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