

26 November 2021

## Habda Rashid Appointed Curator of Modern and Contemporary British Art



Habda Rashid

Kettle's Yard and the Fitzwilliam Museum are delighted to announce the appointment of Habda Rashid to the new post of Curator of Modern and Contemporary British Art.

Habda will work across the two Cambridge University museums with a remit to shape and deliver collections-based research, public programming and curatorial work on the collections of 20th and 21st-century British art, within a global context. A specific focus of the role is to bring new and under-represented perspectives, voices and artworks into these collections, including through new acquisitions and commissions. The appointment reflects an increasingly close collaboration between museums and departments across Cambridge, to catalyse research and public engagement.

Habda moves to Kettle's Yard and the Fitzwilliam Museum from Create London where she worked as Senior Curator: Contemporary Art and most recently as Interim Artistic Director: Contemporary Art. In these two roles Habda led a new vision for the arts programme which took a global perspective and supported under-represented artists. As part of the senior management team she played a crucial role in the strategic development of Create. Prior to this Habda Rashid worked as Assistant Curator at Whitechapel Gallery, London for 7 years. Her extensive experience of contemporary art has seen her commission new

works and curate exhibitions with a wide range of artists including Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Shezad Dawood, Michael Rakowitz, Eva Rothschild, Emma Smith and Veronica Ryan.

She studied Sociology at Northumbria University before completing the Curating the Contemporary MA at London Metropolitan University and Whitechapel Gallery.

Habda Rashid says:

*'I am delighted to be joining colleagues at Kettle's Yard and the Fitzwilliam Museum, two important and unique institutions, at a moment of ambition to grow the collections and expand the stories told by art to reach the widest possible audiences.'*

*'Cambridge is a special place and the opportunity to continue my research as part of its esteemed academic networks is extraordinary.'*

Andrew Nairne, Director, Kettle's Yard says:

*'We are greatly looking forward to Habda Rashid joining our Senior Team at Kettle's Yard, with particular responsibility for leading projects and programmes related to the collection and the Kettle's Yard House.'*

**For further information and images**

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**Kettle's Yard**

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The  
Fitzwilliam  
Museum  
CAMBRIDGE

Luke Syson, Director and Marlay Curator,  
Fitzwilliam Museum, says:

*'The Fitzwilliam Museum is renowned for its British art, from Tudor miniature paintings to Thomas Gainsborough and Barbara Hepworth. We are now seeking to acquire and commission artworks that better reflect the diversity of British art in the 20th and 21st centuries, so we are very excited that Habda is joining us to lead our work in this area, whilst also working with colleagues in the Fitzwilliam and across the University to bring new perspectives to the existing collection.'*



Kettle's Yard House, photo: Paul Allitt



The Fitzwilliam Museum

## Notes to Editors

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## About Kettle's Yard

Created by former Tate Curator Jim Ede in 1957, Kettle's Yard is one of Britain's best galleries – a beautiful and unique house with a distinctive modern art collection, and a gallery exhibiting modern and contemporary art. Supporting this is an established learning and community engagement programme, archive, and programme of chamber concerts. In February 2018, Kettle's Yard reopened after a two-year redevelopment designed by architect Jamie Fobert. The new Kettle's Yard includes beautiful galleries, generous education spaces, a café, shop and new welcome areas. Kettle's Yard's mission is to contribute to society by inspiring and engaging audiences through art, learning and research of the highest quality. We believe that great art should not be the privilege of the few, but for everyone. Our values reflect Kettle's Yard's creator Jim Ede's support for artists and belief in art's power to make us look again and change how we act in the world.

[www.kettlesyard.co.uk](http://www.kettlesyard.co.uk)

## About the Fitzwilliam Museum

Founded in 1816, the Fitzwilliam Museum is the principal museum of the University of Cambridge and lead partner for the University of Cambridge Museums (UCM) Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation funded programme. It houses over half a million objects from ancient Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts, to medieval illuminated manuscripts, paintings from the Renaissance to the 21st century, world class prints and drawings, and outstanding collections of coins, Asian arts, ceramics and other applied arts. The Fitzwilliam is an internationally recognised institute of learning, research and conservation.

[www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk)

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