

FEBRUARY - JULY 2024



# MACFEST

MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

**CELEBRATING ARTS AND  
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES**

Art • Literature • History • Photography • Culture • Architecture • Music • Film

Join us for over 80 Events!



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# WELCOME TO MACFEST 2024!

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in     
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# Hello and Salaam...

**Welcome to MACFEST 2024! The Ground-breaking and Award-Winning Muslim Arts and Culture International Festival.**

Our Mission: Celebrating arts, diversity, and connecting communities. We are proud to offer you again a rich feast of 70 events from February to July 2024 across the North West, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Muslim diaspora communities.

We are delighted to offer you an international art feast, with events hosted from Afghanistan, Albania, Dubai, Hawaii, Indonesia, Pakistan, Scotland, Canada, South Africa and the USA.

We are proud to present various themed festivals within MACFEST: Youth, Women, Ramadan, Environment, Museum and Libraries Festivals. There are many highlights, including: Lowry Eid Musical, Turkish Folk Dance, Women Festival, and "In conversation with Yasmin Alibhai-Brown", British journalist and author. 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, newsreaders, and artists and singers hailing from Afghanistan to the USA.

We are happy to announce two new initiatives: the launch of MACFEST Arts Awards celebrating Muslim Artists, and Heritage Tours to Turkiye and Azerbaijan. Together we will go on a journey through these wonderful countries, exploring art, architecture, cuisine, local cultures, and much more!

On 2nd March, we are celebrating our Opening Ceremony and Muslim Women's Arts Festival, part of Muslim Women's Arts Foundation, a sister company of MACFEST UK. This initiative celebrates Muslim women artists locally and

internationally, with more than 20 events hosted in the North West, and globally from Afghanistan to the USA. This will feature over 75 creative women: poets, performers, writers, artists and culture champions.

We are offering a hybrid programme with digital and live events. This is in partnership with wonderful organisations and venues across the North West. They include: Manchester Lit & Phil Society, Manchester Histories Festival, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, Rochdale Science Initiative, Bury BAME Project, Huddersfield Literature Festival, Sheba Arts, Venture Arts, Yaran North West, The Literary Circle of Kirklees, John Rylands Library, The Lowry, Manchester Museum, MOSI, Central and Longsight Library, Gaskell House, Trafford/Stockport College Partnership Group, University of Salford, Creative Manchester, University of Manchester and National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

We are equally delighted to host a Youth Festival starting in February with schools and colleges celebrating MACFEST Days! This includes: arts, cultural activities, poetry, calligraphy and an international panel.

A very warm welcome to our new and existing colleges and schools partners and the British and international students taking part in MACFEST 2024.

Nearly all of our events are free. Donations are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us!

Enjoy!



**Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP**

Author, Founder, Executive  
Director and Producer  
of MACFEST



**Books and Literature**



**Environment**



**Museums and Libraries**



**Ramadhan Festival**



**Cultural Heritage**

# FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



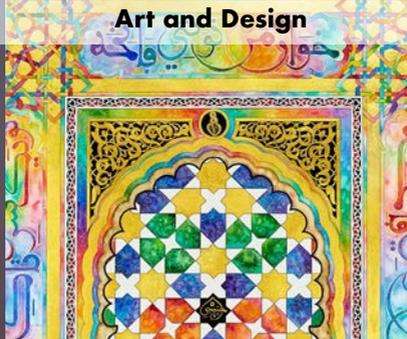
**Women's Arts Festival**



**Heritage Tours**



**Performance**



**Art and Design**



**Schools and Colleges**



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# MACFEST 2024 OPENING CEREMONY!

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** 11.30 - 13.00

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** £10, Includes Lunch

Join us in celebrating the opening of MACFEST 2024 and the launch of a new initiative, MACFEST Arts Awards!

There is something for everyone:

- Welcome speeches; greetings from partners and Muslim women in different languages.
- Poetry by the Blind Chef, Ibraheem Iqbal, Lydia Merrill, Aysha Yilmaz and Amir Arshad.
- Moroccan Gnawa Music with Mestro Zakaryae/Zak
- Performance by: Turkish Folk Dance group.
- Performance by: Nile Arabic School.
- Nasheed by: Whalley Range 11-18 High School.
- Tilavat by: Daniya Nourein, Manchester Sudanese School.
- Art exhibitions and cake cutting.

Hosted by: Sandra Wong, Solicitor.

Welcome address by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE and Ed Watts, Head of Learning and Engagement, the Whitworth Art Gallery.

Chief Guest: Mrs D Hawkins JP LLB, His Majesty's Lord- Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.



# YOUTH FESTIVAL

## Levenshulme High School: Well-being-focused

**Date:** Friday, 9th February

**Time:** 11.00 - 13.00

**Venue:** Levenshulme High School, Crossley Road, Manchester, M19 1FS

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

We invite you to join the incredibly talented pupils and staff at Levenshulme High! This session will focus on well-being - to help improve knowledge and understanding, and to keep our minds and bodies as healthy as possible.

The world can be a difficult place - global politics is fraught with tensions running very high, and a crash in the economy has caused many lives to be affected by the cost-of-living crisis. With our modern-day technologies, this means that we are all constantly connected to information and news on these issues. This can take its toll on our mental health.

At Levenshulme High School, we recognize, and live by, openness and solidarity. We know it is important to talk about the things that are worrying us. A focus on physical and mental wellbeing is key!

Hosted by: Neil Johnson and Donna Johnson - Headteachers of Levenshulme High School.





## Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture at Withington Girls' School

**Date:** Tuesday, 20th February

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Withington Girls' School, Wellington Rd., Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6BL

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Join us at Withington Girls' School as we host our annual Culture Day as part of MACFEST 2024!

We look forward to celebrating the diverse cultures within our school community, learning more about each other's traditions, cultures, and rejoicing in recognising that our diversity is our strength at Withington.

Special events will include a cultural assembly, street food stalls serving food from around the world, dancing from different traditions and themed lessons on world cultures throughout the day. Our pupils are also excited to be participating in pupil panel discussions with friends from around the globe.

Hosted by Jen Baylis, Deputy Head and our pupil-led Religious Societies and EDI team.

Special Guests: Mrs Sarah Haslam, WGS Governors.



## Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture at AGGS

**Date:** Friday, 1st March

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Cavendish Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, WA14 2NL

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Join us as we host our special Culture Day, where we will be celebrating across our school the different cultures and diverse traditions of our pupils.

There will be influences from Muslim art and culture in lessons across the school, lunchtime activities, and special guest workshops.

A real celebration of our school's diverse cultural heritage!

Hosted by: Laura Anstey, Head of Dance, Anti-Racism Champion and Mrs Stephanie Gill, Principal, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.



# Stretford Grammar School Celebrates MACFEST

**Date:** Tuesday, 5th March

**Time:** 12.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** Stretford Grammar School, Granby Rd., Stretford, Manchester, M32 8JB

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Stretford Grammar School is delighted to celebrate the rich tapestry of Islamic art, architecture, literature, poetry, and heritage linked to curriculum activities within our school.

This will include guest poetry workshops, drawing on inspiration from Islamic art and historical artefacts and learning about the valuable scientific legacy of ancient Islamic scholars.

Our Sixth form students will participate in Arabic calligraphy workshops and then deliver them to the lower school community.

Hosted by: Elaine Eeles, Assistant Headteacher.



# Freehold Community Primary Academy: Celebrating their Cultural Heritage and Community Iftar

**Date:** Wednesday, 27th March (Iftar) | Friday, 21st June (Cultural Day)

**Time:** 10.00 - 14.00

**Venue:** Freehold Community Academy, Sidmouth Street, Oldham, OL9 7RG

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Hello from Oldham!

We are thrilled to invite the MACFEST team to share our festival day this year, 'Celebrating our Cultural Heritage at Freehold'.

Our school is excited to host their third MACFEST event, all centred around students celebrating and championing the rich cultural heritage of our community. Pupils from Nursery to Year 6 will be getting involved in cooking, art, exploring literature, mehndi designing and application with the support of both staff and parents. Children will share experiences and highlight aspects of their own cultural identity through a carousel of activities throughout the school day. They will meet significant Muslim figures who aim to inspire pupils with their achievements.

After the success and high turnout last year, we are also holding our second Iftar, where our community of families, staff, community members, and governors join together in bringing a dish and breaking the fast.

Hosted by: Mrs. Maher, Principal, and Kirsty Swift, Nursery Teacher and Pedagogical Lead, Freehold Community Primary Academy, Oldham.



# Whalley Range 11-18 High School Celebrates MACFEST!

**Date:** Wednesday, 17th April

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Whalley Range 11-18 High School, Wilbraham Road, Manchester M16 8GW

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Spend a creative afternoon with the marvellous students of Whalley Range High School!

The event will feature music and Dabke from different countries, Nasheed, Urdu poetry, presentations about the influence of Islam in Spain, France, and Germany and a presentation about Pakistani culture.

Students from KS3 and KS4 will have the opportunity to see the short film "1001 Inventions" during their language lessons that week. In addition to a variety of cultural activities, which include cultural clothes, art workshops, and calligraphy.

Hosted by: Jackie Fahey, Academy Headteacher and Kholoud Khaleel, Teacher.



## Celebrating World Culture Day

**Date:** Tuesday, 23rd April

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

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

- Amena Aly from Cardiff High School, Cardiff.
- Hassan Aly from St. John's College, Cardiff.
- Kutalp Bilal Buyukkaya from Downfield Primary School, Cheshunt, Waltham, Hertfordshire.
- Peggy Andrews from Saint John Henry Newman Catholic College, Oldham.
- Maryam Mustapha from The Nile Language School, Manchester.

Their teachers or headteachers will introduce them.

Hosted by: Luljeta Halimi, Researcher, Production Assistant, Islamic Channel.

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



# Teachers speak out! Celebrating Arts, Cultures and Heritage in Schools

**Date:** Friday, 7th June

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Teachers join us from across the UK to celebrate their works and activities by celebrating art and heritage as part of their MACFEST Day in their schools and colleges.

- Kirsty Swift, Assistant Headteacher, Freehold Community Primary Academy, Oldham.
- Michelle McLaughlin, Trafford Group of Colleges, Stockport.
- Tahani Anani, Manchester Academy.
- Donna Johnson, Co-Headteacher, Levenshulme High School, Manchester.

Hosted by: Jackie Fahey, Academy Headteacher, Whalley Range 11-18 School, Manchester.



## CHS South School is Celebrating MACFEST

**Date:** Friday, 21st June

**Time:** 12.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** CHS South School, 451 Mauldeth Rd W, Manchester M21 7SX

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Welcome to CHS South' School hosting their first MACFEST!

Join CHS South's School's Great Get Together and Culture Evening, celebrating the rich diversity of our school.

CHS South School is delighted to celebrate the rich diversity of the school including art, architecture, literature, poetry and heritage.

Hosted by: Ms Sue Burke, Deputy Headteacher.



# Burnage Academy for Boys

**Date:** Friday, 28th June

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Burnage Academy for Boys, Burnage Lane, Manchester M19 1ER

**Tickets:** Invitation Only



Join the staff and pupils of Burnage Academy for Boys who are delighted to participate in MACFEST 2024, celebrating the diverse cultural heritage of the pupils on their special culture day!

We are pleased to celebrate the opulent tapestry of Islamic art, poetry, literature and heritage. We will be celebrating Eid-al-Fitr with various cultural activities.

Hosted by: Yasmin Ahmed, Head of Computing and Mr Greg Morrison, Associate Assistant Headteacher, Head of Languages.



# Manchester Academy School Celebrates MACFEST!

**Date:** Friday, 5th July

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Manchester Academy, Moss Lane East, Moss Side, M14 4PX

**Tickets:** Invitation Only



Join Manchester Academy for the third time as they celebrate MACFEST 2024!

Manchester Academy will celebrate with the whole school! The students and teachers will take part in many activities celebrating their history and cultural heritage.

The celebration will also include special cultural activities and displays, hosted by some parents, carers and the wider community.

Hosted by: James Eldon, Principal, Saima Baksh and Tahani Anani, teachers.





# Muslim Women's — Arts Festival —

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women

**20 Events!**

**March - June 2024**

Saturday, 2nd March 2024, 10.00am  
The Whitworth Art Gallery



@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation  
@mwartfoundation

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**



Muslim Women's Arts  
— Foundation —  
Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women



# Welcome to the Muslim Women's Arts Festival!

**Welcome to the third Muslim Women's Arts Festival! Supported by Muslim Women's Arts Foundation.**

We are delighted to offer you a feast celebrating Muslim Women in the creative industries from the North West and across the world!

Join us on 2nd March at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

We have a marvellous selection of events in store for the whole family, including art exhibitions, Turkish folk dance, cultural hubs, calligraphy workshops, performances, as well as many other fun activities!

An exciting opportunity for the whole family to explore their creativity whilst guided by the expertise of Muslim female artists!

Nearly all of our events are free. Donations are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us!



**Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP**

Founder, Executive Director and Producer of MACFEST



# ALL DAY ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

## Cultural Hubs

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an art, culture, and heritage feast!

Explore our cultural hub presentations from around the world, curated by our local Muslim women.

Sudanese – Hind Gaily; Egyptian - Alaa Zalat; Kurdish - Beena Nouri; Iraqi - Ban Saleh; Palestinian - Munira Alsusa; and Libyan - Nafeesa Madani.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us with Farhat Kalsoom Javid for a fascinating and intricate card making session!

Farhat entered into cardmaking for that necessary 'me time' that we all need. Now it has become her passion and wherever she goes and whatever she sees, she is always thinking of new ways to style these beautiful cards.

We will be offering 4 short 45-minutes card making workshops throughout the day. There are 12 spaces in each workshop, they will be open to those who have booked through our Eventbrite and are on our list. Parents will need to show proof of each child's booking confirmation.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Henna Body Painting

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a fun and creative activity for adults - henna painting with Khadija Kemlaoui.



## Children's Face Painting with Farina Arshad

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Bring your children along to this fun packed, colourful and creative face painting session with Farina Arshad.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

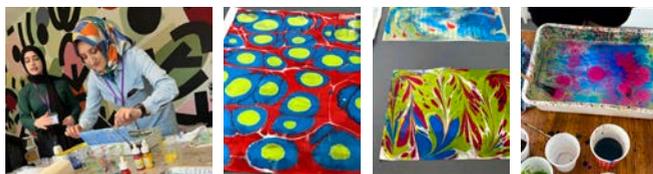
**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting activity for children to get creative with marble painting with Rabia Avci.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time |** Workshop One:  
11.00 - 12.00 | Workshop  
Two: 14.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting calligraphy demonstration for children with Farzana Patel from Blackburn.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Art Exhibition and Workshop by Yaran North West Manchester

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a relaxing session of art movement therapy, with two art therapists from Yaran North West.

They will engage with the audience, invite them to paint and share how movement can help us to relax. The workshop will end with a celebration of a big picture painted by our participants and artists.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Mosaic Art Workshop and Exhibition with Zareena Bano

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)  
| Workshop: 14.00 - 16.00

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Workshop £10, register on Eventbrite

Come and join in this fun and enjoyable creative art workshop where you will have the fantastic opportunity to make a beautiful unique personal piece of artwork to take away.

In the session, you will be encouraged to explore and express your personal creativity by taking inspiration from designs of the mosaic world, books and artwork.

You will design your own pattern and inlay a wide choice of materials (mosaic tiles, mirrors, beads, sequins, buttons, glass stones, shells, jewellery parts, upcycled items) on a wooden frame. Please feel free to bring anything you would like to use to embellish.



## Exhibition by Bradford Illumination Artist Ihssen Berrais

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition of illuminating paintings by Ihssen Berrais.



## Art Exhibition by Ashfia Ashrif

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Ashfia Ashrif from Altrincham. This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Art Exhibition by Beena Nouri - Sheba Arts

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Beena Nouri, an artist working with Sheba Arts, Greater Manchester. This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Art Exhibition by Aysha Yilmaz

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special art exhibition with Aysha Yilmaz from Bolton, who will showcase her work created around the environment, global warming and its effects on the Coral Reef!

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Glass, Mirrors and Wood Exhibition by Asmaa Al-Neama

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special art exhibition showcasing the work of Asmaa Al-Neama, who uses glass, mirrors and wood to create artwork.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



# Art Exhibition by Huda Nagi

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to host an exciting art exhibition by an artist from Liverpool, Huda Nagi.

This exhibition is in partnership with LAAF (Liverpool Arab Arts Festival). Liverpool Arab Arts Festival is an arts organisation based in Liverpool. The festival is designed to raise awareness of Arab arts and culture.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



# Art Exhibition by Venture Arts

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** All Day (from 10.30)

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an art exhibition by Muslim artists from Venture Arts.

Venture Arts is an award-winning visual arts organisation working with learning disabled artists.

Through studio programmes, exhibitions and collaborative projects, they remove barriers to the arts. Venture Arts put artists in the lead; they champion neurodiversity and provide pathways for every individual to develop their creative identity.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



## Morning Meditative Floral Art Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** 10.30 - 11.45

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Come along to the festival and start your day with a relaxing meditative floral painting with Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and a student of Tehzip/ illumination.

Under the guidance of Ashfia, you will draw small flowers and then just simply paint them.

What a wonderful relaxing way to start the day!

Class is suitable for ages of 13 and over.



## Felting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz

**Date:** Saturday, 2nd March

**Time:** 10.00 - 11.30

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a creative session with Aysha on dry felting!

Join Aysha Yilmaz, an artist from Bolton, in a special felting workshop, which will explore how wool can be used creatively.

You will make a 3D needlefelted object such as a flower, hive, or a bee, using coloured dyed wools and a felting needle.

Aysha will take you step by step in producing your own textile piece.

This workshop is suitable for beginners.

All materials included.



# CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK 2024

## International Women's Day - Research Café: Women's Health

**Date:** Wednesday, 6th March

**Time:** 12.00 - 14.30

**Venue:** Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road Manchester M13 9PL

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special International Women's Day event, exploring inequalities in Muslim women's health and the impact that creative interventions can have on health and wellbeing.

To mark International Women's Day, join us for a research café event that explores the deep and widening health inequalities in England, and in particular how Muslim women experience health inequalities in their daily lives. We will examine the role and impact that creative interventions can have on women's health and wellbeing.

At this event you will hear from a panel of academic experts and you can discover more about current research taking place at the University of Manchester. You will also have the opportunity to hear from Zareena Bano, a Bradford-based mixed-media artist and creative arts tutor, with experience of teaching a wide range of local people in community venues.

Hear about Zareena's artistic journey and see some of her artwork on display, exploring different creative techniques and mediums.

This event is presented in partnership with MACFEST and the Creative Manchester and Health Inequalities research platforms at the University of Manchester.

Hosted by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Executive Director of MACFEST and Creative Manchester team.

Chief Guest: The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Mrs Mary-Liz Walker JP DL.

creativemcr



# Muslim Women Creative Speak Out: Celebrate International Women's Day 2024!

**Date:** Friday, 8th March

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Muslim women celebrate International Women's Day!

Join Dr Myriam Francois, an Irish-French writer, broadcaster, and documentary film director, for an exciting evening celebrating International Women Day!

Myriam will be in conversation with Aminah Mohammed, a singer; Ameenah Shaw, CEO and founder of NHT London; and Syirin Said, TV and radio presenter, a model, actor and a voice artist.

Our panellists will discuss International Women's Day 2024 campaign theme, 'Inspire Inclusion' and what it means for them. They will also discuss what this day means to them, their lives as Muslim women converts and their careers.

Hosted by: Dr Myriam Francois, writer, broadcaster and academic.

Chief Guest: Sharman Birtles MBE JP DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.



## Women's Eid Party

**Date:** Saturday, 27th April

**Time:** 13.00 - 16.00

**Venue:** Longsight Library, 519 Stockport Rd, Longsight, Manchester M12 4NE

**Tickets:** £10, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special women-only Eid event to celebrate Eid-al Fitr!

This gives an opportunity for women to celebrate their culture and heritage.

We will offer you a feast with fashion, poetry, food, entertainment and a female DJ!

All women welcome!

Entertainment by: DJ Nawara, Researcher, Choreographer and founder of Funoon Dance Magreb.

Chief Guest: Cllr. Yasmine Darr, Lord Mayor of Manchester.





## Afghani Women Artists: Freedom of Expression Through Art - Hello from Afghanistan!

**Date:** Sunday, 28th April

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

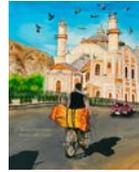
Join us for an exciting panel with 4 women artists from Kabul.

The Afghani women artists will share their individual exhibitions of paintings.

They will also discuss what it is like as artists, as women creatives, living in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

Hosted by: Interim Professor Dr. Raphaelle Beecroft, Chair of the English Department, Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany.

Chief Guest: Chris Sacarbany, Executive Director of *Foundation for Ethnic Understanding* and MACFEST advisor.



## Comedy with Ola Labib: The Art of Living a Double Life

**Date:** Sunday, 12th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Ola Labib, comedian, writer and actress as she discusses her use of comedy as a member of the Sudanese diaspora to build a bridge between her British and Sudanese identity.

Ola will talk about how she feels she is neither accepted as fully British nor as fully Sudanese and how comedy is a big component that connects the two.

Hosted by: Nabz Pat, writer and stand-up comedian.



## Confidently Embracing Faith Through Hijab

**Date:** Saturday, 25th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Luljeta Halimi on this inspiring journey of faith and hijab, where confidence takes center stage.

Discover the keys to confidently expressing your faith as we explore the world of hijab and the profound connections it has to faith and identity. Our diverse panel of guests will delve into topics such as the spiritual connection, confidence beyond attire, practical hijab solutions, and embracing imperfections.

Presented by: Luljeta Halimi, TV producer and host.

Hosted by: Professor Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas, Author, Award-winning educator, Fashion lover, Professor of Marketing and Sustainable Business at British School of Fashion, GCU London.



## Our Migrant Stories with Manchester Histories Festival

**Date:** Sunday, 9th June

**Time:** TBC

**Venue:** TBC

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Karen Shannon, CEO of Manchester Histories, for a riveting panel!

Hear the migration stories of three Muslim women migrants, sharing their life experiences and how they came to set up their lives in the city of Manchester.

- Dudiya Zilic from Bosnia - a refugee who fled the Bosnian war.
- Nilofer Siddiqi from India - who arrived with a relative for health care reasons.
- Nafeesa Madani from Libya - who arrived as a child with her family.

They will talk about their triumphs and challenges in settling into the wonderful city of Manchester.

This panel is part of Muslim Women's Festival and in partnership with Manchester Histories and part of the 200th-anniversary of the University of Manchester Festival weekend. 6th - 9th June 2024.

Hosted by: Karen Shannon, Chief Executive, FRSA - Honorary Research Fellow, University of Manchester.





## Sudanese Culture and Cuisine with Hind Gaily

**Date:** Sunday, 23rd June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Hind Gaily, a teacher in an exciting panel where you will learn all about Sudanese culture and tradition!

Sudan is distinguished by its geographical and cultural diversity, and this is reflected in the diversity of customs, traditions, and even food, which differ from one region to another somewhat in name, but often have the same ingredients. There are many Sudanese dishes that are served on various occasions.

The most famous dishes known in Sudan are fava beans, falafel, porridge, kasha, qarasa, malah, ribs, various salads, and various desserts.

Hosted by: Catherine Thornhill, Head Bookworm of ShelterBox Book Club.



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

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# RAMADAN AND EID CELEBRATIONS

## Albanian Ramadan Delights: Harmony of Faith, Flavour and Tradition

**Date:** Sunday, 17th March

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

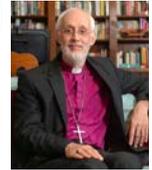
**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Celebrate the month of Ramadan with Luljeta Halimi, an Albanian researcher and producer at Islam Channel. Luljeta will showcase and celebrate Albanian culture, heritage and cuisine. She will share her expertise in the cultural and religious aspects of Albanian life, as well as giving us a valuable insight into her dedication to fostering intercultural understanding.

Joining her from Albania will be Arjola Buzi, a Lifestyle Journalist and Communication Specialist. She will explain more about the Albanian traditions and customs. Known for her passion for cultural exploration, engaging storytelling and a deep understanding of heritage, Arjola will be the perfect host for this event.

Hosted by: Arjola Buzi, Lifestyle Journalist and Communication Specialist.

Chief Guest: The Right Reverend, Prof David Walker, Bishop of Manchester.



## MACFEST Iftar with our Partners

**Date:** Saturday, 23rd March

**Time:** 19.30 - 22.00

**Venue:** Khizra Mosque, 25 Cheetham Hill Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester M8 0PF

**Tickets:** £10, register on Eventbrite

MACFEST is delighted to host an Iftar event, with Khizra Mosque in Manchester.

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 to learn about the month of Ramadan. A special welcome to our guests from Manchester Lit & Phil Society, with whom we have partnered for this event.

Hosted by: Jawad and Sajjid Amin, Qaisra Shahraz MBE, and Ian Cameron, Vice President of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

Chief Guest: Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar, Director of MACFEST UK.



**Manchester  
Lit & Phil**



## Food and Identity in Muslim Spain (Al-Andalus)

**Date:** Sunday, 24th March

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

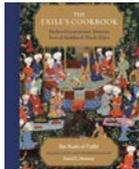
**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Professor Daniel Newman, an author and historian, as he shares his passion for bringing mediaeval Arab dishes to life in his most recent book *'The Exile's Cookbook: Medieval Gastronomic Treasures from al-Andalus and North Africa'*.

The period of Arab rule for parts of the Iberian Peninsula was marked by great cultural achievements, including in the culinary arts. The cuisine reveals the intensity of exchanges with other parts of the Muslim world, as well as the interrelationships between the various communities within this multiconfessional space.

The talk will discuss the recipe collections reflecting gastronomy and foodways, the emergence of a regional cuisine, the links with religion and identity, and the influence on the development of mediaeval European food.

Hosted by: Andrew Nowell, press officer for the Nature Friendly Farming Network and former Manchester journalist.



## Eid Celebration Multilingual Mushaira and Poetry

**Date:** Sunday, 21st April

**Time:** 13.00 - 16.00

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** £10, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an entertaining multilingual poetry and Mushaira feast, as we celebrate the written and spoken word with Muslim poets from around the UK and abroad!

We present to you an enchanting poetry recital in different languages.

They include: Ibraheem Iqbal Poet from Birmingham; Leyla Colpan, Turkish poet. In Farsi with: Shahireh Sharif and Syed Rizvi Hasan from USA.

We will also be joined by some poets from Circle of Literary Friends for a Mushaira in South Asian languages.

Hosted by: Rubina Khan, Poet and BBC Radio Presenter.

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





## Picnic in the Park and Manchester Walk

**Date:** Sunday, 5th May

**Time:** 12.00 - 16.00

**Venue:** Platt Fields Park,  
Fallowfield, Manchester  
M14 6LA

**Tickets:** £5, register on  
Eventbrite (meal included)

Walk and Celebrate Eid with us!

Join us for a special walking event held at the Platt Fields Park in Fallowfield, Manchester. This event supports Manchester Walking Festival in May.

After a walk around the park we will have our MACFEST picnic and share food from around the world. Also a great opportunity to relax and make new friends.

All welcome and bring your food!

Hosted by: MACFEST team.

Greater Manchester  
**Walking**



## Musical Performance at the Lowry, Salford

**Date:** Saturday, 22nd June

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30

**Venue:** The Lowry, Pier  
8, The Quays, Salford,  
Manchester,  
M50 3AZ

**Tickets:** £10, register on  
Eventbrite

Hello from Salford!

Join us for a marvellous Eid musical evening at the Lowry theatre in Salford Quays.

Like our previous festivals, we have a musical feast in store for you with two talented and highly entertaining group of singers and musicians from the North West.

They are: the Pakistani Urooj Qawal Group and the Syrian Damascus Breeze band for traditional and Nasheed songs.

Introduced by: Matthew Eames, Head of Theatres (Contemporary and Commissioning).



# MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES FESTIVAL

## Manchester Museum: A Decolonial Approach Towards Islamic Cultural Objects

**Date:** Saturday, 18th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Dr. Njabulo Chipangura, Curator of Living Cultures at Manchester Museum for an exciting panel on Islamic Cultural Objects!

He will look at some of the practical strategies of collaborating with diaspora and descendant communities in giving new meanings and biographies to materialities that are connected to Islamic cultural traditions.

The discussion will also problematise the colonial context through which these objects were acquired by the British empire during various episodes of colonial rule in Asia and Africa.

Introduced by: Nusrat Ahmed, South Asia Gallery Community Producer.



## Stories and Storytelling in Islamic Manuscript - John Rylands Library, Manchester, UK

**Date:** Tuesday, 23rd May

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join researcher Jake Benson to discover the myriad tales and spell-binding illustrations found in the Islamic manuscripts at Manchester's John Rylands Library.

This virtual event will take you up-close and personal with storytelling traditions from across the Islamic world.

Jake will turn the pages of some of the Rylands's most beautiful illustrated manuscripts, written in Arabic, Farsi and Turkish. From the famous telling by Scheherazade of the 'Thousand and One Nights', to animal fables like Kalilah wa Dimna and tales of star-crossed lovers, you are sure to be enchanted.

Introduced by: Elizabeth Gow, Manuscript Curator.





## Hello from National Scotland Library!

**Date:** Saturday, 15th/22nd June

**Time:** Details available from the library

**Venue:** National Scotland Library, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1EW, United Kingdom

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Edinburgh!

Over the course of MACFEST 2024, the National Library of Scotland will be inviting Muslim community groups and organisations to visit the Library for an introductory tour and a handling session with items from our collections.

Items that might be of interest include: editions of the Qur'an in Arabic and in translation; books on Islamic culture; calligraphy; art and architecture from around the world; early Arabic books printed in Europe; theological commentaries; scholarly and academic works; and magazines, leaflets, posters and other ephemera, often produced by local communities in response to contemporary events.

Library curators, Patrick Hart, Dora Petherbridge, and colleagues will be on hand to answer visitors' questions, and we will tailor visits and the items shown to the interests of the visiting group.



## Eid Science Extravaganza at the Science and Industry Museum

**Date:** Sunday, 7th July

**Time:** 10.00 - 17.00

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

**Tickets:** Free, drop-in. Tickets for this event are available to book in advance from the Science and Industry Museum.

Join us for a unique and inclusive celebration at the Eid Science Extravaganza, presented by the Rochdale Science Initiative C.I.C in partnership with the Science and Industry Museum and MACFEST!

It's a one-day science festival for the whole family, where we combine the excitement of Eid with the wonders of science.

Discover the science behind Eid traditions, like the lunar phases and henna dye. Create solar-powered Eid cards, explore interactive exhibits, watch fascinating demonstrations, and get hands-on with creative activities and workshops.

Book a free museum admission ticket and enjoy this event as part of a visit to the museum. Plan your visit at [scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk](http://scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk)



# Sacred Traditions: Highlights from the Islamic Collections at Chester Beatty, Dublin - Hello from Ireland!

Date: Saturday, 27th July

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Dublin!

Join us for a special event hosted from the Chester Beatty museum, a national cultural institution located in Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland.

Chester Beatty holds over 25,000 objects from across Asia, Africa and Europe, centring on the arts of the book. This includes wonderful collections from the Islamic world, which feature in two of our permanent galleries.

Dr Moya Carey will introduce the current displays in the Chester Beatty's Sacred Traditions gallery, from Cairo Qur'an scrolls to an Istanbul qibla-finder.

Detail of CBL Is 1624 (Qur'an scroll, 763H/1362)

Detail of CBL Ar 3113 (Treatise on the Prophet's sandals, 1071H/1661)

Presented by: Dr Moya Carey, Curator of Islamic Collections at Chester Beatty.

Hosted by: Aicha Boubaker, Journalist and TV Producer.

Chief Guest: Shatha Redha Hassan Salman Nasser, Senior Librarian, Dubai Library, Arab Emirates.



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# FESTIVAL OF CALLIGRAPHY AND ARTS

## Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz

**Date:** Saturday, 4th May

**Time:** 13.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** Manchester Central Library, Saint Peter's Square Manchester M2 5PD

**Tickets:** £10, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a creative session with Aysha on silk painting!

In this workshop, motifs and designs from The Silk Road (Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkey etc.) will be used to produce a Silk Painting.

Aysha will demonstrate how to apply the design to the Silk fabric from a drawing, followed by techniques of filling in with Silk paints.

A briefing will be given by Aysha on how silk is produced and it's origins. She will also touch upon the origins of the motifs used.

Hosted by: Danny Middleton, Service Development Officer, Central Library.



## Turkish Illumination Art with Ashfia Ashrif

**Date:** Wednesday, 15th May

**Time:** 13.30 - 15.30

**Venue:** Elizabeth Gaskell's House, 84 Plymouth Grove Manchester M13 9LW

**Tickets:** £10, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting Turkish/Ottoman illuminated floral arts workshop with Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and a student of Tehzip/illumination.

Those, who have attended Ashfia's workshop last year, will have a chance to enhance their skills during this session.

During the demonstration she will also speak about her journey as an artist and showcase some of her work.

Introduced by: Sally Jastrzebski-Lloyd, Manager, Elizabeth Gaskell House.





## Chinese Calligraphy with Samar Farooq

**Date:** Saturday, 11th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Discover the beauty of Arabic Calligraphy in Chinese Tradition (aka Sini) with a celebrated calligrapher Samar Farooq.

Sini Calligraphy is the artistic script dating back to the 14th century. Where Arabic calligraphy follows strict rules with proportions, sini calligraphy is completely free of rules. The main focus is on the beauty and balance of the composition.

Samar will take you through her calligraphy journey and show some of her artwork including homework pieces she created for her teacher, Hajinoor Deen. She will also do a demonstration which will include what materials are used and how to write this script.

Hosted By: Ryan Humphrey, Lecturer in Arts and Cultural Management, University of Manchester.



## Islamic Calligraphy with Samir Malik

**Date:** Saturday, 29th June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

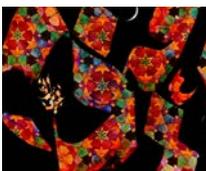
Join Samir Malik - a pioneer of the current revival and reinvention of Islamic Calligraphy in the west, on a fascinating journey into the touching and moving side to calligraphies.

Samir's work draws roots and inspiration from his travels across the globe and meetings with extraordinary human beings, including artists and spiritual teachers of all disciplines. He fuses different artistic traditions in his work, utilising classical and digital mediums.

His calligraphies and art can be found in a number of Mosques around the London area, private collections all over the world, in periodicals and books, as well as the UK National Collection.

Hosted By: Brendan Fletcher SFHEA, Subject Group Head Art & Design, Programme Leader Fine Art / Senior Lecturer, University of Salford.

Chief Guest: Paul Vivian, Post Compulsory Education, Senior Fellow Adv HE, Director of Art and Design, University of Salford.



# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

## Food and the Fine Arts of Healing - Hello from the USA!

**Date:** Sunday, 31st March

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Shadab and Yvonne from the USA talking about food and the fine arts of healing.

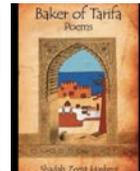
Muslim cultures have long used culinary, literary, architectural and other forms of the arts - for healing and nourishment. In this session, culinary expert Yvonne Maffei and Shadab Zeest Hashmi, poet and essayist, will discuss the tradition of healing the body, mind and soul through food and the fine arts.

Yvonne will touch upon the development of remedies and medicinal recipes in the context of the Islamic kitchen. She will also share some simple and nutritive recipes.

Shadab will approach the topic of healing from the aesthetic and spiritual point of view, focusing on the Muslim contributions in the science and art of healthy living. She will also share a few poems and prose passages on the topic of health and aesthetics.

Presented by: Yvonne Maffei, culinary expert and Shadab Zeest Hashmi, poet and essayist.

Hosted by: Janet De Neefe, author and Founder Director Ubud Writers & Readers Festival.



## First Moroccans in Manchester - Hello from Morocco!

**Date:** Saturday, 6th April

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

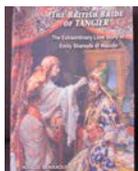
Join Dr Khalid Bekkioue in this exciting panel as he sheds light on the journeys and settlements of Moroccan merchants in Manchester during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

He will explore the intricate cultural exchanges, economic interactions, and social dynamics that characterized this cross-cultural encounter. Additionally, he will discuss the involvement of Muslim women in the global mobility and diaspora experience.

By examining the experiences of Moroccan merchants in Britain, Dr Khalid will offer insights into the broader narrative of Muslim migration to Christian lands, uncovering their stories as well as the impact of their presence on both Moroccan and British societies. Through his presentation he aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the interconnected histories that have shaped the multicultural tapestry of modern Britain.

Hosted by: Jack Welsh, Head of Programming / Deputy Director, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival.

Chief Guest: Sarah Mangan, Consul General of Ireland.



## Photography: Issues of Culture and Identity with Hasan and Husain Essop from Cape Town

**Date:** Sunday, 26th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from South Africa!

Join Becky Alexis Martin for a fascinating conversation with award-winning artists-photographers and teachers, Hasan and Husain Essop, from Cape Town, South Africa.

The twin brothers and collaborators, will discuss how through their photography, they try to gain a deeper understanding of themselves, while attempting to engage on issues of culture, place, religion and identity of the East and West.

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

Chief Guest: Sara Russell, Documentary photographer.





## Indonesian Culture and Heritage!

**Date:** Sunday, 16th June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Jakarta!

Join three Indonesian Lecturers Harry Nuriman, Iwan Sulistiawan and Rini Maulina for a special insight into Indonesian culture.

Harry and Iwan will share their passion for their project on electric guitars shaped into two Indonesian traditional weapons Kujang and Trisula (Trident). They will highlight how the making of electric guitars in the shape of Indonesian traditional weapons is an effective way to conserve cultural artefacts, and to celebrate Sundanese local philosophy and wisdom.

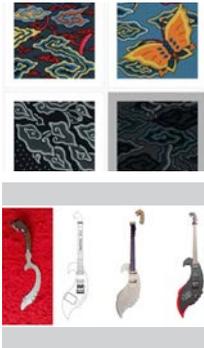
Rini Maulina, a batik artist will enchant us with the art of batik painting: focusing on the practice of making Batik with Mega Mendung style, as well as the style of Batik from Cirebon, West Java.

The event will end with Harry and Iwan giving a short musical performance using their special guitars.

Presenters: Harry Nuriman, Faculty of Art and Design, Institut Teknologi Bandung, Iwan Sulistiawan, University of LIA, Jakarta and Rini Maulina, Universitas Komputer Indonesia, Bandung.

Hosted by: Dr Richard Fay, Senior Lecturer in Intercultural Education and Intercultural Musicking, University of Manchester.

Chief Guest: Ken Atik, Senior Lecturer of Textile and Fashion Craft.





# Calligraphy, Carpet Weaving and Miniature Painting

**Date:** Sunday, 7th July

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Pakistan!

Join Pakistani diplomat, Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, renowned for his advocacy of Pakistan's rich traditional arts and crafts, for a riveting session celebrating the Exhibition *"Pakistan's Islamic culture: A timeless Legacy."*

With presenters: Akhtar Nazir khan, Asghar Ali and Sumaira Amin, he will focus on three Pakistani art forms: Calligraphy, Mughal style miniature and carpet weaving. A world of devotion to Allah is rendered in the form of calligraphy.

The Miniature artists capture stories with intricate precision, while carpets constitute woven narrative of Pakistani culture. This is a realm where culture, craftsmanship, and history entwine in a mesmerizing display of artistic talent.

Presenters: Akhtar Nazir khan, Asghar Ali, Sumaira Amin

Hosted by: Ambassador Imran Ahmed Siddique, Pakistani diplomat and advocate for Pakistani traditional arts and crafts.

Chief Guest: Tariq Wazir, Consul General of Pakistan, Manchester.





## Ilyas Mao: Nasheed Singer and Composer

**Date:** Saturday, 13th July

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Canada!

Ilyas Mao, a globally influenced artist born in Somalia and raised in Pakistan and Canada, uniquely blends traditional and modern influences in his music.

He's known for pioneering the use of his voice and mouth to create soundtracks for films, documentaries, and cartoons, with one of his songs featured in the prestigious Apple TV+ series, "Little America." With over 50 million streams online, Ilyas excels as a singer, songwriter, composer, producer, actor, and entrepreneur.

He founded Vocal Tunez, a pioneering A Cappella production house, collaborating with industry giants. His music resonates worldwide, and his dynamic stage presence connects with diverse audiences, pushing the boundaries of creativity in the arts.

Hosted by: Asma Younas, host and radio presenter.



## Celebrating Emirati Culture, Cuisine and Heritage!

**Date:** Sunday, 14th July

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Dubai, the Emirates!

Join us for an amazing celebration of Emirati culture, cuisine and heritage from Dubai!

Sharifa Tamsin and her husband Rashid will take you on an incredible cultural journey. You will learn about Emirati food, fashion, cultural norms, artefacts and the significance of Eid and preparations for the holiday in the UAE community.

Hosted by: Sherifa Tamsin Madgwick and Rashid Al Tamimi.

Chief Guest: Dr Jane Ali-Knight, Professor in Festival and Event Management, Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, Scotland.





## Books, Books, Books with Rukhsanna Guidroz! From Spark to Story: The Journey of Samira Surfs

**Date:** Sunday, 21st July

**Time:** 16.00 - 17.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, Register on Eventbrite

Hello from Hawaii!

Join Rukhsanna Guidroz, a successful children's author as she reveals her methods for transforming an abstract idea into a novel for young children.

Her discussion on Samira Surfs includes insights into overcoming writer's block and how trusting your instinct is the key to success.

From the inception of an idea to a finished novel ready for publication, Rukhsanna will share her intimate writing journey with you.

Rukhsanna Guidroz, born in Manchester, is a former elementary school teacher. Her Persian-Indian father and Chinese mother inspired her love for traveling. After studying in London and Paris, she moved to Hong Kong where she worked as a journalist. She now lives in Hawaii.

Hosted by: Professor John McAuliffe, Author, Co-Director, Centre and a Reader in Modern Literature and Creative Writing, University of Manchester.



# NORTH-WEST FESTIVAL

## Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture: Hopwood Hall College - Hello from Rochdale!

**Date:** Friday, 16th February

**Time:** 13.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** Hopwood Hall College, St. Mary's Gate, Rochdale, OL12 6RY

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Hello from Rochdale!

Join us as we host our special event, celebrating 'Folktales from around the world'

To celebrate MACFEST, Hopwood Hall College will be presenting folktales and traditional stories from around the world. This is a creative opportunity to explore language and culture in an accessible way.

Hosted by: ESOL team - Laura Wiggin ESOL Program Manager.

Chief Guest: Julia Heap, Principal and CEO.



## Bury MACFEST - Hello from Bury!

**Date:** Sunday, 25th February

**Time:** 16.00 - 19.00

**Venue:** Bury Met, Market St, Bury BL9 0BW

**Tickets:** Free, Register on Eventbrite

Welcome to Bury MACFEST!

Join us for a journey through the Middle East in the West with The BAME Project.

Prepare to be mesmerised by South Asian Fashion and for your breath to be taken away by the art of South Asian Dancing. Aesthetic Arabic Calligraphy, Entertainment, Heavenly Henna, Painting, Authentic Asian Food tasters all under one roof!

All this and more to be explored!

Chief Guest: Qaisra Shahraz MBE, MACFEST Executive Director.





# Celebrating Muslim Culture and Heritage: Stockport, Cheadle and Trafford Colleges - Hello from Cheshire!

**Date:** Monday, 26th February - Thursday, 29th February

**Time:** All-Day

**Venue:** Stockport College, Wellington Rd S, Stockport SK1 3UQ

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

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

The Trafford College Group is proud to announce that they will be hosting MACFEST in March 2024!

Join us for various art and cultural activities with staff and students to celebrate diversity and Muslim heritage. They are delighted at the opportunity to celebrate the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival: with their community partners, Trafford, Stockport, and Cheadle Colleges.

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." There will be food, art, literature, and a henna demonstration!





## Celebrate Eid with Rumi and Music - Hello from Huddersfield!

**Date:** Sunday, 13th April

**Time:** 2.30 - 16.00

**Venue:** Attic Theatre,  
Lawrence Bentley  
Theatre, Queen Street,  
Huddersfield, HD1 2SP

**Tickets:** TBC, register on  
Eventbrite

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 is 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: Michelle Hodgson, Director of Huddersfield Literature Festival.



## The City of Liverpool College - Hello from Liverpool!

**Date:** Monday, 15th April

**Time:** 12.00 - 15.00

**Venue:** The City Of  
Liverpool College, Roscoe  
St, Liverpool, L1 9DW

**Tickets:** Invitation Only

Liverpool City College offers an art and cultural feast to celebrate Eid-al-Fitr!

Hosted by the ESOL department, students and teachers will showcase an art exhibition, including works by Muslim artists, as well as enjoy performances by local Muslim singers and international cuisine!

Hosted by: Beverley Abbott, Student Engagement Officer; ESOL department; students and teachers.





## Felting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz

**Date:** Saturday, 11th May

**Time:** 10.00 - 12.00

**Venue:** Bolton Library and Museum, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton , BL1 1SE

**Tickets:** £10, Register on Eventbrite

Hello from Bolton!

Join Aysha Yilmaz, an artist from Bolton, in a special felting workshop, which will explore how wool can be used creatively.

You will make a 3D needlefelted object such as a flower, hive, or a bee, using coloured dyed wools and a felting needle.

Aysha will take you step by step in producing your own textile piece. This workshop is suitable for beginners.

All materials included.



## Islamophobia and Muslims in the media

**Date:** Saturday 1st June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a lively discussion on the topic of Islamophobia, with a panel of an amazing group of Muslims.

What is it like for British Muslims in the UK and around the world, faced with anti-Muslim hatred and the rise in hate crimes? What are the solutions?

With:

- Jennifer Ogunyemi, TV presenter.
- Samina Yasmeen, Professor and Director, Centre for Muslim States and Societies, The University of Western Australia, Perth.
- Samira Ali, 3rd year student at Goldsmiths, University of London, studying Sociology.

Hosted by: Dr Myriam Francois, Journalist, Filmmaker and Writer.

Chief Guest: Nihad Awad, Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, USA.



# FESTIVAL OF WORDS AND BOOKS

## Celebrating Poetry and International Mother Tongue Language Day!

**Date:** Tuesday, 27th February

**Time:** 18.00 - 19.00

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting event with Prof. Yaron Matras and young people from all over the UK, on a literary and poetic journey as we celebrate International Mother Language Day and our environment!

Professor Yaron will introduce the main language communities, with a focus on the language of the city's Muslim populations. He will discuss how information on languages is compiled, what functions languages have, and what multilingual spaces exist in the city.

- Amal Mohammad Yousaf and Donia Fellag, Whalley Range 11-18 High School.
- Hopwood Hall College student.
- Kunza Khan, University of Salford.
- Sameeha Mahmad, Woodford County High School London.
- Withington Girls School student.
- Ayesha Nadeem, Hasna Raza and Huneza Ali, Levenshulme High School
- Mukhtar Omar Mukhlis, King Edward's School, Birmingham

Hosted by: Donna Johnson and Neil Johnson, Headteachers of Levenshulme High School, Manchester.

Presented by: Yaron Matras, linguist, University of Manchester, specializing in Romani and other languages, including Middle Eastern languages.

Chief Guest: John Cloughton, former Chief Master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, and co-founder of WoLLoW, World of Languages, Languages of the World.





## Seeing Britain Through the Eyes of an Insider/Outlier: In Conversation with Author, Professor Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

**Date:** Saturday, 9th March

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

In a second special collaboration with the Manchester Lit & Phil Society, we are delighted to host an 'in-conversation' event with the well-known, multi award-winning journalist, author, radio and TV broadcaster commentator, Professor Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, FRSL.

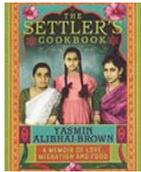
Led by the Manchester Lit & Phil's former President, Ian Cameron, the conversation with Yasmin will be a celebration of her glittering writing career, her personal beliefs and values she holds dear: on Feminism, Culture, Art and Activism as well as about her life in Uganda, at the time of Idi Amin's forced expulsion of Asians.

She will share her passion for championing a host of worthy causes, and being an influential voice for the unheard. She will also offer her personal and nuanced views on matters that continue to demand our attention - including diversity, equality, inclusion, freedom of expression, racism and populism.

In this hard-hitting discussion, Yasmin will be asked questions such as: what is the state of multiculturalism in Britain today? Does she see it as an unqualified success, or in dire need of re-evaluation? And something many of us have been reflecting on in recent years: what does it mean to be British today?

Hosted by: Ian Cameron, Vice President of the Manchester Lit & Phil.

**Manchester  
Lit & Phil**





## Books with Sefi Atta

Date: Saturday, 15th June

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

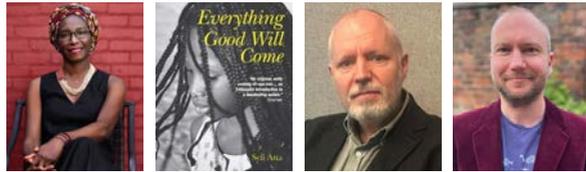
Hello from the USA!

Join Sefi Atta, an internationally renowned award-winning Nigerian-American novelist, short-story writer, playwright and screenwriter.

She will discuss her books *“Everything Good Will Come”* and *“The Bad Immigrant”*, and how she shows the differences across class, generation, gender, faith, language and tradition. The conversation will revolve around the modern migration experiences and realities, such as the loss of identity, tensions within family, interracial and intraracial polarities and the issues of adjustment.

Hosted by: Simon Guerrier, writer, producer, author of *“Sherlock Holmes - The Great War”* (Titan, 2021) and chair of the Books Committee for the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain.

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



## David Hirsh: Comic Books - Hello from Dubai!

Date: Saturday, 6th July

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Dr David Hirsh an American librarian, globe trotter and a linguist, as he explores how comics in the Arab world have a rich and diverse history that spans several decades. They have served as a medium for storytelling, artistic expression, and cultural reflection in the region.

Throughout the years, Arab comics have explored a wide range of themes, from social and political issues, to fantasy and science fiction, providing a unique platform for artists to engage with their audience. Some are translations of American, Japanese and French comics and some are original Arabic publications. Arab comics make significant contributions to the global comic book industry while maintaining their unique regional identity.

Hosted by: Gabrielle Adlestone, former teacher and magistrate.



مكتبة  
محمد بن راشد  
Mohammed bin Rashid Library





# Abdullah Quilliam Mosque & The First Muslim Community in the UK

Date: Saturday, 20th July

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

Hello from Liverpool!

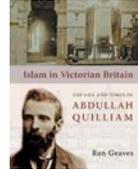
Join Professor Ron Geaves, an author and historian from Liverpool, who will be speaking about the community of Muslims established between 1889 and 1908 by Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam in Liverpool after his conversion to Islam in Morocco around 1887.

Abdullah Quilliam, also known as the "Sheikh al-Islam of the UK" created Britain's first registered Mosque in the city of Liverpool converting around 250 men and women in the city to Islam.

It was the first mosque in England situated at Brougham Terrace, Liverpool. For almost one hundred years this building was used as Liverpool Records of marriages and Births.

The staff who worked there used to refer to it as 'The Little Mosque' totally unaware that it was the first mosque in England and its historical value.

Hosted by: Mumin Khan, CEO of The Abdullah Quilliam Society.



## BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk) and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



# OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR PLANET

## Food Stories from the Middle East: What our Food tells us about culture and sustainability - Hello from Scotland!

Date: Sunday, 7th April

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello from Kilmarnock!

Join us for a mouth-watering session with Zarina Ahmad, a PhD Researcher in politics at the School of Social Sciences at the University of Manchester, sharing stories about food from 10 women who are all from different countries across the MENA region.

They will share information about their culture, homeland and what sustainability means in the food they eat through delicious recipes.

These recipes are endowed upon us with love to create again and again, bringing the aromas and taste of the Middle East into our homes.

Hosted by: Syirin Said, TV and radio presenter, a model, actor, voice artist and lover of Malaysian cuisine.

Chief Guest: Dr Mohammed Ali OBE, Founder & Chief Executive, QED Foundation.



# International Youth Speak Out on the Environment!

**Date:** Sunday, 19th May

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Hello and Salaam from around the world!

Join us as we are delighted to host a special panel with young people from five countries! School students will share thoughts about the environment in relation to their countries.

- Albjona Reci from Said Najdeni, Peshkopi School, Albania.
- Malak Osama Mohamed, Mansoura Secondary School for Girls in Mokhtalat Street, Egypt.
- Ismail Mohammed, Manchester Grammar School, UK.
- Silvia Masaud, Shaheed Bir Uttam Lt. Anwar's Girls' College and School, Bangladesh
- Shakira Sahla Sulistiawan, PB Soedirman 1 Islamic High School Bekasi, Greater Jakarta, Indonesia
- Muhammad Ali Khan, La Jolla High School, California, USA.

They will also discuss possible solutions to protect the environment and detect problems.

The students will be introduced by their teachers or headteachers.

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





## Islam and Caring for The Natural World

**Date:** Sunday, 2nd June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Dr Salah Eddine Al-Djazairi, historian and prolific author on Islamic civilisation, in conversation with Luzita Ball, Trustee at IFEEES Ecolslam, on Islam's view of nature and a code of conduct governing an individual's behaviour towards other sentient beings and the rest of the natural world.

Dr Saleh will present the environmental challenges faced by many Muslim countries and urge Muslims to act whilst there is time. Luzita will introduce us to the principles of how to make a positive impact, with some examples of good environmental management solutions.

Can we avert future tragedies and ensure a more sustainable and prosperous future for all?

Hosted by: Safiya Florence Ascoli-Ball, Director, Bayt Al-Hikma Productions.



## Creative Recycling with Love with Artist Alaa Zalat

**Date:** Sunday, 30th June

**Time:** 14.00 - 15.30

**Venue:** Digital

**Tickets:** Free, register on Eventbrite

Join artist and educator Alaa Zalat on an interactive, creative recycling workshop, giving new life and purpose to old things, which we all have and love.

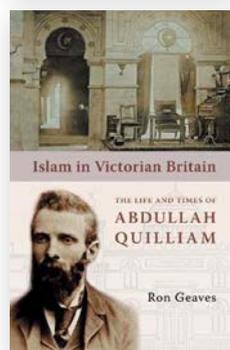
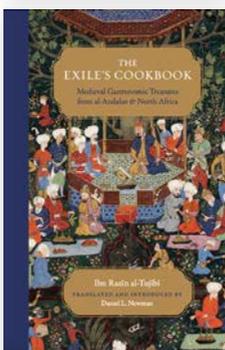
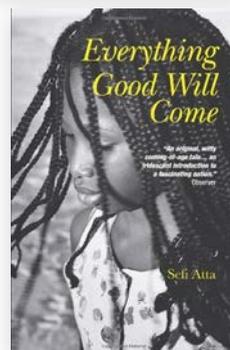
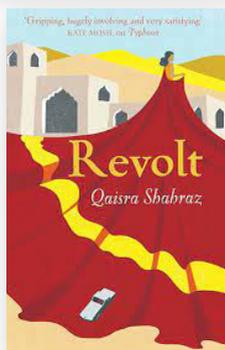
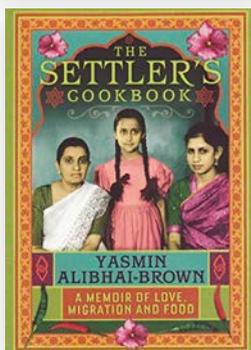
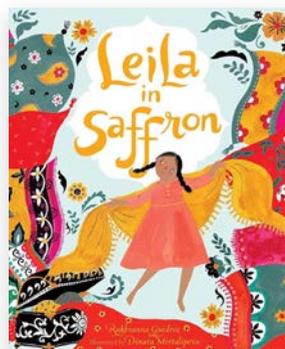
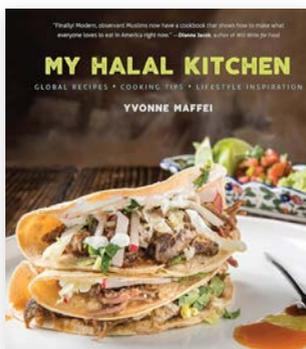
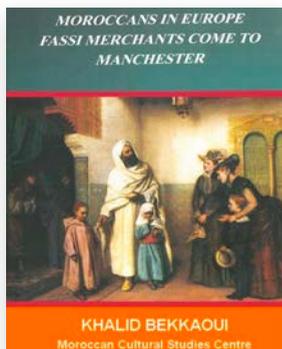
Alaa will take us through the process of making a self-portrait candle, which will reflect our personality, favourite colours and scent. In the second half of the session, Alaa will show how to preserve your memories with your children, making unique and meaningful pieces of art out of your favourite and loved items.

Hosted by: Alaa Zalat, Artist and MACFEST team member.



# MACFEST LIBRARY

Here is a collection of books written by some of MACFEST'S amazing panelists and participants, these books are discussed within their panels.



Book Titles and Authors from left to right: *Moroccans in Europe: Fassi Merchants Come to Manchester* - Written by: Khalid Bekkaoui, *My Halal Kitchen* - Written by: Yvonne Maffei, *Leila in Saffron* - Written by: Ruksanna Guidroz, *The Settler's Cookbook* - Written by: Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, *Revolt* - Written by: Qaisra Shahraz, *Everything Good Will Come* - Written by: Sefi Atta, *Destruction of the Environment in/of the Muslim World* - Written by: S.E. Al-Djazari, *The Exiles Cookbook: Medieval Gastronomic Treasures from al-Andalus and North Africa* - Written by: Ibn Razin Al-Tujibi, Translated and Introduced by: Daniel L. Newman, *Islam in Victorian Britain: The Life and Times of Abdullah Quilliam* - Written by: Ron Geaves



# MACFEST HERITAGE TOURS 2024



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*exploring the ummah*



# WELCOME TO MACFEST HERITAGE TOURS 2024!

Join us on our three amazing and culture rich Heritage Tours in 2024 to Türkiye, Liverpool and Azerbaijan!

There's a Tour for everyone! Join us in exploring the picturesque and breath-taking landscape of Türkiye whilst visiting spiritually uplifting mosques, visit the earliest recorded mosque in Britain: Abdullah Quilliam, situated in Liverpool and explore the captivating history of Azerbaijan by visiting pre-historic caves and sacred places such as the Shia and Sunni Mosques.

For more Information, Please contact:  
[tours@macfest.org.uk](mailto:tours@macfest.org.uk) | 020 8123 7861

## **TÜRKIYE – EXPLORING THE DELIGHTS OF CENTRAL ANATOLIA**

**Dates:** Saturday, Saturday 20th April – Saturday 27th April 2024

**Main Locations:** Cappadocia, Konya, Kuyucak & Pamukkale

Join us this spring on a captivating journey through Central Türkiye – a region blessed with dramatic terrain, quaint villages, underground caverns, and centuries old mosques. We travel through the dramatic landscapes of Cappadocia before visiting the spiritually uplifting mosques of Jalāluddīn Rūmi and Alā'uddīn Kaykubād in Konya. The tour is concluded in Pamukkale, famous for its thermal pools and the nearby Romans ruins of Hierapolis. Whether you've visited Türkiye previously or it's your first time, this specially curated tour promises to introduce you to parts of the country that you may not have known about.

The package costs £799 per person covering 7 nights in 4-star accommodation with breakfast and lunch, private ground transport, tour guide and entrance fees to historical sites. Flights are not included.



# UK HERITAGE TOUR - VISIT TO LIVERPOOL MOSQUE AND THE WORLD MUSUEM OF LIVERPOOL

**Date:** Sunday, 18th August 2024

**Time:** 12.00 - 16.00

**Addresses:** 8-10 Brougham Terrace, Liverpool L6 1AE (Mosque) | William Brown St, Liverpool, United Kingdom L3 8EN (Museum)

**Cost:** £10

Visiting the earliest recorded mosque in Britain which was founded in a Liverpool terrace house in 1889. The Muslim Institute was established by a group of 20 British converts to Islam, led by Sheikh Abdullah William Henry Quilliam (1856-1932). Our visit will take place for 2 hours between 12: 00 pm to 02: 00 pm, also those who are Muslims, will have the chance to do their Zuhr Prayer there. After that, there will be free time for everyone to have lunch and enjoy the city.

Later we will visit the World Museum of Liverpool where you will learn about its history.



## AZERBAIJAN - FROM THE CAUCASUS TO THE CASPIAN

**Dates:** Saturday, 5th October – Saturday, 12th October 2024

**Main Locations:** Baku, Shamakhi, Sheki, Gabala, Gobustan, Absheron and Candy Cane Mountains

Join us for an amazing trip to Azerbaijan; a fascinating country situated between the Caucasus Mountains and the Caspian Sea. It is where Europe meets Asia, and where centuries of Turkic and Persian influence have overlapped and enriched one another. Our journey begins in the vibrant capital Baku and takes us across the breadth of the country to the former Silk Road cities of Shamakhi, Sheki and Gabala which are important cultural centres of Azerbaijan. One of the highlights of this trip is the unique Gobustan region where ancient rock carvings depicting prehistoric life are preserved in an arid landscape featuring mud volcanoes. The tour will include visits to historical Shia and Sunni mosques, and other sacred places such as the Church of Kish and the Zoroastrian temple of Ateshgah.

The package costs £649 per person. This covers 4-star accommodation for 7 nights with breakfast, private transport, tour guide and entrance fees to historical sites. Flights are not included.





# MACFEST ARTS AWARDS

Launch: Saturday 2nd March, 11.30am,  
The Whitworth Art Gallery

MACFEST's first ever Muslim Arts Awards, will exhibit and award prizes to the finest work by North-West artists!

MACFEST Open Art Exhibition and Award Ceremony is in partnership with the University of Salford, School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology.

There are four categories: Calligraphy, Drawing, Painting and Photography. There will also be an Overall Prize Winner Award. It is open to all regional Muslim residents, above 18 years of age.

Selected artists will have their work exhibited at The University of Salford in November. All shortlisted artists will be entered into the awards.

Further details about the competition and guidelines on how to submit work to the Open Call, will be available on the MACFEST website in March.

<https://macfest.org.uk/arts-awards>



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# 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:

Dr Becky Alexis-Martin, Amir Arshad, Fatma Soykan, Abbie Donald, Barbara Dresner, Nabila Farooq, Hanane El Hadioui, Nafisa Madany, Steve Roman, Steven Tennant, Dudiya Zilic, Alaa Zalut, Tehmina Ahmed, Susie Bolchover, Hajra Mubashar, Anila Saeed, Katarzyna Jablonska, Rania Abdalla, Andrew Nowell, Wafaa Sirokh, Phil Portus, Zainab Anwar, Manorama Venkatraman, Bilal Anwar, Kunza Khan, Liv Berglund, Luljeta Halimi, Aicha Aboubaker, Skye Smith, Hind Gaily and Ban Saleh.

## FUNDERS AND SPONSORS:

Arts Council England, Manchester City Council, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding FFEU, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Beaverbrooks, University of Bolton and University of Salford.

## IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS:

The Whitworth Gallery, Video North Limited, The University of Salford, Creative Manchester, University of Manchester, Poverty Alleviation Scholarships and Central Library.



# EDUCATION, PARTNERS AND VENUES

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



## SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:

- Levenshulme High School for Girls
- Whalley Range High School
- Manchester Health Academy
- The Albion Academy
- Manchester Academy
- Withington Girls' School
- Manchester Grammar School
- Bosnian School and Society of Manchester
- Burnage Academy for Boys
- Manchester Arabic School - Chorlton
- Newman Roman Catholic School
- Manchester Islamic Girls Grammar School
- Freehold Community Primary School
- Altrincham Grammar School for Girls
- Loretto College
- The Manchester College
- Hopwood Hall College - Rochdale
- Canon Slade Sixth Form College - Bolton
- Stockport College
- Trafford College
- Marple Sixth Form College
- The Cheadle College
- City of Liverpool College
- The University of Manchester - Creative Writing Department
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- The University of Salford

## 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
- The Lowry - Salford, The Met - Bury and Bolton Central Library



# FESTIVAL DIARY

Stay up to date with our Eventbrite page for any changes of dates and times.

## FEBRUARY 2024

Date	Event	Time	Page
9th	Levenshulme High School: Well-being-focused	11.00 - 13.00	7
16th	Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture - Hello from Rochdale!	13.00 - 15.00	40
20th	Celebrating Art and Culture at Withington Girls' School	All-Day	8
25th	Bury MACFEST - Hello from Bury!	16.00 - 19.00	40
26th	Celebrating Muslim Culture and Heritage: Stockport, Cheadle and Trafford Colleges - Hello from Cheshire!	All-Day	41
27th	Celebrating Poetry and International Mother Tongue Language Day!	18.00 - 19.00	44

## MARCH 2024

1st	Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture at AGGS	All-Day	8
2nd	Morning Meditative Floral Art Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif	10.00 - 11.15	20
2nd	Felting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz	10.00 - 11.30	20
2nd	MACFEST 2024 Opening Ceremony	11.30 - 13.00	6
2nd	Cultural Hubs	All-Day	15
2nd	Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid	All-Day	15
2nd	Henna Body Painting	All-Day	16
2nd	Children's Face Painting with Farina Arshad	All-Day	16
2nd	Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci	All-Day	16
2nd	Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel	All-Day	16
2nd	Art Exhibition and Workshop by Yaran North West Manchester	All-Day	17
2nd	Mosaic Art Workshop and Exhibition with Zareena Bano	All-Day	17
2nd	Exhibition by Bradford Illumination Artist Ihssen Berrais	All-Day	17
2nd	Art Exhibiton by Ashfia Ashrif	All-Day	18
2nd	Art Exhibition by Beena Nouri - Sheba Arts	All-Day	18
2nd	Art Exhibition by Aysha Yilmaz	All-Day	18
2nd	Glass, Mirrors and Wood Exhibition by Asmaa Al-Neama	All-Day	18
2nd	Art Exhibition by Huda Nagi	All-Day	19
2nd	Art Exhibition by Venture Arts	All-Day	19

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Page</b>
5th	Stretford Grammar School Celebrates MACFEST	12.00 - 15.00	9
6th	International Women's Day - Research Café: Women's Health	12.00 - 14.30	21
8th	Muslim Women Creative Speak Out: Celebrate International Women's Day 2024	18.00 - 19.30	22
9th	Seeing Britain Through the Eyes of an Insider/Outlier: In Conversation with Author, Professor Yasmin Alibhai-Brown	14.00 - 15.30	45
17th	Albanian Ramadan Delights: Harmony of Faith, Flavour and Tradition	14.00 - 15.30	26
23rd	MACFEST Iftar with our Partners	19.30 - 22.00	26
24th	Food and Identity in Muslim Spain (Al-Andalus)	14.00 - 15.30	27
27th	Freehold Community Primary Academy: Community Iftar	10.00 - 14.00	9
31st	Food and the Fine Arts of Healing - Hello from the USA!	14.00 - 15.30	34

## **APRIL 2024**

6th	First Moroccans in Manchester - Hello from Morocco!	14.00 - 15.30	35
7th	Food Stories from the Middle East: What our Food Tells Us About Culture and Sustainability - Hello from Scotland	14.00 - 15.30	48
13th	Celebrate Eid with Rumi and Music- Hello from Huddersfield!	All-Day	42
15th	The City of Liverpool College - Hello from Liverpool!	12.00 - 15.00	42
17th	Whalley Range 11-18 High School Celebrates MACFEST	All-Day	10
21st	Eid Celebration and Multilingual Mushaira and Poetry	13.00 - 14.00	27
23rd	Celebrating World Culture Day	18.00 - 19.30	10
27th	Women's Eid Party	13.00 - 16.00	22
28th	Afghani Women Artists: Freedom of Expression Through Art - Hello from Afghanistan	14.00 - 15.30	23

## **MAY 2024**

4th	Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz	13.00 - 15.00	32
5th	Picnic in the Park and Manchester Walk	12.00 - 14.00	28
11th	Felting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz	10.00 - 12.00	43
11th	Chinese Calligraphy with Samar Farooq	14.00 - 15.30	33
12th	Comedy with Ola Labib: The Art of Living a Double Life	14.00 - 15.30	23
15th	Turkish Illumination Art with Ashfia Ashrif	13.30 - 15.30	32
15 - 22	Hello from National Scotland Library	-	30
18th	Manchester Museum: A Decolonial Approach Towards Islamic Cultural Objects	14.00 - 15.30	29

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Page</b>
19th	International Youth Speak Out on the Environment	14.00 - 15.30	49
23rd	Stories and Storytelling in Islamic Manuscript - John Rylands Library, Manchester, UK	18.00 - 19.30	29
25th	Confidently Embracing Faith Through Hijab	14.00 - 15.30	24
26th	Photography: Issues of Culture and Identity with Hasan and Hussaid Essop from Cape Town	14.00 - 15.30	35

## **JUNE 2024**

1st	Islamophobia and Muslims in the Media	14.00 - 15.30	43
2nd	Islam and Caring for the Natural World	14.00 - 15.30	50
7th	Teachers Speak Out! Celebrating Arts, Culture and Heritage in Schools	18.00 - 19.30	11
9th	Our Migrant Stories with Manchester History Festival	TBC	24
15th	Books with Sefi Atta	14.00 - 15.30	46
16th	Indonesian Culture and Heritage!	14.00 - 15.30	36
21st	Freehold Community Primary Academy: Celebrating their Cultural Heritage	10.00 - 14.00	9
21st	CHS South School is Celebrating MACFEST	12.00 - 15.00	11
22nd	Musical Performance in the Lowry, Salford	18.00 - 19.00	28
23rd	Sudanese Culture and Cuisine with Hind Gaily	14.00 - 15.30	25
29th	Islamic Calligraphy with Samir Malik	14.00 - 15.30	33
28th	Burnage Academy for Boys	All- Day	13
30th	Creative Recycling with Love with Artist Alaa Zalut	14.00 - 15.30	50

## **JULY 2024**

5th	Manchester Academy School Celebrates MACFEST!	All-Day	12
6th	David Hirsh: Comic Books - Hello from Dubai!	14.00 - 15.30	46
7th	Eid Science Extravaganza at the Science and Industry Museum	10.00 - 17.00	30
7th	Calligraphy, Carpet Weaving and Miniature Painting	14.00 - 15.30	37
13th	Ilyas Mao: Nasheed Singer and Composer	14.00 - 15.30	38
14th	Celebrating Emirati Culture, Cuisine and Heritage!	14.00 - 15.30	38
20th	Abdullah Quilliam Mosque & the First Muslim Community in the UK	14.00 - 15.30	47
21st	Books, Books, Books with Rukhsanna Guidroz! From Spark to Story: The Journey of Samira Surfs	16.00 - 17.30	39
27th	Sacred Traditions: Highlights from the Islamic Collections at the Chester Beatty, Dublin - Hello from Ireland!	14.00 - 15.30	31

FEBRUARY - JULY 2024



# MACFEST

MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL



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Curated by:  
Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA

Floral artwork by:  
Ashfia Ashrif

Edited by:  
Dr. Manorama  
Venkatraman

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

