

Press Release, 24 June

THE SERPENTINE SUMMER PARTY 2025

Serpentine's most important fundraiser of the year brought together patrons with luminaries from many fields around Marina Tabassum's Serpentine Pavilion, marking 25 years of the architecture commission

Tuesday 24 June 2025

7PM – 10PM

Serpentine South and Pavilion designed by Marina Tabassum

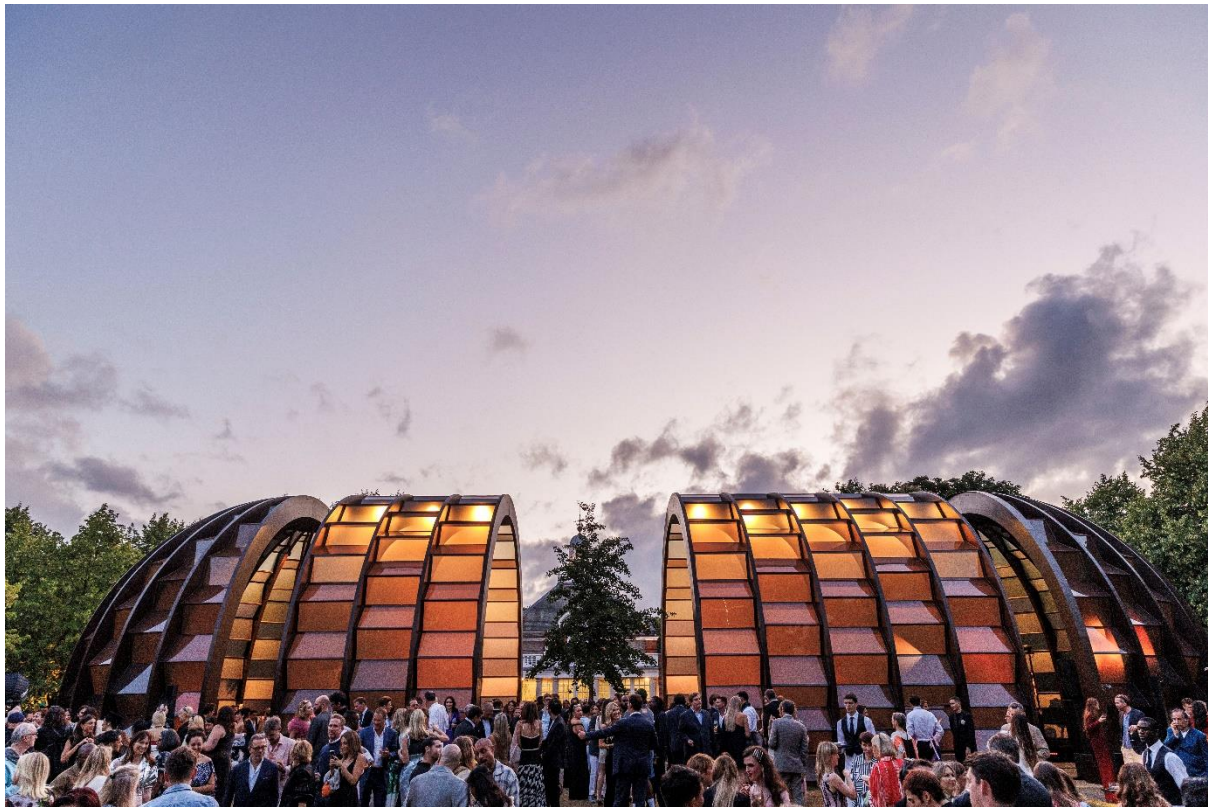


Image: Serpentine Pavilion 2025 A Capsule in Time, designed by Marina Tabassum, Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA). Exterior view. © Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA), Photo Iwan Baan, Courtesy: Serpentine.

Hosted by Michael R. Bloomberg, Chairman of Serpentine's Board of Trustees; Bettina Korek, Serpentine CEO; Hans Ulrich Obrist, Serpentine Artistic Director; and actor, producer and humanitarian Cate Blanchett, this year's Serpentine Summer Party was held on Tuesday, 24 June, 2025 at Serpentine's South Campus in Kensington Gardens.

The centrepiece of the event was *A Capsule in Time*, the 25th Anniversary Serpentine Architecture Pavilion, designed by Bangladeshi architect Marina Tabassum and her Dhaka-based firm, Marina Tabassum Architects (MTA).



During the Summer Party, guests experienced highlights from Serpentine's vibrant summer programme, including the Giuseppe Penone exhibition *Thoughts in the Roots* at Serpentine South and the Play Pavilion designed by Sir Peter Cook in partnership with the LEGO® Group.

Bettina Korek, CEO and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine said: "From our loyal patrons to our inspired partners, we are deeply grateful to all who made this year's Serpentine Summer Party a success. Last night was a celebration of the artists whose projects extended from inside the galleries and beyond their walls into the surrounding park, of Serpentine supporters everywhere, and of the Serpentine Pavilion's 25th Anniversary. In the words of our very first Pavilion architect, Zaha Hadid, "There should be no end to experimentation." Thanks to the generosity of the global Serpentine community, and especially our inaugural Summer Party Host Committee, the Serpentine spirit of experimentation will continue throughout the summer and all year round."

Cate Blanchett said: "Supporting our cultural institutions and their power to illuminate the world at large and our place within it is of paramount importance. I'm honoured to co-chair the Serpentine party and its summer festivities where so many creative forms—architecture, performance, music, science and digital narratives—intersect. To come together around a pavilion created by Marina Tabassum, whose socially driven work particularly in her home country of Bangladesh to meet the challenges faced by Rohingya refugees, is an inspirational opportunity."

For the first time, a Host Committee chaired by businesswoman, philanthropist, and arts patron Isha Ambani was assembled to steer the Summer Party's fundraising goal of ensuring that Serpentine's programme remains free and open to all for another year. The Committee included Joy Crookes, Jamie Dinan and Elizabeth Miller, Yassmin Ghandehari, Lina Ghotmeh, Maja Hoffmann, Sonam Kapoor, Aarti Lohia, Eugenio López, Maya Martinos, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Megha Mittal, Bob Pittman and Elizabeth Gesas, Sybil Robson Orr and Matthew Orr, Sumayya Vally and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, a dynamic constellation of Serpentine Trustees, artists, past pavilion architects, and global patrons.

Following the event in Kensington Gardens, the official after party for the Summer Party thrown by Host Committee members Sonam Kapoor and Eugenio López was held at Tramp.

Notable Guests and Artists in Attendance:

VIPs: Anthea Hamilton, Rana Begum, Tomma Abts, Marianna Simmett, Matt Copson, Isha Ambani, Dina Asher-Smith, Sheila Atim, Cate Blanchett, Soldier Boyfriend, Emily Carey, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Sebastian Croft, Joy Crookes, Charlotte Olympia Dellal, Amelia Dimoldenberg, Minnie Driver, Jourdan Dunn, Isla Fisher, Lina Ghotmeh, Eiza González, Jessica Gunning, Thomas Heatherwick, Yinka Ilori, Celia Imrie, Alex Israel, Bianca Jagger, Isaac Julien, Sonam Kapoor, Sadiq Khan, Julian Knxx, Maya Lin, Marc Lotenberg, Mahalia,



Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Mary McCartney, Obongjayar, Erin O'Connor, Cornelia Parker, Grayson Perry, Caroline Polachek, Tanya Reynolds, Peter Saville, Skepta, Marina Tabassum, Sumayya Vally, Alicia Vikander, Tish Weinstock, Rebel Wilson, Will.i.am, and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, among others.

Each year, Serpentine invites several of the most innovative British fashion designers to attend the Summer Party. This year included:

Seán McGirr (Alexander McQueen), Daniel Lee (Burberry) dressing Roberto Bolle; Charles Jeffrey dressing Beth Ditto; Chet Lo; Conner Ives dressing La Roux; Dilara Findikoglu dressing Cate Blanchett; Han Chong (Self Portrait); David Koma dressing Georgia May Jagger; Harris Reed; Julien Dossena (Rabanne) dressing Griff, Marco Capaldo (16Arlington) dressing Lily Allen; Ozwald Boateng; Patrick McDowell dressing Munroe Bergdorf; Rebecca Vallance dressing Kelly Osbourne; Rejina Pyo; Sir Paul Smith; Lady Eliza Spencer and Lady Amelia Spencer attending with Aspinal of London.

Music by Caroline Polachek and GALLiVANTER.

This year's edition spotlighted Indian contemporary art through a specially commissioned installation by renowned artist Subodh Gupta, who reimagined his celebrated work *A Place in the Sun*. The sculptural piece reconfigures a rickshaw that is assembled from everyday Indian objects like tiffin boxes, thali pans, bicycles, and milk pails. It evokes traditions of celebration and collective memory. "It's all about capturing joyful moments and celebrating togetherness," says Gupta. "The Serpentine Summer Party is a remarkable convergence of culture and community," said **Isha Ambani**. "I'm honoured to support this year's celebration of Indian creativity."

Google Arts & Culture presented Art Selfie 2, a playful Google AI powered experience that invites guests to place themselves in the frames of iconic artworks and cultural moments. This is part of Google Arts & Culture's ongoing commitment to explore advanced technologies for cultural learning and new forms of engagement.

This year, Sonam Kapoor, patron of Arpita Singh's work, was announced as Member of the Summer Party Host Committee.

Arpita Singh: *Remembering* is presented at Serpentine North until 27 July 2025, supported by The SP Lohia Foundation. *Remembering* explores the full breadth of her practice, ranging from large-scale oil paintings to more intimate watercolours and ink drawings. The paintings on view celebrate Singh's endless experimentation with colour and mark making to figuratively explore emotional responses to social upheaval and international humanitarian crises.



Serpentine presented a new limited edition by Refik Anadol at The Summer Party. Artificial Realities: Coral, a range of Diasec-mounted Giclée prints on aluminium composite panels, reimagine marine ecosystems through the lens of machine intelligence.

In 2024, Serpentine presented *Echoes of the Earth: Living Archive* an exhibition of new works by Refik Anadol. The first major institutional solo exhibition in the UK, *Echoes of the Earth: Living Archive* enveloped viewers in immersive environments that utilise years-long experimentation with visual data of coral reefs and rainforests and showcases the creative potential of AI.

Building on recent editions where the Summer Party has welcomed many of the UK's most innovative emerging fashion houses, designers were invited to bring and style their own squads of muses and other cultural figures.

Spirits and partners

Guests enjoyed a glass of Ruinart Champagne, the official champagne partner of Serpentine, or Whispering Angel, Côte de Provence rosé while exploring the activations, the exhibitions and the Pavilions.

The Aubrey at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, London has created a bespoke food pairing experience specifically for Serpentine Summer Party in collaboration with Toku Saké. This exclusive partnership brought together The Aubrey's innovative Japanese izakaya-style cuisine with the refined elegance of Toku's Junmai Daiginjo saké. In 2024, Cate Blanchett joined forces with Toku, building on her long standing admiration for Japanese culture and a deep appreciation of saké, bringing her distinctive vision to this exceptional liquid – shaping its presence on an international stage.

In recognition of their longstanding support of the arts, we were proud to partner with Casa Dragones Tequila. Guests enjoyed their exceptional sipping tequilas and signature summer cocktails.

Campari brought together its signature Italian flair to the Aperitivo Piazza, serving a curated selection of classic cocktails: the vibrant Campari Spritz, the timeless Negroni, and the effervescent Sbagliato.

At The Summer Party, MUJEN was featured - introducing guests to a captivating new expression of Japan's beloved shochu, through artfully crafted cocktails by iconic mixologist Tato Giovannoni.

Culinary experience

Chefs served a range of multi-sensory edible installations prepared especially for the Summer Party. Steaming earthenware pots of fragrant Biryani infused the evening air with the aromas of cardamom, clove, saffron, and marinated meats or vegetables, layered



through fluffy basmati rice. These were no ordinary Biryanis, each is a traditional Dum Pot Biryani, sealed with a pastry crust to lock in its rich, aromatic character.

Dorsia unveiled a playful and elevated culinary moment, bringing their members only experience to Kensington Gardens. Guests enjoyed a custom designed trolley featuring food pairing of chicken tenders and caviar.

Chef Skye Gyngell of Spring returned with a custom dessert table, including jellies evoking Bangladeshi seven-layered tea, smaller bites incorporating lychee, kewra water, and saffron, and cakes in flavours like coconut, sesame, mango, and blackcurrant leaf. Sculptural casts by artist Sienna Murdoch, commissioned especially for this event, brought shape and tactility to the table.

In a nod to Italy, the aperitivo area featured a selection of hors d'oeuvres including Tomato focaccine, Saffron arancino with osso buco, Grilled zucchini with caponata, Waffle-cut patate and more. Desserts referenced Italian tastes and feature a leaf motif, recalling the organic world.

About Serpentine

Building new connections between artists and audiences, Serpentine presents pioneering contemporary art exhibitions and cultural events with a legacy that stretches back over half a century, from a wide range of emerging practitioners to the most internationally recognised artists, writers, scientists, thinkers, and cultural thought leaders of our time.

Based in London's Kensington Gardens, across two sites, Serpentine North and Serpentine South, Serpentine features a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architectural showcases, education, live events and technological activations, in the park and beyond the gallery walls.

Public art has emerged as a central strand of Serpentine's programme. Major presentations include a collection of Eduardo Paolozzi's sculptures (1987); Anish Kapoor's *Turning the World Upside Down* (2010); Lee Ufan's *Relatum – Stage* (2018–19); Christo and Jeanne-Claude's *London Mastaba* in the Serpentine Lake (2018); *I LOVE YOU EARTH* by Yoko Ono (2021); Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster *In remembrance of the coming alien (Alienor)* (2022); Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg's *Pollinator Pathmaker* (2022–ongoing); Atta Kwami's *Dzidzɔ kple amenuveve* (Joy and Grace) (2021–22); Gerhard Richter's *STRIP-TOWER* (2024); Yayoi Kusama's *Pumpkin* at the Round Pound (2024); and Esther Mahlangu's mural *Umntu ngumuntu ngabantu* (2024).

Proud to maintain free access for all visitors, Serpentine also reaches an exceptionally broad audience and maintains a profound connection with its local community.



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Pavilion and Programme

Marina Tabassum, *A Capsule in Time*
Giuseppe Penone, *Thoughts In The Roots*
Sir Peter Cook, *Play Pavilion*
Subodh Gupta, *A Place in the Sun*

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