



Muslim Women's — Arts Festival —

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women

Over 20 Events!
March - June 2023

Saturday, 4th March 2022, 10.00am
The Whitworth Art Gallery



@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation
@mwartfoundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MACFEST
MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL



Welcome to the Muslim Women's Arts Festival!

Welcome to the second 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 4th 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, mandala making 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 and Executive Director of Muslim Women's Arts Foundation





Culture, Arts, Poetry and Performance: Celebrating 5 Years of MACFEST!

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: 12.00 - 13.30

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

Tickets: £10, Includes Lunch

Join us in celebrating 5 years of MACFEST!

There is something for everyone:

- Welcome speeches; greetings from partners and Muslim women in different languages.
- Performances by Turkish Folk Dance group, Sudanese Supplementary School, and Dabke by Manchester Arabic School.
- Poetry by Amir Arshad and Lydia Merrill.
- Music by U.K. Sufi Hip Hop Group with Ismael Lea South and Rakin Niass.
- Art exhibitions and cake cutting.
- Iranian dress by Yaran North West.

Tilavat by: Lamar Babiker.

Singing by: Fadi Edel

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

Sponsored by: Centre for Muslim States and Societies, The University of Western Australia, Australia and Coolzy.



The University of Manchester
The Whitworth



Centre for Muslim States and Societies

وَمَنْ يُؤْتَ الْحِكْمَةَ فَقَدْ أُوتِيَ خَيْرًا كَثِيرًا
'and he to whom wisdom is granted receiveth indeed a benefit overflowing' (Al-Baqarah 2:289)



ALL DAY ACTIVITIES FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Henna Painting for Adults

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a fun and creative activity for adults, henna painting with Atika Shakir!



Hijab Styling

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting hijab styling session with Uzma Farooq!



Hair and Makeup

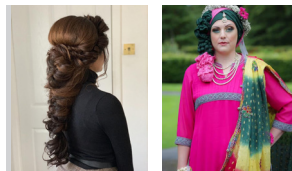
Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting session about the art of hair styling and makeup and beauty with Amber Mirza!



Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

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



Face Painting

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Bring along your children to this fun packed face painting session with Nataliya Stefurak.



Ebru Marble Painting

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

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



Calligraphy Workshop

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

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



Cultural Hubs

Date: Saturday 4th March

Time: 10.30 - 11.30

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

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.

Palestinian - Tahani Anam, Kurdish - Sheba Arts, Iranian - Yaron North West, Bangladesh - Saki Chowdhury, Pakistan/Kashmir - Kaanat women Group, Libya - Nafeesa Madani, Sudan - Hind Gaily.



ALL DAY EXHIBITIONS

Art Exhibition by Atefeh Seifi

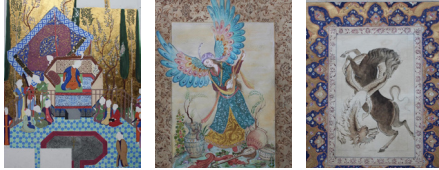
Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Atefeh Seifi from Bury.



Art Exhibiton by Natalia Stefurak

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Nataliya Stefurak, a Ukrainian-born artist and Muslim convert from Trafford.



Art Exhibiton by Ashfia Ashrif

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Ashfia Ashrif from Altrincham.



Art Exhibiton by Rahela Khan

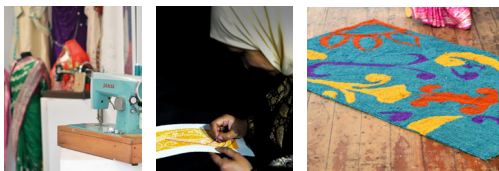
Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery,

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Rahela Khan from Rochdale.





Art Exhibition by Yaran North West Manchester

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

On the occasion of the celebration of International Women's Week, Yaran North West.

Manchester presents the exhibition "Take it easy", a collection by international artists not-known in the Middle East. The artists represented come from countries such as Iran and Afghanistan.

Yaran has been commissioned from the National Lottery fund to present more than 20 works, featuring work by women painters from countries such as Iran and Afghanistan expressing their feelings within the paintings.



Art Exhibition by Sheba Arts

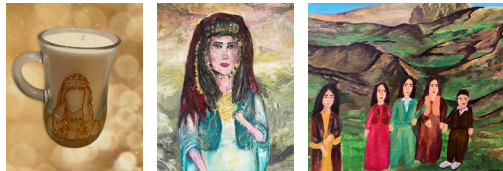
Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Beena Nouri, an artist working with Sheba Arts, Greater Manchester.



Art Exhibition by Asuman Dokuzlu

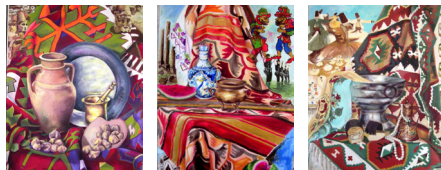
Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: All Day

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to showcase an art exhibition by Asuman Dokuzlu from Turkey.



Writer and Broadcaster: In Conversation with Myriam Francois

Date: Monday, 6th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

Join Dr Myriam Francois, an Irish-French writer, broadcaster, and documentary film director for an exciting evening celebrating International Women Week in conversation with Munira Alsusa.

She will talk about her new series on Al Jazeera "France in Focus", her latest documentary film for the BBC and storytelling as a Muslim creative.

Hosted by: Munira Alsusa, EAL coordinator, GCSE examiner and Arabic Supplementary school Headteacher.



Photography: Issues of culture and identity with Maha Alasaker

Date: Friday, 10th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

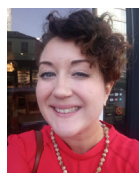
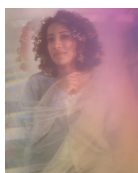
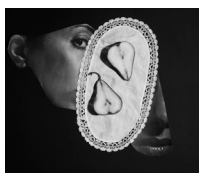
Join Maha Alasaker, a visual artist and a photographer, based in Kuwait.

She will discuss how, through her artwork, she tries to gain a deeper understanding of herself while attempting to engage issues of culture and identity. Her curiosity centers around how a woman's upbringing affects identity and self-worth.

Maha's projects have been displayed in numerous exhibitions in New York City, London, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. Magazines such as Harper's Bazaar, Vogue, Marie Claire, and Rolling Stone have featured her work.

In 2019, Maha published her first photo book, "Women of Kuwait", which was then acquired by the Getty Research Institute and The Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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





CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2023!

British Muslim Women in the Cultural and Creative Industries

Date: Wednesday, 8th March

Time: 10.00 - 11.30

Venue: Kanaris Lecture theatre, Manchester Museum, University of Manchester, M13 9PR

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite | Refreshments Provided

Welcome to a special symposium on Muslim women creatives with Dr Saskia Warren and Raabia Hussain.

In this talk Dr Saskia Warren, an author and a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography will discuss some key findings from her new book, *British Muslim Women in the Cultural and Creative Industries* (2022, EUP). Research commissioned by the Equality and Human Rights Commission highlights that only a minority of UK-based surveys have asked questions which might contribute to an understanding of religious discrimination and even fewer ask about religious discrimination openly.

Drawing on examples, she will explore how religion/faith interrelate with other indexes of difference, reshaping work-lives and the changing morphology of society, culture, and public life.

Raabia Hussain, an award-winning adventure filmmaker, Activist from Manchester, will share her experience as a filmmaker. Her accolades include the award-winning documentary, *Two Deaf Travellers* and the Programme, *This is Deaf*.

As an international humanitarian activist, Raabia will share how she inspires and helps people, especially from the ethnic minority groups, to represent themselves in front of, and behind, the camera.

Introduced by: Prof John McAuliffe, poet, Co-Director, University of Manchester's Centre for New Writing.

Hosted by: Dr Jenna Ashton, artist, curator, and producer, and Lecturer in Heritage Studies at the Institute for Cultural Practices, University of Manchester.

In partnership with Creative Manchester, University of Manchester.

creativemcr





Women's Movements, Tradition and Islamic Narratives in the Arabian Gulf

Date: Wednesday, 8th March

Time: 13.00 - 14.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

This panel aims to shed new light on the Muslim female world of the Arabian Gulf, given the rising role of women in education, politics, culture and the media in this region. The relationship between culture and communication has been changing, and women are more and more active protagonists in this process.

The three speakers, Dr. Rafiah Al-Talei, Dr. Hend T. Alsudairy and Dr. Mira Al Hussein from Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, respectively, are researchers specialising in feminist movements and women's rights. They will discuss their direct and personal experiences and research on feminist trends in the Gulf Arab region, addressing the social reactions to feminism in their respective countries, more and more involved in the international debates and intercultural dialogue, at the global level. All of this makes the panel of interest to the layperson and experts of the region.

Hosted by: Dr. Elena Maestri, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy.

Chief Guest: High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, Lorraine Worsley-Carter, MBE DL.





Three centuries of Travel Writing by Muslim Women

Date: Wednesday, 8th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £8, Register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting International Women's Day event on Muslim women writers! Professor Siobhan Lambert-Hurley will be talking about her new book *'Three centuries of Travel Writing by Muslim Women'*.

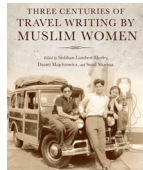
This illustrated talk will look at the fascinating first-hand accounts of travel by Muslim women dating from the 17th to the mid-20th century. Challenging preconceived notions, it offers an insight into how these daring and diverse women such as queens, captives, pilgrims, and provocateurs explored the world. What unites these adventurers is a concern for the other women they encounter, their willingness to record their experiences and the constant thoughts they cast homewards. The book is co-edited with Daniel Majchrowicz and Sunil Sharma.

Presented by: Siobhan Lambert-Hurley is Professor of Global History, University of Sheffield.

Hosted by: Dr Nafhesa Ali, Lecturer in Social Sciences, Northumbria University, Newcastle.

Chief Guest: Michelle Hodgson, Director of Huddersfield Literature Festival.

In partnership with Huddersfield Literature Festival.





In Conversation with Fatima Manji, Author, Broadcaster: A Fresh Perspective on British history

Date: Saturday, 11th March

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £10, Register on
Eventbrite

Simon Guerrier, writer, producer and author of Sherlock Holmes, will be in conversation with the award-winning author and broadcaster Fatima Manji talking about her new book. *A Fresh Perspective on British History*.

Fatima Manji will be exploring and answering some of the following questions: Why was there a Turkish mosque adorning Britain's most famous botanic garden in the eighteenth century? How did a pair of Persian-inscribed cannons end up in rural Wales? And who is the Moroccan man depicted in a long-forgotten portrait hanging in a west London stately home?

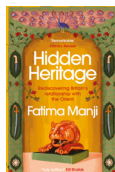
Throughout Britain's museums, civic buildings and stately homes, relics can be found that reveal the diversity of pre-twentieth-century Britain and expose the misconceptions around modern immigration narratives. In her journey across Britain exploring cultural landmarks, Fatima Manji searches for a richer and more honest story of a nation struggling with identity and the legacy of the empire.

'A timely, brilliant and very brave book' Jerry Brotton, author of *This Orient Isle*.

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: Sam Ingleson, Associate Dean of Engagement & Enterprise, School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology.

Supported by: University of Salford, School of Arts, Media & Creative Technology.



Afghani Women Artists: Freedom of expression through art - Hello from Afghanistan

Date: Sunday, 12th March

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

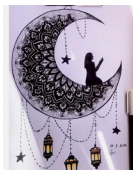
Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting panel with 4 female artists from Kabul: Sahra Sarwari, Sanam Azimi, Mursal Ahmadi, Sadaf Danish.

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: Angelika Hoff, M.A., Teacher Training College Stuttgart, Germany.

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



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via 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.



Women and Weddings - Hello from Egypt, Morocco and Sudan!

Date: Saturday, 18th March

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

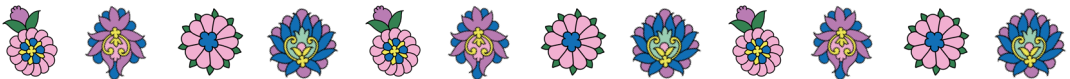
Weddings are magical experiences, full of happiness and joy and you are invited to join us for a feast of three North African weddings!

Become our guest for an Egyptian, Moroccan and Sudanese wedding. Learn how these countries prepare for weddings and about their wedding rituals; see the mouth-watering wedding feast, and listen to the traditional wedding music and songs.

Don't miss this breath taking opportunity to experience these amazing weddings!!

Presented by: Alaa Zalat, Egyptian; Hanane El Hadioue, Moroccan; and Hind Gaily, Sudanese.

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



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via 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.



WORKSHOPS

Creative Art Doodling Workshop

Date: Tuesday, 30th May

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

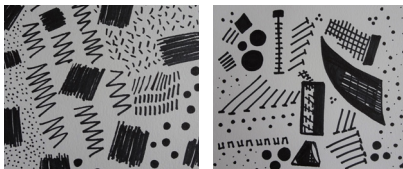
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

As part of our Youth Festival, dive into the world of Creative Art Doodling!

Explore the endless possibilities of where your imagination takes you with this new exciting workshop. This creative session also looks at the amazing well-being benefits of doodling too.

To take part in this workshop the materials needed are: a black marker/sharpie and paper.

Workshop by: Amina.S Art & Design



Mandala making and exhibition with Zareena Bano

Date: Saturday, 4th March

Time: 13.30 - 15.00

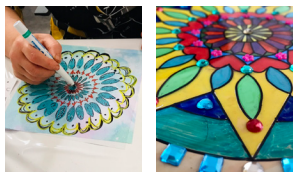
Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester M15 6ER

Tickets: £5, Register on Eventbrite

Discover the meditative practice of mandala making. Find out about its history, meaning, types, colours, benefits, how they are used and mandalas in Persian art.

Mandalas have a deep history connected to meditation and spirituality, dating back centuries from around the world. Come along and join in a creative mandala making workshop exploring different techniques and mediums.

Hear about Zareena's artistic journey and see some of her artwork on display including a poem she penned. Be inspired to create your very own personal mandala to make and take away.



In Conversation with Artist: Farwa Moledina

Date: Tuesday, 14th March

Time: 18.00 - 19.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, Register on Eventbrite

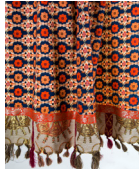
Farwa Moledina is an artist interested in female Muslim identity. She is most interested in how the western historical art narrative portrays the Muslim woman, and whether this has impacted how Muslim women are viewed in the contemporary world.

Moledina explores these issues through the use of pattern and textile. The patterns she designs are inspired by the Islamic Design Principles, such as those of recurrence, symmetry and abstraction.

Join Moledina for a talk about her practice, and the influence of Islamic design principles in her work.

Hosted by: Seema Ansari, Education Consultant.

Chief Guest: Sarah Mangan, Consul General of Ireland.



Turkish Calligraphy

Date: Sunday, 26th March

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: £5, Register on Eventbrite

Welcome to Turkish Calligraphy! MACFEST is delighted to host globally renowned master calligrapher, Nuria Garcia Masip from Turkey for a demonstration and discussion on Ottoman calligraphy. Nuria will talk about her journey and artistic path of Calligraphy, and how she drew on her experience in learning from two great Turkish masters Hasan Çelebi and Davut Bektaş.

Nuria will offer a brief historical introduction, and an overview of the traditional teaching methods, tools and materials. As well as introducing us to the Ottoman classical tradition.

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

Chief Guest: Seyfi Onur Sayin, General Consul of Turkey.



Turkish Floral Art

Date: Wednesday, 3rd May

Time: 13.30 - 15.30

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

Tickets: £5 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.

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

Introduced by: Fiona Fulton, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer.



Silk Painting Workshop

Date: Saturday, 13th May

Time: 13.00 - 15.00

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

Tickets: £5, 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 its origins. She will also touch upon the origins of the motifs used.

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



Women and creativity: Celebrating the historic art of Palestinian Embroidery

Date: Saturday, 3 June

Time: 14.00 -15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, Register on Eventbrite

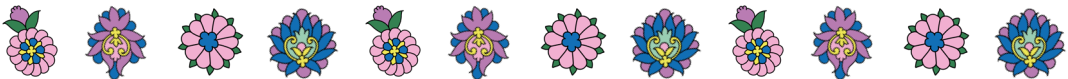
Join Yasmeen Bsaiso from Kuwait to explore how Palestinian women used to embroider exotic pieces that survived multiple generations till date.

Learn about the historic art of Palestinian Embroidery. Yasmeen will be drawing on her roots and readings, and the hands-on practice sessions she had with old Palestinian women. She will give an overview of Palestinian embroidery for the period 1850 to 1950 and tell stories around the history of design, colour and fabrics used across Palestine.

Yasmeen will also demonstrate a live practice of embroidery with a one beautiful motif. That was found on dresses over hundreds of years, and that symbolises the love of land and community.

Hosted by: Neena Julka, Founder Trustee & CEO of SNJ Charitable Trust.

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



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via 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.





Muslim Women's — Arts Festival —

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women



@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation
@mwartfoundation

www.mwafoundation.org

Curated by:
Qaisra Shahrax
FRSA MBE

Floral artwork by:
Ashfia Ashrif

Editing and Brochure designed by:

abbie donald
hello@abbiedonald.co.uk

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MACFEST
MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL