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YOUR LOCKDOWN CULTURE GUIDE: MAY

Here's your hotlist for the month ahead, including VR exhibitions, a virtual arts festival and more free cultural finds

By CAT OLLEY 01/05/2020



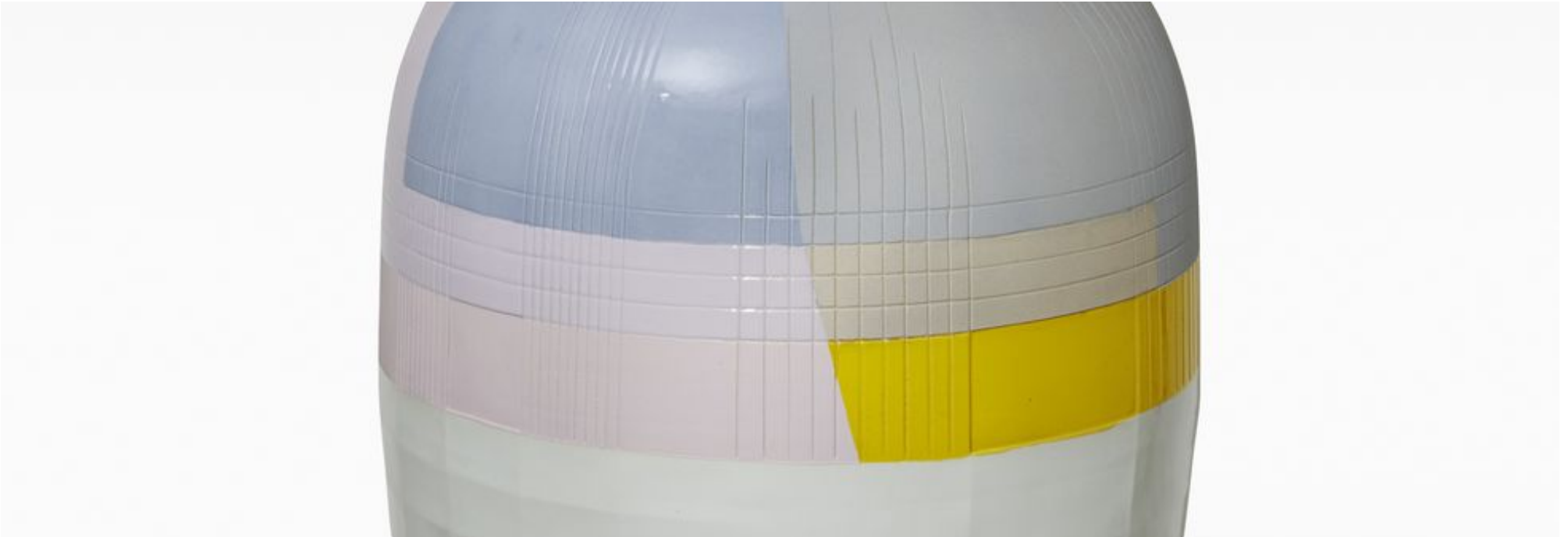
Luca Piffaretti

Virtually toured your fill of the world's top museums and claim to have 'completed' Netflix? Our new culture round-up guide to the month's digital delights, including inventively staged festivals, free online exhibitions and talks with leading creatives (aka some of the best company we've had for a while). Add these to your calendar...

1

COLLECTIVE DESIGN X FRIEZE VIEWING ROOM





Facet Bottle #3 by Hella Jongerius

As New York may as well be New Zealand right now, it may come as a welcome surprise to many that Frieze are launching an online version of this year's showcase. Sure to be a highlight is the show's first ever design exhibit in partnership with Collective Design: curated by London-based writer and curator Libby Sellers, 'Colour and Production: From the Atom to the Void' will trace the evolving impact of technological developments on the use of colour in art and design. Expect a selection of exquisite historic objects alongside pieces by Studio Formafantasma, Hella Jongerius and Established & Sons. 8–15 May 2020. [frieze.com](https://www.frieze.com)

2

HAY FESTIVAL DIGITAL

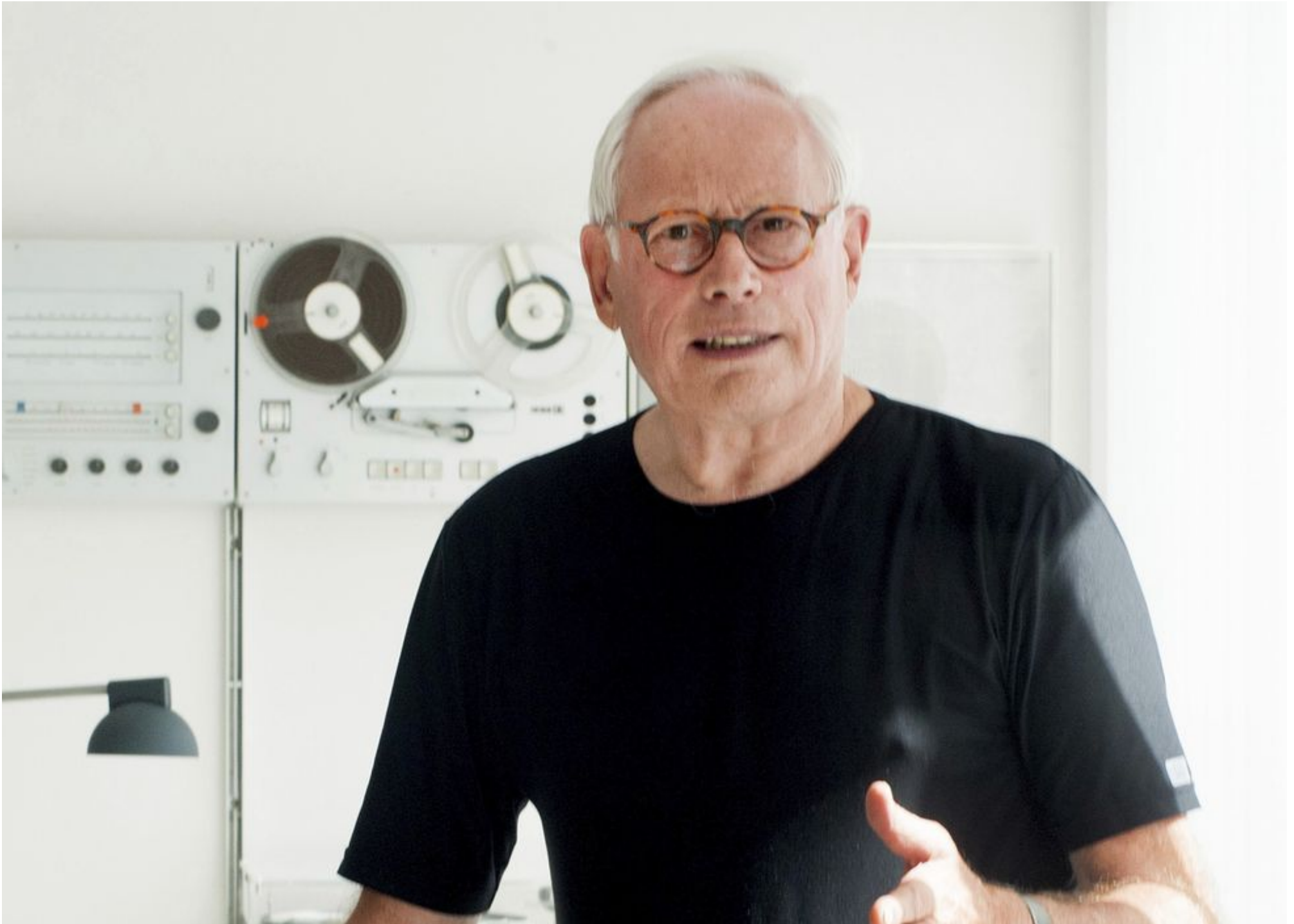


Sam Hardwick

Every May for the last 30 or so years, the Hay Festival of Literature & Arts has descended on the diminutive Welsh enclave of Hay-on-Wye (and consequently spawned a series of international editions around the world). Rather than ditch a yearly highlight of the cultural calendar, this spring marks its first fully digital iteration. While we'll miss browsing in the town's myriad bookshops, the online festival promises free live talks and interactive Q&A sessions with over 100 writers and incisive thinkers – check back on 6 May when the full programme will be revealed. *From 22–31 May 2020. hayfestival.com/digital*

3

'RAMS' BY GARY HUSTWIT





Dieter Rams / Michael Kretzer

US filmmaker Gary Hustwit has something of a cult following among design lovers, due to documentaries like typography tribute *Helvetica* and industrial design study *Objectified*. Don't miss his 2018 documentary *Rams*, on legendary German product designer Dieter Rams, which he's streaming for free in partnership with Dezeen's Virtual Design Festival. Keep an eye out for further films, too – he's been cycling through his back catalogue since March. *From 1–3 May 2020. ohyouprettythings.com/free*

4

ANNO MITSUMASA EXHIBITION AT JAPAN HOUSE

In and Around the Capital - Horin-Ji

Another cultural institution dipping their toe into the world of virtual exhibitions is London's Japan House, whose showcase 'Anno's Journey: The World of Anno Mitsumasa' takes in a lifetime of work by the well-loved Japanese illustrator. His gently evocative images of life in Japan and across the world, including a section on artworks created on a visit to Britain, are exquisitely realised in a variety of media such as pen and ink, watercolours and paper cutting

techniques. The exhibition is set to be a permanent fixture, so take your time. *From 24 April 2020.*

japanhouselondon.uk

5

NATIONAL THEATRE AT HOME

Antony & Cleopatra / Johan Persson

For many, Thursday nights in lockdown are now forever associated with the next release from the National Theatre at Home streaming initiative. Each week, the team digs out another world-class production from the 30-strong archive, which is then available to stream for free for seven days. Until 7th May, you can watch the *Frankenstein* two-parter directed by Danny Boyle and starring a role-switching Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller, then next it's the turn of Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo's *Antony & Cleopatra*. nationaltheatre.org.uk

6

STEPHEN FRY'S SERIES FOR THE BARBICAN PODCAST

Max Colson

While London's architecture lovers are pining for the temporarily closed Barbican Centre, the team have been busy raiding the archives and generating new content. Unsurprisingly, it's proved popular – traffic to the online hub is up 350 per cent. Their Nothing Concrete podcast may have flown under the radar for some, but that's sure to change this month with the release of a new series with Stephen Fry, who will discuss mental health, isolation and the power of art to heal in conversation with journalist Chris Gunness. *Heiligenstadt Testament*, a letter written by Beethoven to his brothers, will provide a springboard for the chats, in tribute to the composer's 250th anniversary this year. *The first of four weekly episodes starts 6 May 2020.* barbican.org.uk/read-watch-listen

7

STELLA MCCARTNEY IN CONVERSATION WITH DAVID ADJAYE

Ed Reeve

Design Museum's lockdown franchise #DesignDispatches is going from strength to strength, thus far hosting Instagram TV talks with Morag Myerscough, Christopher Raeburn and Bella Freud. The worlds of fashion and architecture will collide on 9th May for Stella McCartney in conversation with David Adjaye, with more creative heavyweights sure to follow. 9 May 2020 [instagram.com/designmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/designmuseum)

8

'BESIDE ITSELF' EXHIBITION AT HAUSER & WIRTH MENORCA

Hauser & Wirth ArtLab

Though its much-anticipated Menorca outpost isn't due to open until next year, gallerist Hauser & Wirth are offering a preview of two of the largest galleries via their new bespoke virtual reality software. The mapping of exhibition 'Beside Itself' comes courtesy of new research and innovation arm ArtLab, which uses technology to tackle issues of accessibility and sustainability. The restored stone architecture and blue Mediterranean skies make this virtual stroll an unexpected tonic – don't miss the glimpse of the Piet Oudolf designed gardens and their towering Louise Bourgeois sculpture. *From 30 April 2020. [hauserwirth.com](https://www.hauserwirth.com)*

9

GRAYSON PERRY'S ART CLUB

Grayson's Art Club, Mondays 8pm on Channel 4

With Philippa Perry visibly moved by a portrait painted by her husband on a plate, the first episode of beloved Brit artist Grayson Perry's new Channel 4 show was an unexpected tear-jerker. The presumably hastily-commissioned programme is an invitation into his gloriously chaotic studio, as he reveals his creative process and chats to guests, from Viv Reeves to Antony Gormley, and enthusiastic members of the public about their weird and wonderful creations, all via video call. His pick of these pieces, formed under the guidance of a weekly theme, will be presented as an exhibition post-Covid. *It continues on Mondays at 8pm throughout May 2020.* [channel4.com](https://www.channel4.com)

10

SINTA TANTRA'S 'MODERN TIMES' EXHIBITION AT KRISTIN HJELLEGJERDE GALLERY

Luca Piffaretti

This month marks the last few weeks to catch a 3D tour of Indonesian spatial artist Sinta Tantra's 'Modern Times' exhibition at London's Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery. Its striking atrium-style space, flanked on one side by a grid of pink glass, proves a worthy backdrop to a collection of artworks characterised by colour interplay and bold, Bauhaus-

esque compositions. Tantra's tour is interspersed by video clips of her inspirations, including the perhaps unlikely figure of Charlie Chaplin. *Until 17 May 2020.* kristinhjellegjerde.com

11

#AIWW: THE ARREST OF AI WEIWEI

Stephen Cummiskey

North London's Hampstead Theatre is also getting in on the home streaming act. In partnership with *The Guardian*, their latest release is a 2013 recording of *#AIWW: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei*, which recounts the controversial arrest and imprisonment of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei in 2011. Based on conversations between Weiwei and journalist Barnaby Martin, it's an arresting production that confronts the relationship between art and freedom of speech. Fingers crossed there's more on the way. *Until 3rd May 2020.* hampsteadtheatre.com

12

LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR

Apples, Pears & Grapes by David Hockney / RAW Editions

For the 35th edition of London Original Print Fair, 51 viewing rooms – each representing a dealer, gallery or publisher – will be available for online perusal, with prices starting around £100. Overwhelmed by choice? Browse ‘Spotlight’ exhibitions, with works selected according to theme, or let yourself be guided by handpicked selections from the likes of Cath Kidston and Royal Academy President Rebecca Salter. *From 1–31 May 2020. [londonoriginalprintfair.com](https://www.londonoriginalprintfair.com)*

13

'WE ARE ONE' FILM FESTIVAL

Tribeca Film Festival

More than 20 of the world's biggest and best loved film festivals, including Sundance, Venice, Toronto, Tribeca and glitzy Cannes, have come together to curate a 10-day online event in the face of forced cancellations. Dubbed 'We Are

One: A Global Film Festival', the format will see films streamed for free on YouTube, including shorts, documentaries, comedy and an as-yet unreleased schedule of conversations. *From 29 May–7 June 2020.* [youtube.com/WeAreOne](https://www.youtube.com/WeAreOne)

14

GATESHEAD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATRE

Augmented by Sophie Woolley / Helen Murray

With theatre doors firmly closed and associated celebrations cancelled, that Gateshead International Festival of Theatre has pledged to present an online version of original plans is something of a beacon. A simple raid of the theatre's archives this is not: a curated programme of events is arranged over three days – most ticketed and time-limited to preserve a festival spirit – including creatively reworked home performances, panel debates and workshops. *From 1–3 May 2020. giftfestival.co.uk*

15

'XXI' EXHIBITION AT HOFA GALLERY

Kaws / ARTCELS x HOFA Gallery

Mayfair's exclusive House of Fine Art gallery has no trouble attracting top names, and their new virtual exhibition reads like a roll call of contemporary art titans. While it's presented in partnership with art investor platform ARTCELS, it's well worth a browse for a crash course in modern art – think Banksy, Jeff Koons and Damien Hirst – even if you might not be in the market for a share of the showcase yourself. *From 4–18 May 2020.*

thehouseoffineart.com

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