



**North Carolina
Museum of Art**



Innovators & Icons of London

An Exclusive Contemporary Art Journey

with Valerie Hillings, Director and CEO of the North Carolina Museum of Art,
and Linda Johnson Dougherty, Chief Curator & Curator of Contemporary Art

April 4 – 10, 2024

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Join **Valerie Hillings**, Director and CEO of the North Carolina Museum of Art, and **Linda Johnson Dougherty**, Chief Curator & Curator of Contemporary Art, on an exclusive adventure that delves deep into the heart of London's rich, diverse art world. With behind-the-scenes access, discover a blend of past and present, exploring the interplay of history and innovation that London's galleries and museums so uniquely offer. Amid the city's springtime splendor, meet the international collectors, curators, creators, and cultural insiders who are redefining artistic boundaries and embracing diversity and inclusion to create a more equitable, accessible creative future.

A highlight will be an exclusive sneak peek at the much-anticipated exhibition *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure* at London's National Portrait Gallery. We are proud to share that this unique exhibition, a showcase of contemporary artists exploring historical Black representations in Western art, will be on view at the NCMA in Spring 2025.

Over five nights, enjoy exclusive, expert- and curator-guided tours of renowned museums, a prestigious art collection, and behind-the-scenes viewings. Gather for exclusive events, including special meals and an exciting excursion to a West End production. Savor accommodations at the refined Stafford Hotel, a haven of British luxury that provides the perfect backdrop to our adventure.



Exterior of Wartski, London (top) and map of the region (above)

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Indulge in a special art-inspired afternoon tea at Rosewood London, immersing yourself in the vibrant and eclectic space inspired by the work of British artist David Hockney
- Learn about the Young V&A Museum's focus on enlightening youth through creative expression during an exclusive visit to their groundbreaking space
- Accompany an expert at the National Portrait Gallery for an exclusive sneak peek at the eagerly anticipated exhibition *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure*, which will be on view at the NCMA in Spring 2025
- Enjoy a private reception and tour at Wartski, a family-owned jewelry and antiques firm that received a "royal warrant of appointment" to Her Majesty the Queen
- Dive into London's illustrious theater scene by attending an acclaimed West End production
- Gain exclusive access to meet founders and artists at one of London's leading private art galleries
- Embark on a privately guided visit to the Tate Modern to experience El Anatsui's *Behind the Red Moon*, the Ghanaian-born artist's imaginative large-scale installation
- Gather for a private Champagne reception and an exclusive ride in a private London Eye pod, providing breathtaking panoramic views over the city's skyline
- Discover a hidden urban oasis at London's Barbican Conservatory, a captivating retreat where contemporary architecture meets lush tropical greenery

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Valerie Hillings, Ph.D., Director and CEO at the North Carolina Museum of Art, received her B.A. in art history from Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. From 2004 to 2018, Hillings held progressively senior positions for the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation and worked on projects for museums in its global constellation—Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; Deutsche Guggenheim, Berlin; the Guggenheim Hermitage Museum, Las Vegas; and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice—and with partner institutions in

Australia, Europe, and the Middle East. In November 2018, she became the ninth director and first female director of the North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) in Raleigh, North Carolina. During her five-year tenure, Hillings has reimaged the NCMA's collection, adding key acquisitions and commissions and reinstalling the galleries to reflect a more inclusive view of art history. Her vision for the Museum prioritizes multiple, diverse histories, voices, and perspectives and an emphasis on the unique intersection of art, nature, and people.



Linda Johnson Dougherty is the Chief Curator & Curator of Contemporary Art at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Before joining the staff at the North Carolina Museum of Art in 2005, she was an independent curator and art consultant, co-directed the public art program for the state of North Carolina for several years, and was a curator at The Phillips Collection, a research associate at the National Gallery of Art, and a research assistant at the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C. She has a B.A. in Art History from Wesleyan University and an M.A. in Art History from Williams College.



Sir John Soane Museum, London

THURSDAY, APRIL 4: DEPARTURE

Depart for London on an overnight flight.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5: LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

Upon arrival, you will transfer to your hotel near the idyllic Russell Square. You have the rest of the day free to relax. Gather for a splendid welcome reception at the hotel this evening. R

SATURDAY, APRIL 6: LONDON

Rise this morning for an exclusive private tour of the Sir John Soane's Museum led by a seasoned curator or expert. Sir John Soane was an influential British architect and a dedicated collector who acquired a variety of objects from around the world, and his collection is considered one of London's most unique and intriguing. The museum, which was once his residence, houses a diverse array of items ranging from ancient antiquities to neoclassical artworks, including significant paintings by Hogarth, Turner, and Canaletto. Among its most notable pieces is the Egyptian King Seti I's sarcophagus. The museum also boasts more than 30,000 architectural drawings, including works by Soane and other architects.

Savor quintessentially London flavors during lunch at a traditional pub lunch. Then enjoy a reception and tour at Wartski—a family-owned jewelry and antiques firm that received a “royal warrant of appointment” to Her Majesty the Queen. Wartski's managing director will provide us with a hands-on viewing of its remarkable collection of jewelry, Fabergé, *objets d'art*, and silver. This evening, sit down for a delectable dinner, followed by a memorable theater performance in the West End. B,L,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 7: LONDON

Start your day with an expert-led insider's tour at the National Portrait Gallery. First, go behind the scenes of *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure*, an eagerly anticipated 2024 exhibition curated by Ekow Eshun. Gain an exclusive sneak at this extraordinary collection, which will be on view at the NCMA in Spring 2025.

The Time is Always Now enlists a group of contemporary artists to explore and grapple with historical depictions of the Black figure, the social and cultural narratives that shape these representations, and the erasure of the Black presence in Western art history. The exhibition features contributions from Michael Armitage, Lubaina Himid, Kerry James Marshall, Toyin Ojih Odutola, Nathaniel Mary Quinn, Amy Sherald, Henry Taylor, Barbara Walker, and other contemporary visionaries.

Your expert will also guide you through some of the National Portrait Gallery's other extensive collections, including over 215,000 portraits of prominent British individuals from the Tudor period to the modern-day, with pieces by renowned artists like Hans Holbein the Younger.

After some time for lunch at leisure, you'll be treated to an art-inspired afternoon tea at Rosewood London, which was voted “The Best Contemporary Afternoon Tea in the U.K.” Enjoy an immersion in the Rosewood's beautiful space inspired by the influential British artist David Hockney, from his eclectic and bright artwork to his bold character. Conclude with a relaxed evening to wander, dine, and relax as you wish, perhaps further exploring London's cultural highlights at your own pace. B,T



Michael Armitage, *Kampala Suburb*, 2014, photo © Michael Armitage from *The Time is Always Now: Artists Reframe the Black Figure*, National Portrait Gallery, London

MONDAY, APRIL 8: LONDON

Visit the Young V&A Museum to learn about their dedication to the creative education of children and adolescents. Housed in a historic building that has been adapted to illuminate its educational exhibits with natural light, the museum is strategically designed to inspire tomorrow's creators with sensory environments and access to the V&A's renowned collection, making learning an interactive experience. Noteworthy features include engaging spaces for the very young and arenas for narrative and drama, all anchored by a central space meant for community interaction.

After lunch at leisure, join the founders and artists of the Addis Art Gallery (or similar) for an exclusive tour offering an intimate view of the vibrant London contemporary art scene. This evening, attend a private champagne reception at one of the city's most iconic landmarks, the London Eye, taking in an unparalleled panoramic view of the city under the lights. To finish the evening, gather for an elegant dinner. B,R,D

TUESDAY, APRIL 9: LONDON

This morning, join an expert-led private tour at the Tate Modern, where you'll have an inside look at El Anatsui's *Behind the Red Moon*. The Ghanaian-born El Anatsui, acclaimed for his intricate sculptures from repurposed materials, has crafted a large-scale, site-specific installation reflecting on Africa's past and present, transforming metal bottle tops into a narrative on the evolution of commerce since the transatlantic slave trade.

Early this afternoon, step into a lush oasis nestled in the heart of London's urban jungle—the Barbican Conservatory. As you wander through this hidden gem, you'll find yourself transported to a tropical haven filled with exotic plants, vibrant flowers, and cascading water features. The conservatory's unique blend of contemporary architecture and flourishing greenery creates a mesmerizing atmosphere that will thrill your senses.

Next, enjoy a leisurely afternoon on your final day in London with lunch on your own. This evening, bid farewell to the city in style with a sumptuous and festive four-course dinner. B,D

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 LONDON / RETURN

Depart the hotel this morning and transfer to the airport for the flight home. B

PLEASE NOTE: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the North Carolina Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

ACCOMMODATIONS



Stafford Hotel, London

STAFFORD HOTEL, LONDON

A paragon of British elegance, the Stafford is situated in the historic St. James's area, a short walk from Buckingham Palace and Green Park. This luxury hotel, with its regal Georgian architecture and perfectly groomed courtyard, offers guests a classic yet contemporary stay. Each room and suite is individually decorated with period furniture. Renowned for outstanding service and a central location, the Stafford Hotel exemplifies London's enduring charm and gracious hospitality.

PROGRAM RATE

\$7,999 per person, double rate

\$10,399 single rate

RATE INCLUDES

- Five nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Cover photo: Hyundai Commission: El Anatsui: *Behind the Red Moon*, Installation View, Photo ©Tate (Joe Humphrys). Lecturer page: Barbican Conservatory.

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The London Eye, London

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Arrangements Abroad at phone: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name in full as on passport. Please print. _____ Date of Birth _____

Name in full as on passport. Please print. _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (business) _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds ☐ Single

I wish to share a room with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (*payable to Arrangements Abroad*) ☐ Debit card ☐ Credit card

Name on debit/credit card _____

Debit/credit card number _____

3- or 4-digit security code _____ Expiration date _____

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the Terms & Conditions of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).
I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) _____ Date _____

Signature (required) _____ Date _____