



# MACFEST

MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

**CELEBRATING ARTS AND  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

**OVER 70 EVENTS  
JANUARY - JUNE 2021**

[WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK](http://WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK)  
[HELLO@MACFEST.ORG](mailto:HELLO@MACFEST.ORG)  
[@MACFESTUK](https://www.instagram.com/MACFESTUK)



## FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



**19TH CENTURY  
FRENCH CONVERTS  
TO ISLAM**



**THE BLACK  
QUEENS OF ISLAM**



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
BY AKBAR S AHMED**



**FAMOUS  
WRITERS:  
IBN RUSHD**



**MUSICAL FINALE**



**PERSIAN CUISINE  
AND CULTURE**



# WELCOME TO MACFEST 2021!



**Welcome to MACFEST 2021, a groundbreaking and award-winning Muslim Arts and Culture Festival in the North West. This year we have gone global!**

Our mission: celebrating arts, diversity and connecting communities. We are proud to offer you a rich feast of over 70 events from January to June 2021 across Greater Manchester, celebrating the rich heritage of the Muslim diaspora communities. As a national festival we are delighted to have MACFEST hosted in Manchester, Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Stockport, Rochdale, Huddersfield, Glasgow and Liverpool in the UK.

We are also delighted to offer you an international feast, with events hosted from Azerbaijan, Dubai, France, Morocco, Turkey, South Africa, the Philippines and Pakistan. There are many highlights, including the Azerbaijan Festival on 4th April and the Arab Heritage Festival on 27th June.

You will find something for the whole family: literature, art, history, music, performance, photography, culture, comedy, art exhibitions, demonstrations, debates, women and youth panels, children's activities, and art workshops. We are bringing you a great line-up of local, national and international speakers: performers, writers, academics, photographers, comedians, poets, film makers, actors, artists and singers: from Manchester - to Uzbekistan.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, we are offering a mainly digital programme. Our wonderful host partners are: The Lowry Theatre, the Central, Longsight, Portico, Oldham, Bolton

and John Rylands Libraries, Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester Museum, Manchester Science and Industry Museum, Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Khizra Mosque, the British Muslim Heritage Centre and Stretford Public Hall.

We are delighted to partner with Huddersfield Literature Festival, Manchester Science Festival, Bury BAME project, Bolton Sunnyside Club, Glasgow Active Life Club, Manchester Muslim Writers and Trafford/Stockport College Partnership Group, hosting events and mini festivals.

We are equally delighted to host various schools and colleges from the North West of England, who are celebrating MACFEST Days, with arts and cultural activities. A warm welcome also to British and international students from Turkey, Gambia, Germany, the USA and Palestine who are taking part in youth panels.

Nearly all of our events are free.

Thank you for joining us!

Enjoy!



**Qaisra Shahraz MBE**

Founder, Executive Director  
and Curator of MACFEST



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# WEEKEND MACFEST

## Literature and Racism

Date: Monday 7th December 2020

Time: 17.00 - 18.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting panel on legacies of colonialism: Reading and Writing as a Resistance with Emily Zobel Marshall and Leila Aboulela.

A reader in Postcolonial literature at Leeds Beckett University, Emily will be discussing her research on cultural resistance to legacies of colonialism and enslavement in the context of the contemporary Black Lives Matter movement.

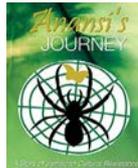
Leila Aboulela, an award winning novelist based in Scotland, will discuss the experiences of racism and colourism faced by Sudanese immigrants to Britain. She will share her own journey as a writer and discuss how fiction can give voice to the marginalized.

Moderated by: Professor John McAuliffe, The University of Manchester.

Chief Guest: Pete Kalu PhD, author, co-Artistic Director, Commonword, Manchester.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

This is a Pre- Festival event. Recording available on MACFEST YouTube channel.



## Keynote Address by Ambassador Akbar S Ahmed

Date: Sunday 24th January

Time: 15.00 - 16.30 GMT

Venue: Digital

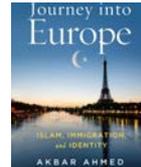
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Keynote address by Ambassador Akbar S Ahmed, the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University's School of International Service, author of *Journey into Europe*, and former Pakistani High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ireland. In this talk centred on the Muslim experience in Europe, Ambassador Ahmed will examine historical and contemporary perspectives on Islam's relationship with the continent, explore Muslim contributions to Western, European society, and discuss past and present forms of Islamophobia.

Introduced by: Nafees Zakria, former High Commissioner of Pakistan.

Hosted by: Dr Ali Mohammed OBE, Executive Director of QED Foundation.

Chief guest: The Right Reverend Dr David Walker, Lord Bishop of Manchester.



## Festival Opening Ceremony

Date: Saturday 30th January

Time: 11.00 - 12.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for the opening ceremony of Manchester's third MACFEST - Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, to kick start the festival with over 70 events.

There is something for everyone: welcome speeches, art exhibitions, Nasheed by Fadi Edel, presentations, a puppet show, and the Anamika Group presenting a Bengali cultural event. *Tilavat* by Alim Arkin.

Welcome by: Sir Warren Smith KCVO KStJ JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

Hosted by: Myriam Francois, writer and broadcaster



# Medicine in the Middle East: A Forgotten Heritage, shared between East and West

Date: Saturday 30th January

Time: 13.00 - 14.00

Venue: Digital

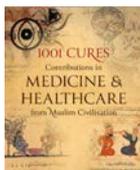
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Peter Pormann takes you on a journey into Medicine in the Islamic world, explaining how it unfolded against the background of the Greek legacy, as a new polity emerged.

Arabic became the language of scientific and medical discourse, from the river Guadalquivir in Spain, to the Ganges. Although this heritage is often forgotten today, it formed an integral part - not just of the Eastern - but also the Western medical tradition. It was also highly innovative, partly because it forged a medical tradition that went beyond country and creed.

Peter Pormann: Professor of Classics and Graeco-Arabic studies, University of Manchester.

Moderated by: Dr Savas Konur, Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation UK, Manchester.



## Creative British Muslims

Date: Saturday 30th January

Time: 15.00 - 16.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join a panel of four notable British Muslims: journalist Myriam Francois, artists Samir Malik and Teakster, and film-maker Raabia Hussain, for a lively discussion about their lives, work, achievements and the challenges they face.

Moderated by: Jonathan Davidson, Chief Executive, Writing West Midlands.



# Muslim Cuisine: A journey along the Silk Road

Date: Saturday 30th January

Time: 17.30 - 18.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Haleh Moravej, Senior Lecturer in Nutritional Sciences at Manchester Metropolitan University, will explore the origin of some of the food passing from inhospitable high mountains to long stretches of desert.

She will cover the past two millennia with special focus on the trade routes of the Silk Road that brought almonds, apples, figs, grapes, apricots, peaches, pistachios, rice, and a wide variety of other foods to European kitchens.

Moderated by: Katherine Rosati, Neighbourhood Inclusion Officer and Museum Assistant, Stockport War Memorial Art Galley.



# 19th Century French Converts to Islam

Date: Sunday 31st January

Time: 11.00 - 12.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Safiya Florence Ascoli-Ball, a French-British Muslim convert, looks at the lives of prominent converts in France during the late 19th - early 20th century. These include: the adventurer Isabelle Eberhardt, the painter Etienne Dinet and the first Muslim member of the French Parliament, Dr Philippe Grenier; their motivations, struggles and place in a country and a time when religions were being deliberately pushed out of the public space.

Moderated by: Karen Shannon FRSA, Chief Executive of Manchester Histories & Honorary Research Fellow, University of Manchester.



## Famous Muslim Writers

Date: Sunday 31st January

Time: 13.00 - 14.30

Venue: Digital

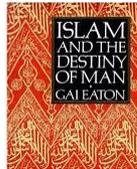
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Let us take you on a literary journey around the world and through the centuries.

Join us as we celebrate the works of famous Muslim poets and writers including: Ibn Rushd (Averroes), Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Gai Eaton and Yunus Emre. Read by: Munira Alsusa, Myriam Francois, Gulcin Ulas Bulut and Moneeza Hashmi, who will read the poetry of her father, Faiz Ahmad Faiz.

Hosted by: Asad Zaman, Principal of a private college, Imam and commentator on Islamic Issues for the BBC.

Introduced by: Dr Jess Edwards, Head of the Department of English, Manchester Metropolitan University.



## Islamophobia and racism

Date: Sunday 31st January

Time: 15.30 - 17.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a lively discussion on the topic of Islamophobia and racism. What is it like for British Muslims and Black people in the UK and around the world, faced with anti-Muslim hatred, racism and the rise in hate crimes. What are the solutions?

With Sajjad Karim, former Member of the European Parliament, Ismael Lea South, independent cultural researcher on Black (African and African Caribbean) British history and British Muslim History, Iman Atta OBE, Director of Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti-Muslim Attacks), Yusra Warsama, actor and poet and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, Member of House of Lords.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Moderated by: Ismael Lea South





## Stand-Up Comedy Performance with Jeff Mirza

Date: Sunday 31st January

Time: 18.00 - 18.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an incredible laugh-along evening with award-winning comedian Jeff Mirza!

Jeff has performed stand-up since the 1990s. He has performed live in theatres and comedy clubs all over the world from Europe to America and in films such as Gurinder Chadha's *Blinded by the Light*.

Jeff has won many awards including the 2018 Black Entertainment Film, Fashion, Television and Arts Legends Award.

Introduced by: Abdullah Afzal, actor and comedian



## British, Muslim and Converts

Date: Monday 1st February

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a lively discussion with four British Muslim converts. From different backgrounds, they will share their experiences of becoming Muslim: the joys and the challenges.

- Ismael Lea South, independent cultural researcher on Black British history
- Myriam Francois, writer and broadcaster
- Muhammed Islam Alhaq

Moderated by: Julie Siddique MBE, Founder of Together We Thrive, UK Network of Muslim women



## Life in Mecca and Madina during the time of the Prophet Muhammad

Date: Thursday 25th March

Time: 18.00 -19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

The transformation of Arab society by the Prophet Muhammad started his mission in a strictly tribal society, where the motto was that a person is a mere number in his/her tribe. Yet without a tribe they were unsafe, even in their own home. The Prophet remoulded Arab society into one coherent unit, in which a person had great value.

Dr Adil Salahi will explore answers to some of these questions. What measures did the Prophet take to accomplish such a transformation? Did the old divisions, on a tribal basis, completely disappear? Or did they go through a change of direction, and in what way?

Moderated by: Dr Musharraf Hussain OBE DL, CEO & Chief Imam, Karimia Institute.



## Ibn Khaldun 700 years ago. Then and Now!

Date: Tuesday 30th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

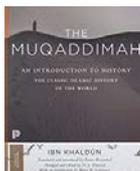
Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Ibn Khaldun has been described as the first Islamic scholar to write about the science of 'Urbanism'.

Join us on an inspiring historical journey with Munira Alsusa, a Palestinian Head Teacher, as she celebrates the life of Ibn Khaldun, the famous Muslim educator, politician, theologian and environmentalist who wrote *The Muqaddimah* (1377). This work is regarded as the earliest attempt made by any historian to discover a pattern in the changes that occur in humankind's political and social organization.

Moderated by: Meena Wood FRSA, educational consultant, trainer and author.



# WORKSHOPS

## Mughal Painting Art Workshop

Date: TBC - Subject to change due to COVID-19

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital - Stretford Public Hall,

Tickets: £5, Reserve on eventbrite



Join Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and a student of Traditional Arts, exploring the painting scene of the Mughal Empire of India.

Beautiful, bold, floral patterns often adorned the walls of the Mughal Courts. She will speak briefly about the enchanting, rich and grand floral empire that controlled much of South Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries.

In the workshop, the participants will look at a particular design that is on a Darbar wall in a palace in the Punjab.

Introduced by: Joanna Jones, Events and Outreach Manager at Stretford Public Hall.



## Introduction to Mural Painting

Date: Tuesday 16th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite

In this workshop, Teakster will share insight into his work and display his creative journey. During the workshop, he will also offer tips and advice to the attendees.

Teakster is a multi award-winning artist: the original pioneer of fusing Islamic artistic traditions with modern Western design techniques. He uses his art to bridge different communities by promoting peace, unity and greater social tolerance.

Hosted by: Rev Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Co-Chair, Faith Network for Manchester; Chief Officer of the Caribbean and African Health Network.



## Calligraphy with Samir Malik

Date: Tuesday 23rd March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite



Come and explore painting Arabic Calligraphy in a unique and original way with an established artist. All you need is your enthusiasm!

This workshop and exhibition of artwork will be led by Samir Malik, international artist and calligrapher.

Moderated by: Ed Watts, Head of Learning and Engagement, the Whitworth Art Gallery.



## Creative Photography for Beginners

Date: Monday 29th March

Time: 18.00 – 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a Creative photography exhibition and workshop with Phil Portus ARPS.

This workshop session is aimed at both newcomers to digital photography and those using mobile phone cameras. We will look at ways to improve the quality and creativity of your photos.

At the beginning of the session he will show the virtual photography exhibition of the Curry Mile Project that he is working on with fellow photographer, Michael Baker.

Moderated by: Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, Lecturer in Human Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University and an award-winning photographer.



## Ebru Marble Art Painting

Date: Wednesday 31st March

Time: 14.00 – 15.30

Venue: Elizabeth Gaskell House,  
84 Plymouth Grove, Ardwick,  
Manchester, M13 9LW

Tickets: Free, register on  
eventbrite.

Join Asiye Yaman for a fun event and learn about the art of marble painting.

Learn about the centuries-old art of marble painting and the techniques which are widely used in Turkey. Try your hand! All welcome.

Welcome by: Sally Jastrzebski-Lloyd, House Manager of Elizabeth Gaskell's House



## Creative Papercutting

Date: Thursday 1st April

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, register on  
Eventbrite

Would you like to develop an extra artistic skill and learn to use manicure scissors in a creative way?

Come and join us for a special workshop with Maryam Golubeva, an expert in creative papercutting.

Learn the story of papercutting, get inspired by intricate patterns, learn to use manicure scissors in a creative way and have fun creating an artwork to take home.

To participate in this workshop, you will need the following equipment, resources and tools:

Manicure scissors, tracing paper, thin printing paper (white) 80 gsm or 75 gsm, thicker card to act as a background for the artwork, a pencil, gold or silver felt tips, markers, gel pens, glue stick or M3 spray glue.

Hosted by: Zamira Rahim, Journalist, CNN.



# EXHIBITIONS

## Nataliya's Art Journey: Cities and Monuments from around the world by Nataliya Stefurak

Date: Sunday 14th March

Time: 14.00 - 16.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Paintings by Nataliya Stefurak, a Ukrainian-born artist and Muslim convert.

We are delighted to showcase her new collection of paintings of famous monuments from Muslim countries as part of Muslim Women's Fusion Art project.

See Nataliya's paintings during the International Women's week at the Whitworth Art Gallery.



## Art Exhibition by Teakster

Date: Tuesday 16th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by award-winning artist and calligrapher Teakster.

This exhibition will be combined with Teakster's workshop session. See page 12 for more information.



## Art Exhibition by Samir Malik

Date: Tuesday 23rd March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by award-winning artist and calligrapher Samir Malik.

This exhibition will be combined with Samir's workshop session. See page 13 for more details.



## House of Wisdom

Date: Wednesday 24th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

The House of Wisdom exhibition at the British Muslim Heritage Centre, highlights and showcases some of the amazing contributions of Muslims to civilization.

Find out about some of the remarkable achievements made by Muslim scholars, inventors and scientists still benefiting billions around the world in so many amazing ways and areas. These areas include education, astronomy, medicine, architecture, mathematics, engineering, science, technology and much more.

Hosted by: Shafiq Siddiq, Head of Education, The British Muslim Heritage Centre

Chief Guest: Esmé Ward, Director of Manchester Museum.



## Curry Mile - A Transition of Cultures, Photography Exhibition

Date: Monday 29th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

This is the ongoing work of two documentary photographers, Phil Portus and Michael Baker, covering a four year period from 2016 to the present day.

They have photographed and interviewed a cross-section of the Curry Mile neighbourhood including shopkeepers, charity workers and business owners, as well as religious festivals and events including Eid and Ashura, in an effort to document present-day Wilmslow Road in all its diversity.

This Exhibition will be combined with Phil's workshop session.

See page 13 for more details.



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Due to COVID-19, events are mostly digital, and zoom links will be sent nearer to the event. Events that aren't digital are subject to change.

Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# GREATER MANCHESTER

## Islam in Victorian Britain: telling new stories in our nation's history

Date: Wednesday 3rd February

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

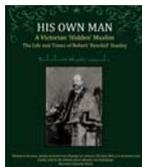
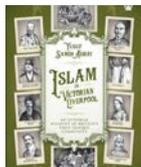
Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Join our speakers Yahya Birt and Christina Longden who will be talking about their respective work as community historians within the field of Islam and Britain.

Yahya's new book introduces an Ottoman account of Britain's first mosque community in Liverpool, which dates from 1895. It caused a scandal at the time and was banned by the Ottomans.

Christina's most recent two books have investigated the life and times of her great, great, great grandfather, 'hidden' Muslim convert, Robert Reschid Stanley.

Moderated by: Dr Mohammed Seddon, Chester University.



## Manchester Muslim Writers: Rewriting the Narrative

Date: Thursday 4th February

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Join us for a spectacular event with the Manchester Muslim Writers. This exciting evening will draw writers together from all backgrounds, sharing a diversity of literature, including poetry, songs, stories, and theatrical performance in many languages and traditions. The Manchester Muslim Writers was established in 2009 and includes 300 members from across the region.

Introduced by: Zahid Hussain, Chair of Manchester City of Literature

Moderated by: Aisha Mirza, Co-Founder of Manchester Muslim Writers

Chief guest: Piers Russell-Cobb, Publisher, Arcadia Books  
*- publishing the best of world writing today.*



## Open Mic: Poet and Storytellers

Date: Saturday 6th February

Time: 14.00 - 16.00

Venue: Digital - Longsight Library and Learning centre

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Calling all scribblers, note-takers, story-writers and poets! Step up to the mic in this 'open mic' event.

We'll be choosing a selection of poets and short fiction writers to read and perform their writing to our audience.

Hosted by: Cat Lumb, author and writing coach.

Welcome by: Darren Nixon, Neighbourhood Engagement and Delivery Officer, Longsight Library, Manchester

Chief guest: Zahid Hussain, poet, writer and Chair of Manchester City of Literature.



## Poetry Bonanza and Performance

Date: Tuesday 9th February

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital - Manchester Central Library – performance space, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join three talented Manchester Poets for an evening like no other. They will enchant you with their poetry and performance, with:

- Yusra Warsama, Actor and Poet,
- Shamshad Khan, Poet and Resilience Coach,
- Mansoor Shah, Poet and former Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Moderated by: Michelle Hodgson, Festival Director, Huddersfield Literature Festival

Chief Guest: Neil MacInnes OBE, Head of Libraries, Galleries & Culture, Manchester City Council.



# Islamic Miniature Paintings at John Rylands Library

Date: Friday 12th February

Time: 16.00 - 17.00

Venue: Digital - John Rylands Library

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

MACFEST is delighted to take you on a journey through centuries of Islamic miniature paintings and of the Holy Quran at John Rylands Library, University of Manchester with the curator and archivist Elizabeth Gow.

The library houses a substantial collection of Islamic miniature paintings, and manuscripts in more than forty different languages, including Persian manuscripts.

Introduced by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Executive Director of MACFEST.



# Islamic Collections at Manchester Museum

Date: Saturday 13th February

Time: 12.00 - 13.00

Venue: Digital - Manchester Museum

Tickets: Free, Register on eventbrite

Manchester Museum and South Asia Gallery Collective share a wonderful selection of objects from the museum's Islamic collection.

Join us for an informative and interactive session focussing on some of the key objects from the collection that ranges from archaeology, coins, brass and metal-ware and some everyday objects too.

This is also an opportunity to find out more about Manchester Museum's South Asia Gallery, the UK's first permanent gallery to explore stories, histories, experiences and contributions of UK South Asian diaspora communities, set to open in Autumn 2022.

Hosted by: the Collective.

Introduced by: Esme Ward, Director of Manchester Museum



## Opening Moves: The extraordinary origins of chess at the Portico Library

Date: Friday 19th February

Time: 18:00 – 19:00

Venue: Digital - Portico Library

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Welcome to the historic Portico Library in Manchester!

Portico Library is delighted to host an online event with MACFEST on the Indian, Persian and Arab roots of the world's most famous game of strategy: chess.

It is part of 'During Fun & Games', an exhibition about playtime, past and present.

Introduced by: James Moss, Gallery and Exhibitions organiser

Hosted by: Dr Sushma Jansari, Tabor Foundation Curator, South Asia, British Museum, London



## A Liveable Earth: Climate Change and the Faith Community

Date: Saturday 20th February

Time: 10.30 - 11.30

Venue: Science and Industry Museum, Liverpool Road, Manchester M3 4FP

Tickets: Free, register on [manchestersciencefestival.com](http://manchestersciencefestival.com)

How does the way we live our lives affect the world we are living in? How much do we care and what role do faith communities play - as bystanders, or agents of change?

Fazlun Khalid, founder of the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences and author of *Signs on the Earth: Islam, Modernity and the Climate Crisis*, leads the conversation as we discuss the consequences of our lifestyles and how we can leave a liveable Earth for future generations.

This event is part of Manchester Science Festival.

Introduced by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE



MANCHESTER  
**SCIENCE  
FESTIVAL**



# Celebrating multilingual poetry and Mushaira performance

Date: Saturday 20th February

Time: 14.00 – 16.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting afternoon – a feast of poetry and performances with local, national and international Muslim poets of Arabic, Bengali, Kashmiri, Pakistani and Uyghur heritage who will recite poems in their native tongues and in English. This will be followed by a *Mushaira* performance, with poets gathering to perform their works. It is regarded as an exciting forum of free self-expression and enjoyment. This will be followed by Circle of Literary Friends *Mushaira* performance.

Welcome by: Fiona Fulton, Neighbourhood Engagement and Delivery Officer, Longsight Library.

Introduced by: Mohammed Anwar, poet.

Moderated by: Robina Khan, poet and radio broadcaster.

Chief guest: Becky Swain, Director of Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University.



# Challenging Racism in the Photography Industry

Date: Wednesday 24th February

Time: 18:00 – 19:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on eventbrite

Welcome to a special event honouring #BLACKLIVES MATTER.

While photographers have shown us the power of photography in capturing worldwide protests against racism, we have also seen that racism is alive and well in the photography industry.

Fuad Alakbarov, a professional photographer, explores the relationship between racism and the camera.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Introduced by: Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, Lecturer of Human Geography at Manchester Metropolitan University and an award-winning photographer.

Chief guest: Mike Shaft, Broadcaster



## Musical Finale

Date: Saturday 28th February

Time: 14.00 – 16.00

Venue: Digital - Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets: £8 / Donations welcome, register on Eventbrite

Join us again for an exciting afternoon at the Whitworth Art Gallery: a musical extravaganza with performing artists from several Muslim countries.

Artists who will entertain you are: Abdul Fatah Mohamed (Yemeni), Khaleel Muhammad (Afro-Caribbean), Hawo Kiin (Somali), Anamika Group (Bengali) and Emad El Rashidy (Egyptian).

Welcome by: Ed Watts, Head of Learning and Engagement

Chief guest: Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Paul Griffiths



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Due to COVID-19, events are mostly digital, and zoom links will be sent nearer to the event. Events that aren't digital are subject to change.  
Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# Celebrating Egyptian Culture and Heritage

Date: Saturday 20th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on eventbrite

Join us for a delightful evening celebrating Egyptian culture and heritage.

We offer you a rich cultural feast!

Learn about the famous Egyptian Queens in the age of the Pharaohs, mouth-watering Egyptian food to celebrate *Sham El Nessim* (Easter Celebration) and crafts made by Egyptian women - and be entertained by famous Egyptian singer, Emad El Rashidy.

Hear about the history of the Manchester Egyptian community from Mona Mohammed, a local head teacher. She will share her journey from being a migrant to becoming an established British citizen.

Hosted by: Alaa Zalat, MACFEST team member

Chief guest: Mona Youssef Mohamed, Head Teacher, Manchester Islamic Grammar School for Girls, Executive Head, KD Grammar School for Boys & Manchester Muslim Preparatory School.



# Manchester Iftar with our partners

Date: Saturday 17th April

Time: 19.45 - 22.00

Venue: Khizra Mosque, 425 Cheetham Hill Road, Manchester M8 0PF

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

MACFEST is delighted again to host an Iftar event, and celebrate the month of Ramadan with Khizra mosque.

The evening will celebrate our festival's extensive partnerships across Greater Manchester, inviting our valued partners and volunteers to join us for the breaking of the fast and learn about the month of Ramadan.

Hosted by: Sajjid Amin and Qaisra Shahraz MBE.



## Walk with MACFEST and celebrate Eid Al-Fitr at The Whitworth Art Galley

Date: Saturday 22nd May

Time: 11:00 – 16:00

Venue: Central Victoria Mosque,  
20 Upper Park Rd, Manchester  
M14 5RU, & Grand Hall,  
Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford  
Road, Manchester M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Join us for a walk, starting at Manchester Central Victoria Mosque. Celebrate *Eid Al-Fitr*, the breaking of the fast festival. Enjoy the food and entertainment in the Whitworth Art Gallery gardens.

Our mission is to foster a joy of walking, building cultural bridges, promoting social and community cohesion in a dynamic way! All welcome - Muslim and non-Muslim communities. #SpreadHoneyNotHate



## MACFEST Musical Bonanza with The Nile Band at the Lowry

Date: Saturday 3rd July

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £8.00 / Donations  
welcome, register on Eventbrite

MACFEST is delighted to present a musical bonanza with The Nile Band to celebrate the festival of *Eid Al-Fitr*.

Join us for an enchanting afternoon, with a renowned group of musicians and singers from Egypt, Syria, Tunisia and the UK.

The Nile Band is a leading Middle Eastern band in the UK playing live music of the Arab World, North Africa and the Gulf. The Nile Band also incorporates Latin, French, Persian Greek, Turkish, Asian Kurdish, and English popular songs.

Introduced by: Mathew Eames, Senior Programmer/  
Producer, The Lowry

Chief guest: Eckhard Thiemann, Lowry's Associate  
Programmer for Dance and Artistic Director of the  
Shubbak Festival of contemporary Arabic culture in  
London.



# NORTH WEST EVENTS

## Celebrating Rochdale's MACFEST at Hopwood Hall College

Due to COVID-19, date and time TBC

Venue: Digital - Hopwood Hall College

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



MACFEST is delighted to partner with and celebrate the festival at Hopwood Hall College.

The event will take place virtually this year with live and pre-recorded sessions celebrating the rich culture and diversity of their staff, learners and community.

Hosted by: Hopwood Hall College Equality & Diversity Group

Chief guest: Tony Lloyd, Labour MP for Rochdale



## Rumi: The Alchemy of Love - Huddersfield

Due to COVID-19, date and time TBC

Venue: Syngenta Cellar, Lawrence Batley Theatre, Queen Street, Huddersfield HD1 2SP

Tickets: £5 from [www.huddlitfest.org.uk](http://www.huddlitfest.org.uk)



Relish the magic of the celebrated 13th century Persian philosopher poet Maulana Rumi's 'Alchemy of Love' performed by Gulcin Bulut (celebrated British Turkish singer) and the Sahba Ensemble.

Huddersfield Literature Festival are proud to present a unique and inspiring event celebrating a poet and philosopher whose influence transcends national borders and ethnic divisions worldwide. Attendees are invited to bring a copy of their favourite Rumi poem to read out and share.

Hosted by: Huddersfield Literature Festival, Michelle Hodgson, Festival Director and Qaisra Shahraz MBE.





## Celebrating Bury's MACFEST

Date: Saturday 27th March

Time: 13.00 - 16.00

Venue: Newtons Co Working,  
151 The Rock, Bury BL9 0ND

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Welcome to Bury MACFEST!

Join us for an afternoon of enchantment and enjoyment: a cultural journey through the Middle East, in the Western world with The BAME Project.

With taster activities including: South Asian fashion, Henna painting, the art of Bollywood dancing, aesthetic Arabic calligraphy and FOOD!!

Launched by: Vice-Lord Lieutenant Sharman Birtles JP, DL of Greater Manchester and Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Founder and Executive Director of MACFEST.

Hosted by: Abdullah Afzal, actor and stand-up comedian.



## Celebrating Oldham MACFEST

Date: Saturday 5th June

Time: 11.00 - 16.00

Venue: Gallery Oldham, Oldham  
Library and Lifelong Learning  
Centre Oldham Cultural Quarter,  
Greaves Street, Oldham OL1  
1AL

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Welcome to Oldham MACFEST!

Join us for an afternoon at Oldham Gallery and Library. We will offer you a feast of art and cultural activities. Full details in February.



# Celebrating Bolton's MACFEST

Time: 11.00 - 15.00

Date: Saturday 19th June

Venue: Le Mans Cres, Bolton  
BL1 1SE or Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Muslim Arts and Culture Festival goes to Bolton for the first time!

The Sunnyside Club is proud to host MACFEST, and celebrate the diversity of the town. A diverse range of local Bolton Muslim artists and poets will showcase their works and talents.

The event will be live streamed on Facebook and via zoom (if COVID-19 restrictions are in place) or we may meet in a local venue with social distancing measures. Register on Eventbrite and the details will be released closer to the time of the event.

Bolton MACFEST 2021 is supported by Bolton Council's Library and Museum Service and Bolton at Home.

Launched by: Sir Warren Smith KCVO KStJ JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester

Chief guest: Aaqil Ahmed, Professor of Media, Bolton University, former Head of Religion, BBC.



**Bolton  
Council**



**Bolton  
at Home**

**Bolton  
Library and  
Museum Services**



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.  
Due to COVID-19, events are mostly digital,  
those that are not are subject to change.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK

## Women of Faith celebrate their cultural heritage

Date: Sunday 7th March

Time: 14.00 - 16.00

Venue: Khizra Mosque,  
425 Cheetham Hill Road,  
Manchester M8 0PF

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Women of all faiths and none, celebrate MACFEST with art and cultural activities.

We will entertain you with poetry, comedy, recipes and showcasing cultural artefacts.

This event is in partnership with Faith Network 4 Manchester, We Stand Together and the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, celebrating 'Season of Twinning'.

Welcome by: Sajid Amin and Sir Peter Fahey, Chair of We Stand Together,

Hosted by: Sandra Wong and Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Co-Chair of Faith Network 4 Manchester.

Chief guest: Marie Banzon-Prince, Administrator, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU)



## Women of the Kalasha and Other Pakistani Women - Hello from Pakistan!

Date: Monday 8th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital - International

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Join Dr Amineh Ahmed Hoti, author of *Gems & Gender: The Religions of Pakistan* and the executive director of the Centre for Dialogue and Action, to celebrate International Women's Week.

She will talk about Pakistani women and their stories, as well as the women from the remote Kalash valley.

Moderated by: Paul Dobraszczyk, an architectural writer and teaching fellow at the Bartlett School of Architecture, London.



# The Black Queens of Islam

Date: Wednesday 10th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting event: *The Untold History of The Black Queens of Islam* by Ismael Lea South. This presentation celebrates Black (African and Afro-Caribbean) Muslim women who were trailblazer scholars, academics, activists, artists, entrepreneurs and warriors. This presentation challenges the ignorance, misconceptions and negative perceptions in society.

Ismael Lea South has been an independent cultural researcher on Black (African and African Caribbean) British history and British Muslim history for over 10 years.

#BLACKLIVESMATTER

Moderated by: Councillor Mahadi Sharif, Manchester

Paintings by: artist Faiza Uppal, Pakistan



# Muslim Women Converts: Celebration and Challenges

Date: Thursday 11th March

Time: 17.00 - 18.30

Venue: Digital

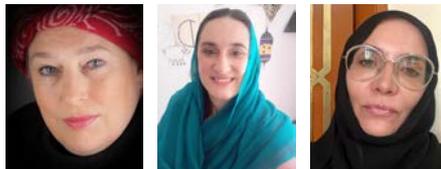
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting panel with five women who converted to Islam from different backgrounds and countries.

Find out how their lives were completely transformed by their conversion. Discover their stories and the challenges they had to face. Panel discussion followed by Q&A from the audience.

Panelists: Yvonne Ridley (British), Sherifa Tamsin Madgwick (American/Emirati), Amna Jameel (Polish), Sara Adio (British).

Moderated by: Safiya Florence Ascoli-Ball, French-British



# Women, Politics and Life in Afghanistan - Hello from Afghanistan!

Date: Saturday 13th March

Time: 12.00 - 13.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: free, register on  
Eventbrite

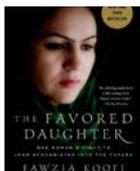
Join us for an exciting event with a female politician all the way from Afghanistan!

Meet Fawzia Koofi, author of *The Favored Daughter*, Member of the Afghan Parliament and Chair of the Women, Civil Society and Human Rights Commission, for a special MACFEST International Women's Week event.

Fawzia will be in conversation with Qaisra Shahraz. She will talk about her life as a politician, fighting for women's rights, girls' education and the challenges faced under the threat of the Taliban.

Hosted by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Novelist, Women's rights campaigner and Educationalist.

Chief guest: Yasmin Qureshi, MP for Bolton & Shadow Minister (International Development)



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Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# Muslim Women and Politics: Celebrations and Challenges - Hello from Greece!

Date: Saturday 13th March

Time: 16.00 - 17.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Celebrating International Women's Week from Greece, Pakistan and the UK.

Join us for a special International Women's Week panel about Muslim Women and Politics, with Anna Stamou from Greece, Munaza Hassan from Pakistan and two politicians, Yasmine Darr and Dzidra Noor from the UK as they discuss their lives, their achievements and challenges faced by them in the world of politics.

Dr Amina Easat-Daas, Lecturer in Politics, People and Place at Leicester De Montfort University will discuss Muslim women's political participation in France and Belgium and compare this with the situation in the UK.

She will outline how popular narratives frame Muslims as outsiders to Western society and Muslim women as oppressed.

Moderated by: Yasmine Darr, Manchester Councillor

Chief guest: Julie Ward, poet, former NW England MEP, and Connect & Create Co-ordinator for City of Sanctuary.



## Macfest Women's group: celebrate International Women's Week

Date: Sunday 14th March

Time: 14.00 - 16.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for us a special International Women's Week MACFEST event, 'Our Cultures: Our Heritage', celebrating Muslim women's lives from around the world. They will share their personal stories, poetry, paintings, recipes, artefacts, celebrating famous Bosnian and Nigerian women, *Bohor*, Egyptian women's crafts, music, performance, Palestinian embroidery and music!

Meet the contributors: Luhaib Abbood, Maryam Afolabi, Raseema Bakkali, Hanane El Hadioui, Najat El Hajjam, Nafisa Madany, Farkondeh Parviz, Anila Saied, Nura Said, Nataliya Stefurak, Dudiya Zilic, Alaa Ali, Barbara Dresner and Susie Bolchover.

Chief guest: Vice Lord-Lieutenant, Sharman Birtles JP DL

Welcome by: Ed Watts, Head of Learning and Engagement, Whitworth Art Gallery



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Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# INTERNATIONAL MACFEST

## The Saga of Colours

Date: Saturday 13th February

Time: 14.00 - 15.30 GMT

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join Dr Zohor Idrisi as she takes you on a journey through centuries and the use of colour.

Dr Zohor analyses how ordinary people struggled with colours from the Neolithic period up to the Roman era, since only black, red and white were easy to obtain, whilst only the rich could use rare and expensive dyes.

Under the influence of Islam, scientific research was prioritised and allowed a spectrum of colours to be available to everyone.

Chief guest: Chris Sacarabany, Non-profit Executive in interfaith/intercultural relations, New York, USA.



## Books, Books and more Books - Hello from South Africa!

Date: Tuesday 16th February

Time: 17.30 - 19.00 GMT

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us in South Africa for an exciting panel on books, books - and more books, with Khalyla Harito!

As technology has changed the world in the last decade, we look at the importance of printed books. What is the future of printed books for both the younger generation and other demographics in fast developing countries?

Hosted by: Jonathan Davidson, poet, Chief Executive of Midlands Writing.

Chief guest: Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director, Manchester City of Literature.



**MANCHESTER**  
City of Literature



## Persian Cuisine and Culture

Date: Thursday 18th March

Time: 17.30 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a lively, unforgettable evening celebrating Persian Cuisine and Culture with Haleh Moravej, Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University in Nutritional Sciences.

Haleh will take you on a tasty and colourful journey, sharing famous Persian dishes, from her country of origin, 'the cradle of civilization'.

Learn about the Persian ancient festival of Nowruz, that Haleh will celebrate on 20th March. She will be sharing the mouth-watering food prepared for the Nowruz celebratory feast. Nowruz, also known as Persian New Year, has been observed for more than 3,000 years as the victory of spring over darkness.

Introduced by: Paul Sesay, Founder/CEO Inclusive, The National Diversity Awards, Co-Founder of Black Leaders.



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# Creativity and Life during the Pandemic

## - Hello from around the world

Date: Sunday 28th March

Time: 14.00 - 16.00 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from around the world!

Join us for an exciting panel with an artist, a filmmaker, two writers, an academic and actress, from six countries.

They will share what life has been like during the pandemic in their countries: Australia, Pakistan, Singapore, Turkey, Uzbekistan and the USA. They will discuss how it has affected their creative lives and work modes: the joys - and the challenges.

Our Panellists are:

Zehra Aygul, author of children's history books, Turkey.

Zafar Anjum, Singapore-based writer, publisher and filmmaker.

Lubna Zahid, fine artist, educator, Washington DC, USA

Bushra Ansari, actress, singer and playwright, Pakistan

Asror Alayarov, writer and publisher, Uzbekistan

Moderated by: Dr Adele Jones, Australian writer and academic.

Chief Guest: Dr Eamonn O'Neal DL BEd MSc DArts, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester



# Academic and the Pandemic: Higher Education Perspective and Response - Hello from around the world!

Date: Sunday 21st March

Time: 14.00 - 16.00 GMT

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an international panel about academic life and how creativity is needed to cope with the challenges of the pandemic. Academic panellists from seven universities around the world will discuss the impact they felt on their academic lives, scholarly activities and on their students' lives in their respective contexts. They will highlight examples of good practice in terms of teaching, research and academic life in general. Panellists are:

Dr Munazza Yaqoob, Associate Professor/Chair, Department of English, International Islamic University, Islamabad, Pakistan

Dr Abdur Rahim Kidwai, Director of English and Teacher Education, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India

Iwan Bung Kelinci, Lecturer of English, STBA LIA, Universitas Pertamina in Jakarta, Indonesia

Mashrur Shahid Hossain, Professor in Department of English, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh,

Tim Tomlinson, Clinical Professor in Global Liberal Studies, New York University, New York, USA

Zahia Smail Salhi, Professor of Modern Arabic Studies, University of Manchester.

Moderated by: Dr. Karin Vogt, Professor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language, University of Education Heidelberg, Germany.

Chief guest: Kate Green OBE, MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education.





# WELCOME TO AZERBAIJAN FESTIVAL!

Date: Sunday 4th April

Time: 13.00 - 16.00 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

Join us for an amazing live festival from Baku, Azerbaijan.

We will take you on a thrilling journey to Central Asia. Be enchanted by the feast we offer you to celebrate the beauty of Azerbaijani art and cultural heritage. These are:

- The religious transformation of Azerbaijan from Christianity to Islam, Contemporary Art presentation.
- Karabakh (Karabai) horses: the national symbol.
- Azerbaijan Gasimushagi national carpets, Lachin, 17th century.
- Azerbaijani ancient and modern architecture.
- Azerbaijan: heart of Multiculturalism: churches, mosques, synagogues and palaces.
- Azerbaijani national dance and national costume
- Shusha-Cultural Centre of Azerbaijan. Tar performance.
- National cuisine from Baku to Karabakh.
- View of Azerbaijan from Gazakh region (Silk Road).

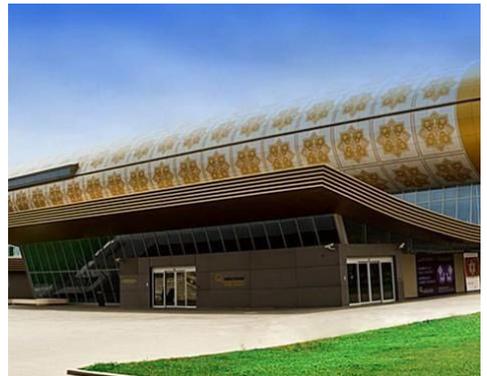
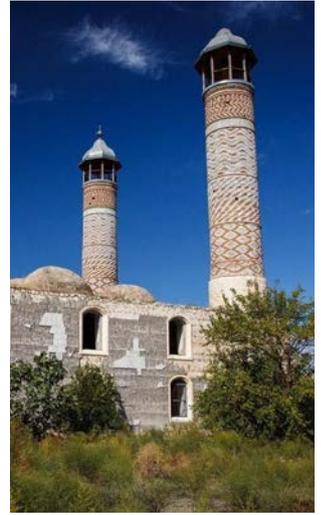
Launched by: Sir Warren Smith KCVO KStJ JP, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and Qaisra Shahraz MBE, FRSA, founder and Executive Director, MACFEST.

Welcome by Cllr Rabnawaz Akbar, Director of MACFEST

Hosted by: Leyla Gasimova, Project Manager and Hokuma Mammadazada, Project Coordinator.

Guest speakers: Prof. Faig Ismayilov, board member of Azerbaijani Union of Architects. Farid Mirzoyev, artist and sculptor. Gulnara Khalilova, fashion designer.





# Celebrating Ramadan and our Cultural Heritage - Hello from Morocco!

Date: Sunday 25th April

Time: 14.00 - 15.30 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Welcome to *Iftar* (breaking the fast during the month of Ramadan) from Morocco.

Join us for a celebration of rich Moroccan culture and heritage: clothing, decorative gypsum plaster tiles and of course mouth-watering Moroccan food!

Hosted by: Hanane El-Hadioui, in Manchester and her sister Khalfi Aicha in Casablanca, Morocco.

Chief Guest: Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, CEO of QED and Director of MACFESTUK



# Celebrating Iftar in Istanbul - Hello from Turkey!

Date: Sunday 2nd May

Time: 15.00 - 16.30 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Welcome to *Iftar* (breaking of the fast in Ramadan) from Turkey and a celebration of Turkish cultural heritage.

We are delighted to offer you a marvellous Turkish feast: tasty cuisine, Ebru marble painting, miniature art, Turkish Ottoman art and musical instruments!

Hosted by: Asiye Yaman, artist and Tugba Gulyesil, musician.

Chief Guest: Afzal Khan CBE, Labour MP for Manchester Gorton.



# Celebrating Iftar in Dubai - Hello from The Emirates!

Date: Sunday 9th May

Time: 15.00 - 16.30 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Welcome to *Iftar* (breaking of the fast in Ramadan) from Dubai.

Join us for a celebration of Emirati culture and heritage, including the traditional ritual firing of the cannon in the United Arab Emirates.

There will be explanations and demonstrations of: the *Adhan* (call for prayer), the *Wudu* (ablution) demonstration, a prayer demonstration, the *Iftar* menu (mouth-watering traditional Emirati food), the perfume/*bakhoor* ceremony in the *Majlis* (gathering), and a talk about UAE national dress.

Hosted by: Sherifa Tamsin Madgwick and Rashid Al Tamimi.

Chief guest: Deputy Chief Constable Mabs Hussain



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

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Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.





## Eid Poetry Mushaira - Hello from Pakistan!

Date: Sunday 16th May

Time: 14.00 - 16.00 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

We are delighted to offer a special *Mushaira* - Poetry recital and performance, celebrating the festival Eid-Al-Fitr all the way from Pakistan!

Join us for an amazing event with leading poets of Pakistan who share their work. Poetry readings will be in Urdu, Punjabi and in English.

Join acclaimed poets from Pakistan:

- Iftikhar Husain Arif
- Anwar Masood
- Moneeza Hashmi, who reads the work of her father, Faiz Ahmad Faiz
- Abida Taqi
- Amjad Islam Amjad

Moderator: Dr Najeeba Arif, poet, Faculty of Languages & Literature, International Islamic University, Islamabad.

Chief guest: Muhammed Tariq Wazir, General Consul of Pakistan, Manchester





## Hello from Scotland!

Date: Saturday, 12th June

Time: 12.00 - 15.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

MACFEST is delighted to partner with Active Life Club, for a showcase of arts, poetry, comedy, and cultural performances!

The club welcomes you to Glasgow in Scotland for a virtual visit. We thrive on this slogan, "people make Glasgow". Scotland is well-known for its hospitality, cultural diversity, and vibrancy.

This event will showcase the concept of *All Different, But United*, where young people are at the heart of active citizenship, learning, educating, and preserving cultural values.

Host: Raza Sadiq, Founder/Chairperson, Active Life Club, Glasgow, Scotland.

Chief guest: TBC



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

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Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.





# WELCOME TO THE ARAB HERITAGE FESTIVAL!

Date: Sunday 27th June

Time: 14.00 - 16.00 BST

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
eventbrite

Join us for an afternoon of enchantment and enjoyment, with a variety of arts and cultural activities celebrating Arab Cultural Heritage around the world. Enjoy:

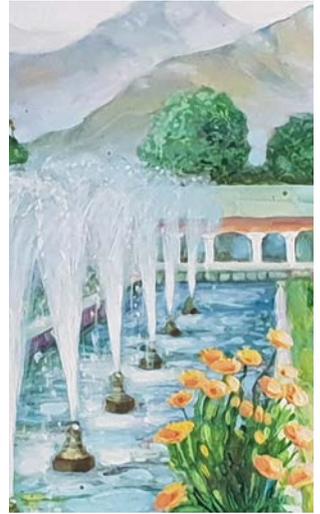
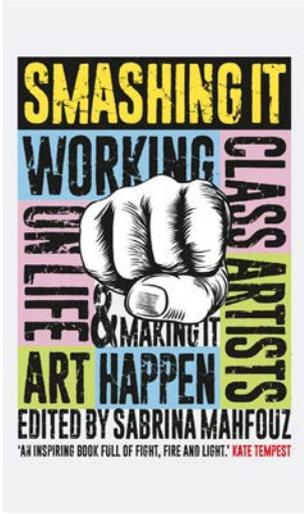
- Arab artefacts from the Glasgow museum, Noorah Al Gailani (Iraqi)
- Poetry, Sabrina Mahfouz (Palestinian)
- Arabic poetry, Luhaib Abbood (Iraqi)
- Arab tiles, Dr Zohor Idrissi (Moroccan/French)
- Singer, Fadi Edel (Syrian)
- Poetry, Hanane El Hadioue (Moroccan)
- Singer, Emad Al Rashidy (Egypt)
- Arabic Architecture, Sara Adio
- Palestinian Embroidery, Beesan Tawfiq Arafat
- Nafeesa Madani, Bakhoor ceremony presentation

Launched by: Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Paul Griffiths  
and Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Executive Director of MACFEST

Welcome by: Cllr Lutfur Rahman OBE, Executive Member  
for Skills, Culture and Leisure

Hosted by: Abdullah Afzal, actor and comedian





# YOUTH MACFEST

## Young, British and Muslim

Date: Monday 22nd February

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: TBC

Young people speak out!

Join us for an exciting discussion between students from Greater Manchester talking about life during the pandemic, Islamophobia and racism.

- Abdulrahman Alhalabi (Syrian), Canon Slade Sixth Form College, Bolton,
- Halima Bakkali (Bosnian/Moroccan), Loretto College, Manchester,
- Mubarak Afolabi (Nigerian), Parrs Wood High School, Manchester,
- Haris Chaudhry (Pakistani), Manchester Grammar School, Manchester,
- Farah Ali (Pakistani), Levenshulme High School for Girls, Manchester,
- Onahmika Zannath (Bengali), University of Manchester.

Moderated by: Fiza Bilal, student at University of Manchester.

Chief guests: Miss Donna Johnson and Mr Neil A. Johnson, Co-Headteachers of Levenshulme High School, Manchester.



## Youth: Celebrating our Cultural Heritage

Date: Monday 8th February

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

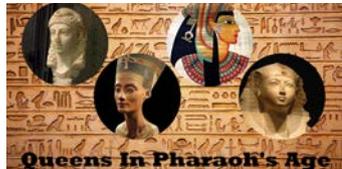
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a cultural feast from around the world! School Students celebrate the cultural heritage of their country of origin.

Learn about the Egyptian *Tanoura* dance by Mariam; *East Turkestan's Cuisine* by Raabiya; *Syrian Monuments* by Ali and *My Olive Tree* by Marya and *Syrian National Costume* by Ghosoun.

- Mariam Soliman (Egyptian), Parris Wood High School, Manchester
- Ali Alkhanji (Syrian), North Chadderton School, Oldham
- Ghosoun Tulaymat (Syrian), Loretto College, Manchester
- Marya Abuarqoub, (Algerian/Palestinian and Jordani), Whalley Range High School, Manchester
- Raabiya Arkin, (Uyghur, East Turkestan) Rochdale Sixth Form College, Rochdale

Chief guest: Mrs Jackie Fahey, Headteacher of Whalley Range High School.



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Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# International youth : Voices from around the world

Date: Sunday 14th February

Time: 14.00 -16.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from youth around the world!

We are delighted to host a special panel with young people from six countries: Gambia to the USA.

School students will share their thoughts about how the pandemic has affected their lives during the last few months. They will also talk about how Islamophobia affects their lives as Muslims and racism, in connection with the Black Lives Matter Movement.

Join us for this exciting panel with:

- Haddijatou Jammeh, Marina International School, Bakau, Gambia,
- Ahmet Onder Ucar, Kartal Anatolian Imam Hatip High School, Istanbul, Turkey,
- Beyza Gider, Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium, Ludwigsburg, Germany,
- Israfeel Martinez-Jaka, Northern Virginia Community College, Washington, USA
- Azan Ibrar, Newman RC College, Oldham, UK
- Kinda Alaa Taher Salous, St Joseph School, Nablus, Palestine.

They will be introduced by their Headteachers.

Moderated by: Professor Sorhaila Latip-Yusoph, multi-media practitioner and educator, Mindanao State University, Marawi, Philippines.

Chief guest: Patsy Kane OBE MA, former Executive Headteacher and education consultant working with leadership teams.



# SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

## Celebrating MACFEST at Newman RC College

Due to COVID-19, date and time TBC

Venue: Newman RC College, Broadway, Chadderton, OL9 9QY

Tickets: Invitation only

Join us to celebrate our diverse community of Muslims at Newman RC College.

Each year group will be celebrating and learning about a Muslim country: Year 7 will celebrate the arts and culture of Afghanistan, Year 8 celebrate Bangladesh, Year 9 celebrate Italy and Year 10 celebrate Pakistan.

Each year group will focus on the celebration of faith through exploring religious art, dress and artefacts from these countries.

Hosted by: Mr Glyn Potts, Headteacher and Mrs S. McNee, Assistant Headteacher

Special Guests: Mr Bernard O'Toole (Chair of Governors)



## Celebrating Muslim Heritage, Manchester College

Due to COVID-19, date and time TBC

Venue: Digital - Manchester College

Tickets: Free

Welcome to Manchester College for the third year!

Join us for a selection of arts and activities celebrating Muslim culture: Muslim Art, Make up and Henna demonstration, Hijab fashion demonstration and 'have a go.'

Hosted by: Amanda Sillett, diversity manager and team

Chief guest: Kui Man Gerry Yeung OBE, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester



## Celebrating MACFEST at Stockport Academy

Due to COVID-19, date and time  
TBC

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Invitation only

MACFEST is delighted to partner with Stockport Academy for a day of enjoyment!

Come along and see the work the children have produced in celebration of Muslim arts and culture.

We will have poetry, art and food - something to delight the soul, eyes and belly!

Hosted by: Mrs Janine McCann, Principal, Stockport Academy, Stockport.



## Showcasing amazing Muslims who changed the world: Levenshulme High School

Due to COVID-19, date and time  
TBC

Venue: Levenshulme High School, Crossley Rd, Manchester, M19 1FS

Tickets: Invitation only

We are delighted to partner with Levenshulme High School again.

MACFEST, pupils and their teachers will showcase and celebrate Muslims who changed the world: Nadiya Hussain, Sir Mo Farah, Razia Sultan, Muhammad Ali and Dr Hawa Abdi.

Hosted by: Miss Donna Johnson and Mr Neil A. Johnson, Co-Headteachers and Sheraz Ali - Urdu teacher at Levenshulme High School, Manchester.



## Celebrating MACFEST again at Manchester Health Academy

Due to COVID-19, date and time TBC

Venue: Manchester Health Academy, Moore Road, Manchester, M23 9BP

Tickets: Invitation Only



Last year, Manchester Health Academy hosted a phenomenal mini festival with exhibitions, poetry, history lessons, designing of MACFEST posters, art collage projects and classroom activities. This was spread over four months.

In 2021 they will be running a similar set of activities within lessons across a number of subjects.

Hosted by: Kevin Green, Principal, Manchester Health Academy.



## Celebrating Muslim Heritage, City of Liverpool College

Date: Thursday 25th February

Time: 13.00 - 15.00

Venue: Digital - City of Liverpool College

Tickets: Invitation only



We welcome you to Liverpool!

MACFEST is delighted to partner with City of Liverpool College for an exciting day of art and cultural activities, celebrating diversity with students and teachers.

Marvellous Activities will include: food tasting, performance with music and dance, poetry reading, a display of artwork, traditional dress and cultural hubs.

Hosted by: Esther Cosslett, Head of ESOL and her team

Chief guest: Elaine Bowker, Principal and Chief Executive of The City of Liverpool College.



# Celebrating Muslim Heritage: Stockport and Trafford Colleges

Date: Thursday 4th March

Time: 08.55 - 14.40pm (all day)

Venue: Digital - Stockport and Trafford Colleges

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

The Trafford College Group are proud to announce that they will be hosting MACFEST in March 2021.

They are delighted at the opportunity to celebrate the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival: with their community partners, Trafford and Stockport Colleges and Stockport Grammar School.

Join us for a range of art and cultural activities with staff and students to celebrate diversity and Muslim heritage.

Welcome message from Chief host, James Scott, Principal and CEO, Trafford College Group:

"I would like to welcome you today and we are delighted to be able to host this incredible event celebrating Muslim arts and culture and the rich diversity of our college and community. Our partnership with the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival is of great value to The Trafford College Group, and we look forward to many more collaborations to confirm our connection."

Hosted by: Mrs Janine McCann.

Chief guest: Mark Adlestone OBE DL, Chairman of Beaverbrooks The Jeweller, Former High Sheriff of Greater Manchester 2019/20.



# CHILDREN'S MACFEST

## Writing and Illustrating Islamic Children's Books

Date: Monday 15th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Best-selling author Sara Khan brings you a special programme on her popular board book series for toddlers and young children. Joined by her illustrator Ali Lodge, they will take you on a journey from the initial idea to the finished products, discussing both the writing and illustrating process of the books.

The programme will also feature a book reading, after which parents and children will be invited to take part in a quiz and colouring competition.

Introduced by: Haris Ahmad, Managing Director at Kube Publishing Ltd.



## Islamic Calligraphy Workshop for children

Date: Wednesday 17th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for our kids workshop introducing the basics of Islamic art led by the internationally renowned calligrapher Samir Malik.

Your children will learn the basics of Islamic calligraphy and start the journey of writing beautifully, exploring their creativity and getting to know a side of Islam that will allow them to beautify your homes, the world and transcend boundaries and faiths.





## Bilal Bhai - My neighbourhood Puppet show

Date: Friday 19th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on  
Eventbrite

MACFEST invites you to come and watch a wonderful  
Puppet show.

Follow the loveable and comical Bilal Bhai on his amazing  
adventure in his neighbourhood.

It is a great occasion for children and parents to enjoy  
and laugh together!

Join Amna Jameel-Korpalska, a master Puppeteer from  
Poland.



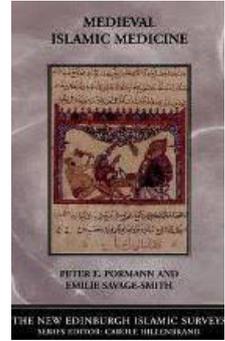
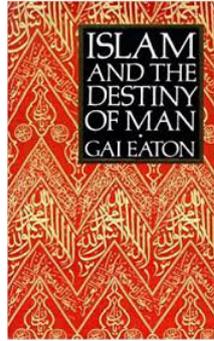
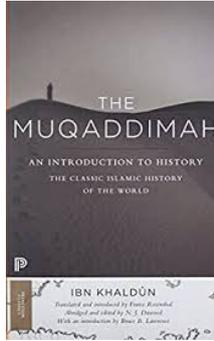
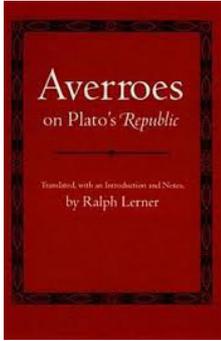
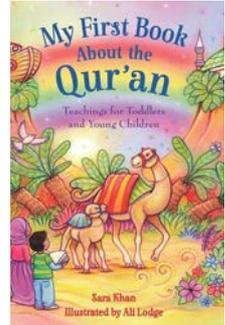
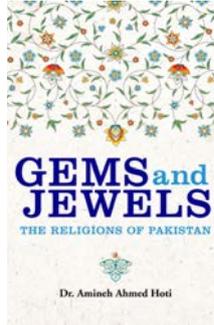
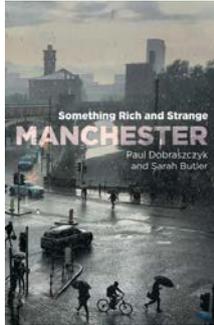
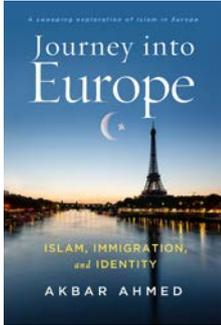
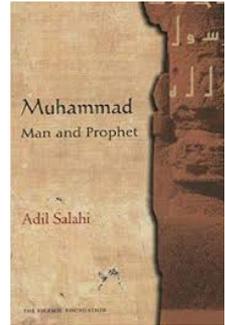
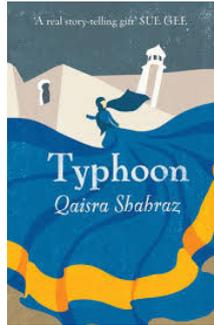
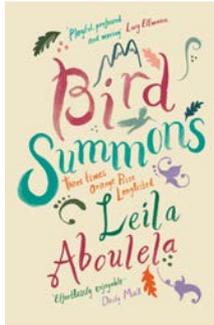
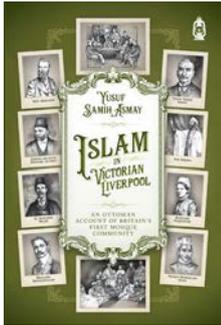
## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Due to COVID-19, events are mostly digital, and zoom links will be sent  
nearer to the event. Events that aren't digital are subject to change.

Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# MACFEST LIBRARY



# SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all our funders, sponsors, supporters and the dedication of the MACFEST operational team and volunteers for making this festival possible.

## MACFEST OPERATIONAL TEAM

- Luhaib Abood
- Maryam Afolabi
- Amir Arshad
- Salim Ayduz
- Abbie Donald
- Barbara Dresner
- Nabila Farooq
- Safiya Florence Ascoli-Ball
- Hanane El Hadioui
- Jamilla Hekmoun
- Jinsella Kennaway
- Rina Koesnanto
- Nafisa Madany
- Fiza Bilal
- Steve Roman
- Steven Tennant
- Tym Woodward
- Dudiya Zilic
- Alaa Ali
- Diana Akolzina
- Nhu Tran
- Tehmina Ahmed
- Natasha Mehmood
- Susie Bolchover
- Suleiman Kurawa
- Hajra Mubashar
- Saher Nawaz
- Anila Saeed
- Darren Ord
- Najat El Hajjam

## FUNDERS

- Arts Council England
- Community Lottery Fund
- Manchester City Council
- Foundation For Ethnic Understanding FFEU
- Beaverbrooks

## IN-KIND SPONSORSHIP

- My Lahore Restaurant
- The Whitworth Gallery
- Video North Limited
- Think Imagery
- The University of Salford
- Creative Manchester
- University of Manchester
- Poverty Alleviation Scholarships
- Blue Shoes Productions
- Be Safe

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COMMUNITY FUND



# EDUCATION AND VENUES

We are proud to have these Manchester schools, colleges and universities celebrating MACFEST days. We would like to thank our partners and venues.

## SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Levenshulme High School for Girls
- Whalley Range 11 - 18 High School
- The Manchester College
- Manchester Grammar School
- Manchester Health Academy
- Bosnian School and Society of Manchester
- The University Of Manchester, Creative Writing Department
- Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale
- Manchester Arabic School, Chorlton
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Newman Roman Catholic School,
- Loretto College
- North Chadderton School, Oldham
- Parrs Wood High School, Manchester
- Canon Slade Sixth Form College, Bolton
- The University of Salford
- Stockport College
- Trafford College
- Stockport Grammar School
- Rochdale Sixth From College

## PARTNERS AND VENUES

- Manchester Central Library
- Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI)
- Manchester Museum
- Longsight Library and Learning Centre
- Stretford Public Hall
- Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre
- Khizra Mosque, Manchester
- The Portico Library
- The John Rylands Library
- British Muslim Heritage Centre
- Elizabeth Gaskell's House
- Whitworth Art Gallery
- Gallery Oldham
- Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield
- The Lowry, Salford



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Due to COVID-19, events are mostly digital, and zoom links will be sent nearer to the event. Events that aren't digital are subject to change.  
Book via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite.



# FESTIVAL DIARY

Due to COVID-19 events are subject to change. Register your interest on our Eventbrite page to stay up to date with any changes. Zoom links will be sent to you nearer to the time of the event. Thank you for your co-operation.

## JANUARY 2021

Date	Event	Time	Page
24th	Keynote Address by Ambassador Akbar S Ahmed	15.00 - 16.30	06
30th	Festival Opening Ceremony	11.00 - 12.00	06
30th	Medicine in the Middle East: A forgotten Heritage, shared between East and West	13.00 - 14.00	07
30th	Creative British Muslims	15.00 - 16.30	07
30th	Muslim Cuisine: A journey along the Silk Road	17.30 - 18.30	08
31st	19th Century French Converts to Islam	11.00 - 12.00	08
31st	Famous Muslim Writers	13.00 - 14.30	09
31st	Islamophobia and Racism	15.30 - 17.00	09
31st	Stand-Up Comedy performance with Jeff Mirza	18.00 - 18.30	10

## FEBRUARY 2021

1st	British, Muslim and Converts	18.00 - 19.30	10
1st	Celebrating MACFEST at Newman RC College	10.00 - 15.00	49
3rd	Islam in Victorian Britain: telling new stories in our nation's history	18.00 - 19.30	18
4th	Celebrating Muslim Heritage, Manchester College	12.00 - 14.00	49
4th	Manchester Muslim Writers: Rewriting the Narrative	18.00 - 19.30	18
6th	Open Mic: Poets and Storytellers	14.00 - 16.30	19
8th	Youth: Celebrating our Cultural Heritage	18.00 - 19.30	47
9th	Poetry Bonanza and Performance	18.00 - 19.30	19
11th	Celebrating MACFEST at Stockport Academy	08.55 - 14.40	50
12th	Showcasing amazing Muslims who changed the world: Levenshulme High school	12.00 - 13.00	50
12th	Islamic Miniature Paintings at John Rylands Library	16.00 - 17.00	20
13th	Islamic Collections at Manchester Museum	12.00 - 13.00	20
13th	The Saga of Colours	14.00 - 15.30	34
14th	International Youth: Voices from around the world	14.00 - 16.00	48
16th	Books, Books and more Books - Hello from South Africa!	17.30 - 19.00	34

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Page</b>
19th	Mughal Painting Art Workshop	14.00 - 15.30	12
19th	Opening Moves: The extraordinary origins of chess	18.00 - 19.00	19
20th	A Liveable Earth: Climate Change and the faith community	10.30 - 11.30	21
20th	Celebrating Multilingual Poetry and Mushaira Performance	14.00 - 16.00	22
22nd	Celebrating MACFEST again at Manchester Health Academy	School hours	52
22nd	Young, British and Muslim	18.00 - 19.30	46
23rd	Celebrating MACFEST again at Manchester Health Academy	School hours	52
24th	Challenging Racism in the Photography Industry	18.00 - 19.30	22
25th	Celebrating Muslim Heritage, City of Liverpool College	13.00 - 15.00	52
26th	Celebrating Rochdale's MACFEST at Hopwood Hall College	10.30 - 15.30	26
28th	Musical Finale	14.00 - 16.00	23

## MARCH 2021

4th	Celebrating Muslim Heritage: Stockport and Trafford Colleges	8.55 - 14.40	51
7th	Women of Faith: celebrating their cultural heritage	14.00 - 16.00	29
8th	Women of Kalasha and Other Pakistani Women - Hello from Pakistan!	18.00 - 19.30	29
10th	The Black Queens of Islam	18.00 - 19.30	30
11th	Muslim Women Converts: Celebration and Challenges	17.00 - 18.30	30
13th	Women, Politics and Life in Afghanistan - Hello from Afghanistan!	12.00 - 13.00	31
13th	Muslim Women and Politics: Celebrations and Challenges - Hello from Greece!	16.00 - 17.30	32
14th	Celebrating International Women's Week	14.00 - 16.00	33
14th	Nataliya's Art Journey: Cities and Monuments from around the World by Nataliya Stefurak	14.00 - 16.00	15
15th	Writing and Illustrating Islamic Children's Books	18.00 - 19.00	53
16th	Introduction to Mural Painting	18.00 - 19.00	12
16th	Art Exhibition by Teakster	18.00 - 19.00	15
17th	Islamic Calligraphy for children	18.00 - 19.00	53
18th	Persian Cuisine and Culture	17.30 - 19.00	35
19th	Bilal Bhai - My neighbourhood Puppet show	18.00 - 19.00	54
20th	Rumi: The Alchemy of Love - Huddersfield	12.00 - 13.00	26
20th	Celebrating Egyptian Culture and Heritage	18.00 - 19.00	24
23rd	Calligraphy Workshop with Samir Malik	18.00 - 19.30	13

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Page</b>
23rd	Art Exhibition by Samir Malik	18.00 - 19.00	16
24th	House of Wisdom	18.00 - 19.00	16
25th	Life in Mecca and Madina during the time of the Prophet Muhammad	18.00 - 19.00	11
27th	Celebrating Bury's MACFEST	13.00 - 16.00	27
28th	Creativity and Life during the Pandemic: Hello from around the World!	14.00 -16.00	36
29th	Creative Photography for Beginners	18.00 - 19.30	13
29th	Curry Mile - A Transition of Cultures, Photography Exhibition	18.00 - 19.00	17
30th	Ibn Khaldun 700 Years Ago. Then and Now!	18.00 - 19.00	11
31st	Ebru Marble Art Painting	14.00 - 15.30	14

## APRIL 2021

1st	Creative Papercutting	18.00 - 19.30	14
4th	Azerbaijan Festival	13.00 - 16.00	38
17th	MACFEST Iftar with our Partners	19.45 - 22.00	24
25th	Celebrating Ramadan and Our Cultural Heritage - Hello from Morocco!	14.00 - 15.30	40

## MAY 2021

2nd	Celebrating Iftar in Istanbul - Hello from Turkey!	15.00 - 16.30	40
9th	Celebrating Iftar in Dubai - Hello from the Emirates!	15.00 - 16.30	41
16th	Eid Poetry Mushaira - Hello from Pakistan!	14.00 - 16.00	42
22nd	Walk with MACFEST and celebrate Eid at the Whitworth Art Gallery	11.00 - 16.00	25

## JUNE 2021

5th	Celebrating Oldham's MACFEST	11.00 - 16.00	27
12th	Hello from Scotland!	12.00 - 15.00	43
19th	Celebrating Bolton's MACFEST	11.00 - 15.00	28
27th	Arab Heritage Festival	14.00 - 16.00	44

## JULY 2021

3rd	MACFEST Musical Bonanza with The Nile Band at the Lowry	14.00 - 15.30	25
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# MACFEST

MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

**#SPREADHONEYNOTHATE**

**WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK**



Curated by:  
**Qaisra Shahraz FRSA MBE**

Floral artwork by:  
**Ashfia Ashrif**

Brochure designed by:  
**abbie donald**  
hello@abbiedonald.co.uk