



CREATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE
SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION

**Swarovski Foundation announces “Creatives for Our Future”
grant recipients and advocates**

- Swarovski Foundation: Creatives for Our Future is an international program with advisory support from the UN Office for Partnerships to identify and accelerate the next generation of creative talent aged between 18 and 25, who demonstrate exemplary abilities to further awareness, technologies and solutions for sustainable and inclusive development and address the world’s most pressing challenges in terms of sustainable practices for the safekeeping of the planet.
- Over 400 young creatives from 72 countries submitted applications.
- Nine young creatives from nine countries who work, study or research in fashion, product design, biotechnologies, architecture, engineering and visual arts with a focus on sound environmental and human practices were selected by an international committee.
- 25 renowned leaders, “Advocates,” from nine countries in fashion, design, architecture, academia, culture and activism will provide tailored mentorship and training to the selected talents, making the program a great digital teaching and learning platform.
- Concurrently with the UN High-level segment of the General Assembly in September 2021, the grantees will have the opportunity to present their work.

London, New York, 4 May 2021. Following a call for applications which attracted over 400 submissions from young creatives from 72 countries worldwide, the Swarovski Foundation announces the participants of the inaugural “Creatives for Our Future” program.

- **Sejal Budholiya**, Mechanical Engineering Student, Performance Artist and Entrepreneur (India)
- **Agnieszka Doczynska**, Graphic Designer (Poland)
- **Yara Mohamed Ewida**, Architect (Egypt)
- **Daniele Ficarra**, Product Designer (Italy)
- **Ghislain Irakoze**, Engineer (Rwanda)
- **Shuzo Matsushashi**, Fashion Designer (Japan, based in Vienna, Austria)
- **Osasumwen Obasogie**, Mechanical Engineer & entrepreneur (Nigeria)
- **Benjamin Spencer**, Footwear and Accessories Designer (USA)
- **Camila Wandemberg**, Textile Designer (Ecuador)

The nine grantees, whose areas of expertise span across sustainable fashion, product design, biotechnologies, architecture, engineering and visual arts, were chosen for their groundbreaking ideas and their innovative approaches to design, which offer new methods for addressing today’s challenges from climate change to human



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rights in manufacturing, through solution driven approaches. Their commitment to driving progress towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the blueprint for a better world set out by the United Nations in 2015, also set them apart.

The participants will each receive a \$15,000 grant, paired with educational opportunities, industry network access and tailored mentorship, provided by the Swarovski Foundation and the program's Advocates. The Advocates will engage as master teachers and mentors for the participants with the aim to empower the vision and practices of the selected cohort.

Program Advocates include:

- **Christiane Arp**, President of Fashion Council Germany (Germany)
- **Vivienne Becker**, Jewelry Historian, Journalist and Author (UK)
- **Yves Béhar**, Founder and CEO of fuseproject (USA)
- **Maria Cornejo**, Founder and Creative Director of Zero + Maria Cornejo (USA)
- **Daniela Fernandez**, Founder and CEO of Sustainable Oceans Alliance (USA)
- **Prabal Gurung**, Designer and Founder of Shikshya Foundation Nepal (USA)
- **Cyrill Gutsch**, Founder of Parley for the Oceans (USA)
- **Lilli Hollein**, Director and Co-founder of Vienna Design Week (Austria)
- **Rosanna Hu**, Founding Partner Neri & Hu Design and Research Office (China)
- **Tomo Koizumi**, Fashion Designer and Founder of Tomo Koizumi (Japan)
- **Phillip Lim**, Creative Director and Co-Founder of 3.1 Phillip Lim (USA)
- **Greg Lynn**, CEO Piaggio Fast Forward and Greg Lynn Form (USA)
- **Kristine McDivitt Tompkins**, President and Co-Founder of Tompkins Conservation (USA)
- **Anyango Mpinga**, Fashion Designer and Founder of Free As A Human Foundation (UK)
- **Tosin Oshinowo**, Architect & Designer (Nigeria)
- **Maya Penn**, Environmental Activist, Artist, Animator, Eco-designer (USA)
- **Yash Ranga**, Conscious Luxury Evangelist, Jaipur Rugs Foundation (India)
- **Craig Robins**, CEO and President of Dacra (USA)
- **Joseph Schwarzkopf**, General Manager of Uribe & Schwarzkopf (Ecuador)
- **Teri Schwartz**, Film Producer and UCLA Professor (USA)
- **Yinka Shonibare**, CBE RA (UK)
- **Nadja Swarovski**, Chair of the Swarovski Foundation (UK)
- **Christoph Thun-Hohenstein**, General Director, MAK – Austrian Museum of Applied Arts, Vienna (Austria)
- **Mimma Viglezio**, Creative Consultant, Editor and Broadcaster (UK)



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- **Shaway Yeh**, Founder of yehyehyeh (China)

With individual support and global visibility, the participants will develop their practices and turn their ideas into a practical contribution to positive change for public good, the environment and society.

Swarovski Foundation Founder and Chair Nadja Swarovski comments:

“I am delighted that the Creatives for Our Future program received so much interest from young talents worldwide. This is evidence of the strong commitment from younger generations to use their creativity to raise awareness and find solutions in sustainable development. Swarovski Foundation’s mission is to foster creativity for the benefit of society and the environment, and creatives are the problem solvers and critical thinkers that will lead solutions to sustainability challenges like climate change and human rights issues in this pivotal era.

Emerging talents drive innovation and this program will equip them with the education, tools and contacts to help make their groundbreaking ideas a reality.”

Annemarie Hou, acting Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Partnerships commented:

“Creatives for Our Future provides an opportunity for co-creation of sustainable solutions to better our planet and our communities. We need young global leaders to harness their creativity to lay a foundation for new ideas and pathways to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. We welcome this first cohort in collaboration with the Swarovski Foundation.”

Links:

sfcreatives.org

swarovskifoundation.org

sdgs.un.org/goals

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Additional information on the creative cohort and

mentors: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/dxub17oqhp8oo88/AAAaHIZNUA1fL6HbkoQsCACia?dl=0>

Additional information on the Swarovski Foundation and the United Nations Sustainable Development

Goals: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/k22xgd147ybj3nc/AADP0zqpBau-0CIW9Ytt5IG3a?dl=0>

ABOUT SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION: CREATIVES FOR OUR FUTURE

Swarovski Foundation: Creatives for Our Future builds on the Swarovski Foundation's commitment to foster creativity to drive positive change through cultural, education and advocacy collaborations addressing human rights, environmental issues, inequality and wellbeing.

The program leverages the Swarovski Foundation's exceptional position to combine investment and education with a stakeholder network crossing borders and industries. It will harness the unique critical thinking and problem-solving abilities of young creatives in this pivotal era. Creative expression is a vehicle for evolution – not only for concepts and products, but also for changes in thinking and behavior.

sfcreatives.org

ABOUT THE SWAROVSKI FOUNDATION

The Swarovski Foundation was set up in 2013 by Nadja Swarovski to honor the philanthropic spirit of Daniel Swarovski, who founded the crystal business 125 years ago in the Tyrolean Alps. It reinforces the company's commitment to philanthropy and charitable giving. The Swarovski Foundation's mission is to build on this heritage by supporting charitable initiatives and organizations working in three areas: fostering culture and creativity, promoting human empowerment and preserving the environment.

The Foundation funds educational charities and institutions working across fashion, jewelry and design, promotes gender equality by working with organizations that empower young people and address the challenges facing women around the world, supports organizations that promote the conservation, protection and improvement of wildlife and the natural world, and seeks to bring to philanthropic projects structure and good governance to ensure positive and long-lasting social impact.

swarovskifoundation.org

ABOUT UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PARTNERSHIPS

The United Nations Office for Partnerships is your global gateway to connect and co-create partnerships to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN Partnerships seeks to mobilize everyone, everywhere; demand ambition



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and accountability to act now to deliver the SDGs. UN Partnerships works globally, regionally and in countries—to transform the world through SDG partnerships—for people and for the planet.