

Press Release, 23 June 2026

THE SERPENTINE SUMMER PARTY 2026

Serpentine's most important fundraiser of the year brought together patrons with luminaries around LANZA atelier's Pavilion, marking the 25th edition of the architecture commission

Tuesday 23 June 2026 7PM – 11PM

Serpentine South and Pavilion designed by LANZA atelier

Images of the event can be downloaded via Getty [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#), BFA [here](#) and video [here](#)



Images courtesy of Jack Hall for BFA

The Serpentine Summer Party took place on Tuesday 23 June 2026 in Kensington Gardens. The evening was hosted by Michael R. Bloomberg, Chairman of Serpentine's Board of Trustees; Bettina Korek, CEO; and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, with co-hosts Salma Hayek Pinault, Alfonso Cuarón and Alejandro González Iñárritu.

The evening brought together Serpentine supporters alongside leading figures from art, culture, fashion, architecture, business and technology. Guests experienced an artist-led journey through Kensington Gardens, encountering highlights from Serpentine's summer programme, which



includes major exhibitions by Cecily Brown (*Picture Making*) and David Hockney (*A Year in Normandie and Other Thoughts on Painting*), alongside special activations centred on the Pavilion. *Pénétrable BBL Jaune* (1999; 2023 Edition), a public art installation by artist Jesús Rafael SOTO was on view for this year's Summer Party.

At its heart was the 2026 Serpentine Pavilion, a serpentine, designed by Mexico City-based LANZA atelier. Built from a rhythmic repetition of brick columns that shift between opacity and permeability, it establishes a dialogue with the historic brick façade of Serpentine South, once itself a tea pavilion, while acting as a bridge between the geographies of Europe and the Americas.

Michael R. Bloomberg, Chairman
Bettina Korek, CEO
Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director

with Co-Hosts:

Salma Hayek Pinault
Alfonso Cuarón
Alejandro González Iñárritu

The 2026 Host Committee: Isha Ambani, Chair, Adwoa Aboah, Brandi and Diego Berdakin, Kate Carrafiell, Sou Fujimoto, Elizabeth Gesas and Bob Pittman, Maja Hoffmann, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Lisa Love, Eugenio López, Maya and Ioannis Martinos, Elizabeth Miller and James Dinan, Megha and Aditya Mittal, Sybil Robson Orr and Matthew Orr, Taylor Thomson, Sumayya Vally and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye - a vibrant gathering of Serpentine Trustees, artists, past Pavilion architects, and global cultural patrons.

Notable guests in attendance:

Adam Curtis, Adwoa Aboah, Alex Israel, Alex Margo Arden, Alexa Chung (dressed by Dilara), Alessandro Arienzo and Isabel Abascal, Anish Kapoor, Aziza Kadyri, Benedict Wong, Bharti and Subodh, Caitríona Balfe, Caroline Polachek (dressed by Aaron Esh), Celia Imrie, Charles Jeffrey, Charlie Brooker, CKTRL, Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley, Daniel Pemberton, David Koma, Dilara Findikoglu, Ellie Goulding, Emilia Wickstead, Es Devlin, Foday Dumbuya, Francis Upritchard, Francesco Vezzoli, Georgia May Jagger, Georg Wilson, Grayson Perry, Harris Reed, Ib Kamara, Isla Fisher, Jeff Goldblum, Jenna Coleman, Jessica Gunning, Jessie Ware, Jewel, John Glacier, Jonah Hauer-King, Joy Crookes, Konnie Huq, Kristin Scott Thomas, Kyle MacLachlan, LANZA atelier, Lennie James, Lina Ghotmeh, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Lynette Yiadom-Boakye, Matt Copson, Marc Quinn, Mark Strong, Marisa Abela (dressed by Emilia Wickstead), Marisa Tomei, Marta Kostyuk, Martino Gamper, Maya Jama (dressed by David Koma), Mary McCartney, Maya Lin, Megan Rooney, Michael B. Jordan, Myles Lewis-Skelly, Naomie Harris (dressed by Ferrari Style), Nicky Hilton, Oliver Cheshire, Oliver Leith, Pelagia Kolotouros, Parma Ham, Peter Gabriel, Pixie Geldolf, Pixie Lott, Rebecca Vallance, Rebel Wilson, Richard E. Grant, Robert Eggers, Rocco Iannone, Roksanda Ilinčić, Ron Arad, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Sedrick Chisom, Sienna Miller, Simon Holloway, Sumayya Vally, Wes Gordon, Wolfgang Tillmans, and Yinka Shonibare, alongside leading figures



from the creative industries, philanthropy, design, and Serpentine's wider community.

Bettina Korek, CEO and Hans Ulrich Obrist, Artistic Director, Serpentine said: "The Summer Party is Serpentine's most significant fundraising event of the year, and we are immensely grateful to the partners, hosts, committee members and supporters whose generosity makes it possible. Bringing together leading voices from across art, culture, business and philanthropy, the evening celebrates Serpentine's mission to connect artists and audiences through ambitious, interdisciplinary programming that remains free and accessible to all."

Salma Hayek Pinault said: "Throughout my career I have been driven by a belief that Latin American voices, stories and creativity belong at the centre of global culture, not at its edges. The Serpentine Pavilion has always understood this. When I visited Frida Escobedo's Pavilion in 2018 I felt it immediately - a Mexican architect in conversation with one of the world's great parks, on her own terms. LANZA atelier's *a serpentine* continues that dialogue, and I am honoured to be part of celebrating it."

Alfonso Cuarón said: "The most powerful moments in cinema happen when space, light and structure stop being separate things. That's what LANZA atelier have achieved with *a serpentine*, a structure that breathes with its surroundings. I am proud to celebrate this alongside my fellow Mexicans and honoured to be part of an evening that belongs to London and Mexico in equal measure."

Alejandro González Iñárritu said: "The English brick city and the Mexican brick wall speak different languages, yet both turn earth, fire, and craft into culture. It's my honor to co-host this evening at Serpentine and see Mexico City's creative spirit take root in Kensington Gardens."

Isabel Abascal and Alessandro Arienzo of LANZA atelier said: "Our architectural practice draws inspiration from disciplines beyond architecture, such as cinema. It is hard to imagine three figures who have contributed more significantly to contemporary visual culture and storytelling than Salma Hayek Pinault, Alfonso Cuarón, and Alejandro González Iñárritu. We are deeply grateful and honored to see these living-legends hosting the Serpentine Summer Party 2026: a celebration of cultural dialogue and the power of art and architecture to connect communities across borders."

For the second year, Serpentine welcomed Isha Ambani, business leader, philanthropist, arts patron and cultural advocate, as Chair of the Summer Party Host Committee, a group brought together to honour the occasion and committed to advancing Serpentine's free access for all. "Serpentine is a remarkable celebration of creativity, culture and connection," **said Isha Ambani.** "I'm delighted to support this year's event and champion the extraordinary talent it showcases."

This year marked a new chapter in the relationship between the Pavilion and the Summer Party. Over the last several years, the Pavilion architects have become increasingly part of shaping the evening, and in 2026, for the first time, LANZA atelier has collaborated with an artist to help shape the night itself - through special commissions and creative and culinary direction.



Laila Gohar's culinary programme moved through this spiral landscape as a sequence of experiences that celebrate connection. "I've always been drawn to ingredients that carry entire worlds inside them," she said. "Corn, chocolate, mole - ordinary and monumental at once. The spiral invites movement, and the food follows its path, passed between hands, shared in conversation, consumed and transformed. Somewhere between architecture, landscape and banquet, the party becomes a living composition shaped by the movement of people." The culinary experience included a corn station and tamale culminating in a chocolate installation with Casa Bosques inspired by the Pavilion's brick form, alongside moulded chocolates and hibiscus, mango and guava sorbets.

In keeping with Isha Ambani and the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre's commitment to spotlighting Indian art, design and craft, this year's Summer Party saw the Serpentine collaborate with artist Laila Gohar on *The Weight of Air*, a series of fabric installations. Inspired by the spiral and the serpentine line, forms that recur across cultures as symbols of movement, rhythm, and transformation, the works used Indian silk, air, and motion to create a shared visual language that is both playful and poetic. Echoing the installation's fluid forms, small bites of aloo matar (spiced potato and pea) were served as guests arrived, alongside the energetic rhythms of Dhol drummers performing nearby. As the evening unfolded, guests gathered with warming chai, extending the evening's language of the spiral while celebrating connection and craftsmanship across cultures.

Music

As the evening began, DJ Wolfram Amadeus set the tone with an opening performance, followed by DJ Carlita, before Danny L Harle delivered a standout set later in the night.

Mariachi Las Adelitas created a joyful and unexpected moment of delight, bringing warmth, humour and musical energy to the evening. Their acoustic performance added a playful note of surprise, inviting guests into a shared moment of celebration and connection.

Partners

Mercedes-Benz UK is the official automotive partner of the Serpentine Summer Party. Celebrating 140 years of innovation in 2026, Mercedes-Benz is renowned for its timeless design, pioneering technology, and exceptional attention to detail.

Guests enjoyed **Ruinart Champagne**, the official champagne partner of Serpentine and a distinguished patron of the arts. Founded in 1729 as the world's oldest established Champagne house, Ruinart has long championed contemporary artistic expression, fostering meaningful collaborations with leading artists and cultural institutions worldwide.

Whispering Angel provided the perfect start to summer, as guests enjoyed Côte de Provence rosé while exploring the activations, exhibitions, and Pavilion.

For the second year, **Johnnie Walker Blue Label** have partnered with The Serpentine



Summer Party, celebrating its connection to the art world and creative culture. Alongside Johnnie Walker Blue Label on the rocks, guests enjoyed two bespoke serves created for the occasion, Blue Label Spritz and Blue Haute Ball. The signature cocktails offered a refined interpretation of a whisky summer refreshment, inspired by craftsmanship and creativity that embodies both Johnnie Walker and Serpentine.

Casa Dragones Tequila has long championed the arts, proudly supporting contemporary artists and cultural institutions across Mexico and around the world. This year, Casa Dragones was proud to collaborate with LANZA atelier, the architects of this year's Pavilion, to create signature craft cocktails inspired by their shared passion for modern Mexico and the beauty of a serpentine. These drinks reflected the spirit of LANZA's collaborative practice, transforming familiar ingredients into shared moments of discovery while complementing the Pavilion's emphasis on connection, dialogue, and collective experience.

Unfiltered and crafted to the Bavarian Purity Law, **NOAM** carries timeless brewing craftsmanship into the 21st century. The juxtaposition of modernity and tradition, much like Serpentine, runs through the soul of NOAM - paying homage to the past while championing the contemporary.

Smoke Lab carried India's craft to the heart of Kensington Gardens, introducing its Basmati rice-crafted vodka with diverse flavours of India brought to life through their signature cocktails like their Spicy Raw Mango Sour.

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 including Aaron Esh, Charles Jeffrey, Chet Lo, Daisy Knatchbull, Daniel Lee, David Koma, Dilara Findikoglu, Chet Lo, Emilia Wickstead, Erdem Moraloğlu, Harris Reed, Priya Ahluwalia, Robert Wun, Roksanda Ilinčić and Wes Gordon.

Dorsia partnered with the Summer Party to present a special performance by DJ Carlita during the evening. Following the Summer Party, Dorsia also hosted an intimate gathering at one of London's newest. Dorsia sits at the intersection of hospitality, technology, and culture, curating access to the people, places, and moments shaping the global cultural calendar. In London, this includes an ongoing partnership with Serpentine.

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, Serpentine features a year-round, free programme of exhibitions, architectural showcases, education, live events and technological activations across two sites, Serpentine North and Serpentine South, 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's *In remembrance of the coming alien (Alienor)*(2022); Alexandra Daisy Ginsberg's *Pollinator Pathmaker* (2022–24); Atta Kwami's *Dzidzɔ kple amenuveve* (Joy and Grace) (2021–22); Gerhard Richter's *STRIP-TOWER* (2024); Yayoi Kusama's *Pumpkin* at the Round Pond (2024); Esther Mahlangu's mural *Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* (2024) and Giuseppe Penone's *Albero folgorato (Thunderstruck Tree)* (2012) and *Idee di pietra (Ideas of Stone)*, (2010 – 2024) on view until August 2026.

Pénétrable BBL Jaune (1999; 2023 Edition), a public art installation by artist Jesús Rafael SOTO exemplifies the artist's lifelong interest in movement, space and tactility. Born in Venezuela in 1923, SOTO became one of the leading exponents of kinetic art and created more than seventy *Pénétrable* sculptures of various sizes and colours throughout his seven-decade long career: works composed of metal rods and nylon strands suspended in space through which viewers are invited to enter.

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

LANZA atelier, *a serpentine*
Cecily Brown, *Picture Making*
Jesús Rafael Soto, *Pénétrable BBL Jaune*
David Hockney, *A Year in Normandie and Other Thoughts About Painting*

Partners

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