



Sir Misha Black Awards

for Distinguished Services to Design Education



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6th, 2022, 00:01 GMT

The 2022 SIR MISHA BLACK AWARD

for Innovation in Design Education

to be given to **JUDAH ARMANI**

Research Fellow at Central St Martins, University of the Arts London,

Founder of InHouse Records operating in multiple UK and USA prisons

The 1851 Royal Commission and the Sir Misha Black Awards Committee have announced that the 2022 Award for Innovation in Design Education is to be given to Mr Judah Armani, Founder of InHouse Records, operating in multiple UK and USA Prisons and a Research Fellow at Central Saint Martins, University of the Arts, London.

The Award will be presented at a ceremony to be held at 6pm on Wednesday, October 12th 2022 at Imperial College, London.

Judah Armani has pioneered new ways in which design education, particularly service design education and practice, can be deployed to transform the lives and education of those serving prison sentences. He established InHouse Records, which is a fully functioning record label operating in seven UK and three USA prisons, along with *Aux Magazine*, a publication that is primarily educational but also engaging and entertaining. It is distributed in 48 prisons in the UK and USA. InHouse Records exploits a social innovation design approach, inspired by Judah Armani's life experience as well as his Royal College of Art service design training and background. Over 10,000 learners in prisons have been through the InHouse programme and many of its graduates now enjoy creative employment at InHouse, at *Aux Magazine* as well as at its very supportive industry partners. The benefits of the programme include the effects on those leaving prison, their families and society at large. The process helps build human and social capital, providing hope and motivation for those who take part. Graduates of the InHouse programme have a re-offending rate of less than 1%.

Continues over...

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, 453 Sherfield Building, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ
mishablackawards@gmail.com | www.mishablackawards.org.uk

Chairman
Mary V. Mullin
The Design and Industries Association

Committee Professor Peter Childs FREng FIMechE FASME
Imperial College London
Professor Sir Christopher Frayling
The College of Medallists
Professor Malcolm Garrett MBE RDI FISTD
Royal Designers for Industry

Professor Geoffrey Kirk RDI FREng
The Royal Academy of Engineering
Professor Chris Wise RDI FREng
Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851
Co-opted Member
Dr Nick de León



MEDIA RELEASE

Continued

All classes in prison are predicated on an ‘asset based’ approach, focusing on ‘what is strong and not what is wrong’. Classes are designed to ‘learn through doing’ and draw heavily on design methods. This design methodology is a metaphor for life outside prison. Learners join at an ‘aspirational stage’ – the aspiration to learn music. This means that they engage with literacy (lyric writing) and numeracy (rhythm) as well as business practice. This includes how to design and package performances including those in London’s West End theatres and design and create content for the *Aux* magazine. Graduates of InHouse Records and *Aux* are also active in supporting Judah Armani in teaching this innovative design approach for social innovation in other institutions including The Rhode Island School of Design, The Royal College of Art and Central Saint Martins, in London.

Mary Mullin, Chairman of the Awards Committee, commented: “Judah Armani’s vision and deployment of his service design training and background has ensured that members of our society, sadly often ‘written off’ have, through his innovative design approach, given people a second chance and a real hope of a specialized education and, not only a possibility of leading happy fulfilling lives but also of contributing to the greater good of our communities. The very fact that his design led approach has been widely adopted in the UK prison service and also in the United States, speaks for its effectiveness.”

Mr Armani has commented:

“I am humbled at being the 2022 recipient of the Sir Misha Black Award for Innovation in Design Education. Education in design should be available to all, especially those on the fringes of the society. This award has inspired me to dig even deeper in exploring fresh ways of making design accessible, relevant and fun, to those who need it most. Thank you to the Sir Misha Black Awards Committee.”

The Award will be presented at the same ceremony as the 2022 **Sir Misha Black Medal for Distinguished Services to Design Education.**

www.mishablackawards.org.uk

For further information contact: **1851@aprilsix.com**



Sir Misha Black Awards

for Distinguished Services to Design Education



BACKGROUND NOTE FOR EDITORS

The Sir Misha Black Award for Innovation in Design Education was instituted in 1998 to 'recognise those who, by contributing to the theory and or practice of Design Education in the United Kingdom and who through innovation and vision, have ensured the education of designers has been measurably improved and the profile of design education enhanced'.

It is awarded alongside the Sir Misha Black Medal for Distinguished Services to Design Education which was established in 1978.

Previous recipients of the Award

1999	Professor Norman McNally, Glasgow School of Art
2001	Professor Roger Coleman, Royal College of Art Dr Paul Ewing, Imperial College
2002	Professor Ken Wallace, Cambridge University
2003	Professor Adrian Forty, Bartlett, University College London
2004	Jane McCann, University of Derby
2006	The Design Against Crime Research Centre, University of the Arts, London
2007	Coventry University School of Art & Design, Department of Industrial Design
2009	Professor Tony Dunne, Royal College of Art
2011	Creative Research Into Sound Art Practice (Crisap), London College of Communication
2012	Manchester School of Art
2014	The National Art&Design Saturday Club
2015	Professor Rachel Cooper, Lancaster University
2016	Professor Catherine McDermott, Kingston University
2019	Arts University Bournemouth
2019	University of Brighton Design Archive
2020	FixED: Professor Daniel Charney and Dee Halligan
2021	Oliver Broadbent

Sir Misha Black

Sir Misha Black was an industrial designer who with his partner Milner Gray, founded DRU (Design Research Unit) in the late 1940s. It became one of the first international, interdisciplinary design practices with major clients in industrial design, architecture and graphics. In 1959 Misha Black was appointed the first Professor of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art, a post he held until his retirement in 1975. He was the most influential design teacher of his time, involved in international design affairs as well as being a gifted speaker and writer on design matters.

About the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

The Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 offers major awards to scientists and engineers for research, development and design. First established to stage the Great Exhibition in 1851, the Royal Commission's extraordinary history is founded on an inspired vision of the importance of education to economic success.