



## **MACFEST is celebrating 5 Years of Art, Culture and Muslim Heritage nationally and globally.**

Welcome to MACFEST 2023, a ground-breaking and award-winning international Muslim Arts and Culture Festival. Hosted in several towns and cities, theatres, art galleries and libraries, schools and colleges across the North West it is celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Whitworth Art Gallery. Manchester.

Founded after the Manchester bombings of 2017, Qaisra Shahraz MBE, its founder and executive director had a vision of united communities, free from division and accepting of differences. To fight back against racism and Islamophobia, MACFEST began in 2018, to help to introduce the city into the world of Muslim culture, hoping to fight ignorance with cultural awareness.

MACFEST's mission is: celebrating arts, diversity and connecting communities. MACFEST offers a rich feast of over 75 events from 18<sup>th</sup> February to July 30<sup>th</sup>, celebrating the rich heritage of the Muslim diaspora communities. Nearly all the events are free. The festival is themed; youth, women, Ramadan, Museum and libraries mini Festivals. The international feast, includes events being hosted from Afghanistan, Dubai, Tunisia, Kuwait and USA,

This year's festival is set to be their biggest. There is 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 USA.

This year's instalment of MACFEST is set to be their biggest. Joining forces with the newly formed Muslim Women's Arts Foundation and Festival, this year's instalment promises a greater diversity of speakers and artists, shedding more light on women's experiences and contributions to culture that often go unnoticed. There are many highlights, 'Poetry and Cuisine from Andalusia', Ramadan in Tunisia, Afghani women artists from Kabul art workshops, 'Arabic Weddings' 'Eat like a Sultan: cooking in the Muslim Medieval Ages' Turkish folk dance, and an 'In Conversation session with Fatima Manji, the Channel 4 News reader and reporter, launching her new book.

Focusing more on culture instead of religion and politics, MACFEST draws cultural fragment from across the Muslim world; Afghani women artists, Turkish folk dance, Kuwaiti photography, Palestinian embroidery, Andalusian poetry, as well as British Muslims contributing their art and experience. An international festival with collaborators from all corners, coming with a massive 64-page brochure that boasts a dizzying number of events available.

**Book on MACFEST [Eventbrite](#) page or on the website: [www.macfest.org.uk](http://www.macfest.org.uk)**