

THE DEPARTMENT STORE *studios*



THE DEPARTMENT STORE STUDIOS RESIDENCY PROGRAMME 2021

At the start of 2021 we launched a callout for our inaugural Residency Programme providing free year-long membership for two young Lambeth entrepreneurs to start and grow their creative idea.

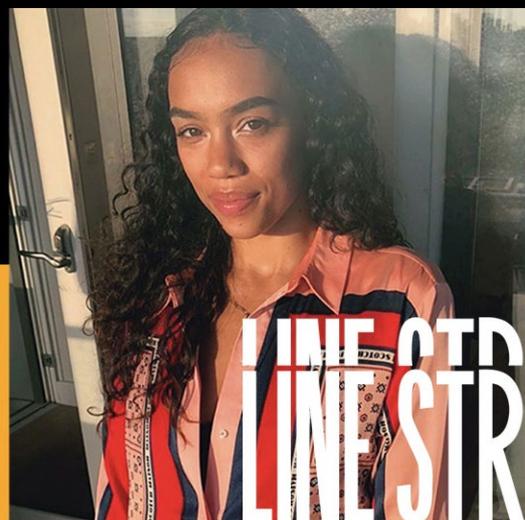
The Studios Residency includes desk membership, mentoring and access to amenities including a screening room, members lounge and fully serviced social and meeting areas. Residency winners will also have the opportunity to be part of a programme of events curated to share skills, inspire creativity and expand local networks.

A shortlist of six applicants presented virtually to a panel from Squire & Partners and The Department Store Studios, including guest judges Binki Taylor from The Brixton Project and artist Azarra Amoy. The panel were looking for creative and committed plans to grow a fledgling business or social initiative, and willingness to be an active part of The Studios' community.

THE WINNERS

1. GABRIELLA LAFOR / LINE STREAM

Judges were blown away by Gabriella's innovative blockchain model and clear business plan for Line Stream, a creative response to the acute issues of underrepresentation of minority groups in the television industry. As a platform for Black and Brown-orientated experiences, the streaming service will build an ecosystem to champion sustainable media careers for Black British talent and create long lasting change in the industry. Working with a network of grassroots organisations and industry partners, we're excited to welcome Line Stream's fresh cultural content, new opportunities and skill sharing programmes to The Studios. [@linestream.crypt](https://www.linestream.crypt)



LINE STREAM
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2. COCO CRIPPS / TEXTILE DESIGNER

Coco inspired the panel with her ambition to bring stylish and sustainable cycle-wear to the masses. As a textile design graduate of Central Saint Martins, Coco was weary of the male-centric and lycra-heavy world of bike attire. Feeling that there was a niche for innovative cyclewear which was beautiful and visible, she began experimenting with knitted reflective material using sustainable yarn for cyclists who don't want to look like cyclists. Currently at prototype stage, Coco will look to develop her designs, marketing and production strategy during the Residency, and test run her garments on The Studios cycle community - we can't wait to give them a spin! [@cococripps](#)

THE RUNNERS UP

1. XAVIER LAURENT LEOPOLD / XAVI ART

Xavier crams into his spare time what most of us might aspire to in our full-time jobs. A self-taught artist drawing inspiration from lived experiences, Xavier launched onto the art world as Xavi Art in 2020 with his first solo exhibition at OXO Tower. With a strong focus on social and mental health issues in young people, Xavi Art has raised funds for Black Minds Matter UK through exhibitions, talks and workshops in schools. His infectious enthusiasm for how art can impact communities and spark important conversations inspired us to support Xavier through hosted events and collaboration. [@byxaviart](#)



2. LOUISA PAYNE / BRIXTON WINE CLUB

The judges loved Brixton Wine Club's fledgling model to disrupt the world of wine tasting from its stuffy roots to a fun and experimental format based firmly in Brixton. Louisa's energy and enthusiasm shone through as well as her commitment to sustainability, supporting wine start-ups and social initiatives. Her ambitious plan to bring Brixton Wine Club to streets and doorsteps across the UK, and even globally, gave us the idea that The Studios could collaborate on events and tastings together. Watch this space. [@brixtonwineclub](#)

