



Muslim Women's — Arts Festival —

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women

25 EVENTS!
FEBRUARY - JULY 2026

Saturday, 14th February 2026, 10.00am
The Whitworth Art Gallery



@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation
@mwartfoundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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



Welcome to Muslim Women's Arts Festival!

Welcome to the fourth 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 14th February 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 FRSA
Author, Founder and Executive
Director and Producer
of Muslim Women's Arts
Foundation



ALL DAY ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

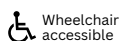
Cultural Heritage Hubs

Date: Saturday, 14th February

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: Ethiopian, Uighur, Turkish, Syrian, Libyan and Romanian.

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



Henna Body Painting with Khadija Kemlaoui

Date: Saturday, 14th February

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.

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



Children's Face Painting with Kinga Truszkowska

Date: Saturday, 14th February

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 Kinga Truszkowska.

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



Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Workshop 1: 10:15-11am

Workshop 2: 1:30-2:15pm

Workshop 3: 2:15-3pm

Workshop 4: 3:00-3:45pm

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

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite

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

We will be offering 4 short 45-minute card making workshops throughout the day. There are 12 spaces in each workshop open to those who have booked through our Eventbrite link 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.



Tote bags Art Workshop with Zareena Bano

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: 10:15 - 11:45am

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

Tickets: £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an inspiring Tote bags Art Workshop, where creativity meets mindfulness! Unwind, get creative, and design your own masterpiece! No experience needed – just bring yourself, and I'll guide you step by step. All materials included.

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



Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: Workshop 1: 12:00 - 12:45pm, Workshop 2: 1:15 - 2:15pm

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 Workshops with Farzana Patel

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day

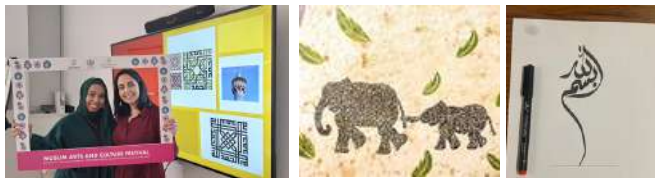
Workshop 1: 10.15-11.00am, Workshop 2: 11:15-12.15pm, Workshop 3: 2:30 - 3:30pm

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.



Illumination Art Workshop with Atefeh Seifi

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: 2:30 - 4:30pm

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

Tickets: £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting art workshop by an award-winning artist and art practitioner Atefeh Seifi from Bury.

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



Art Exhibition by Venture Arts

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

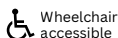
Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

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.




Art Exhibition by Shahida Ahmed

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

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

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

 Wheelchair accessible

Join us for an art exhibition by an award-winning international British-Asian artist, curator and writer Shahida Ahmed from Lancashire.

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



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.

Art Exhibition by Asma Al-Neama

Date: Saturday, 14th February

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.



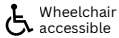
Art Exhibition by Yaran North West

Date: Saturday, 14th February

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.



Muslim Arts Awards 2025 Winners Group Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

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

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to present the artworks of the winners of the second MACFEST’s Muslim Arts Awards: Asma Jadakara Desai, Iqra Saied, Mohammad Popal, and Mahmud Manning.

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



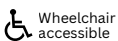
Art Exhibition by Rabia Begum

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

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

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join us for a thought-provoking art exhibition showcasing the work of Rabia Begum, an artist, and activist based in Calderdale and Manchester.

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



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK 2026

Celebrating International Women's Day 2026! Muslim Women in the Media Speak Out: Challenging Narratives, Changing Perspectives

Date: Sunday, 8th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a powerful panel, celebrating International Women's Day, bringing together journalists, content creators, filmmakers, academics, and activists. We will explore the roles, representation, and realities of Muslim women across mainstream and alternative media platforms.

Our accomplished panelists will discuss the IWD 2026 theme: Give to Gain. They will share their personal stories and views.

Mars will be in conversation with:

Deana Soni, a presenter and journalist

Mariam Amini, a London-born Afghan and multimedia journalist specialising in faith, travel and diaspora culture

Muminah Koleoso, Multi-Award-Winning Writer, Journalist, Content Creator & Podcaster

Hosted by: Mars El-Brogy, TEDx Speaker, Managing editor, Exec Producer



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 Creatives: Afghani Women Artists

Date: Saturday, 18th July

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 Sacarabany, Executive Director of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU).



Muslim Converts: Our Lives, Our Stories

Date: Sunday, 28th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an empowering and thought-provoking event as Muslim women converts come together to share, discuss, and debate the unique challenges, insights, and transformations that come with embracing Islam.

This event is a platform for dialogue, understanding, and connection. Our panel will engage in a respectful, lively discussion on topics such as identity, community integration, misconceptions and spiritual growth in Islam.

Speakers: Mars El Brogy, Malik Al Nasir

Hosted by: Yvonne Ridley, author, broadcaster





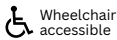
International Women's Day 2026 - Ripple Effects: Co-researching Work, Precarity and Contribution in Later Life

Date: Wednesday 4th March

Time: 12:15 - 14:30

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

Tickets: Free, Lunch provided, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Wheelchair accessible

Join us in partnership with MACFEST Muslim Arts and Culture Festival and Healthier Futures for a panel event celebrating International Women's Day 2026.

We will be welcoming a panel from Uncertain Futures, a participatory research project exploring art as research, focusing on understanding inequalities around work for women over 50 in Manchester.

The panel brings together a diverse range of voices of working women in Manchester, alongside researchers from the participatory project which interviewed 100 older women about their experiences of work and worklessness in relation to work and retirement.

Speakers:

- Marie Greenhalgh, Founder/Director at Good Neighbour Group, Deputy Chair of Manchester Age Friendly Board, author, *Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from Muslim South Asia*
- Jila Mazoun, Founder, RAHA, former Trustee at City of Sanctuary, Advisory Group Member, Uncertain Futures project
- Nadia Siddiqui, former Women's Rights Worker at South Manchester Law Centre, Founder and CEO, Women's Voices, Advisory Group Member, Uncertain Futures project
- Sarah Campbell, Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University, co-research lead, Uncertain Futures project

Hosted by: Dr Connie Smith, Deputy Director of Creative Manchester, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Humanities.



Muslim Arts Awards

MACFEST 2026 Muslim Arts Awards will exhibit and award prizes to the finest work by UK Muslim 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. It is open to all UK based Muslim residents, 18 years or older. 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: WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK/ARTS-AWARDS

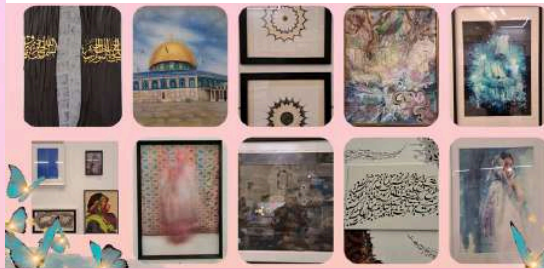


2025 WINNERS:

Photography: Iqra Saied, Drawing: Asma Jada Kara Desai, Calligraphy: Mohammad Popal, Painting: Mahmud Manning



The Finalists



JOIN OUR MUSLIM ARTISTS' NETWORK



@MACFESTUK
WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK/ARTS-AWARDS
ARTSAWARDS@MACFEST.ORG.UK



University of Salford
MANCHESTER



MUSLIM ARTS AWARDS OPEN CALL

The National Muslim Arts Award celebrates and raises the visibility of Muslim artists across the UK through an Exhibition and Award Ceremony.

This award, now in its third year, is hosted by MACFEST, Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, in partnership with the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology at The University of Salford.

All selected artists will be included in the exhibition.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

30th MAY 2026

All **Muslim Artists** based in the UK, 18 years or older, are invited to submit up to 2 artworks per category, in the categories of Drawing, Painting, Calligraphy and Photography.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW

5–7.30 pm, 19th NOV 2026

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

**FREE Submission via online entry form at
www.macfest.org.uk/arts-awards**

MACFEST



ARTS AWARDS



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

ARTWORK BY ZAREENA BANO
LOGO BY MAIDAA NOOR & SAMIR MALIK



Muslim Women's Arts Foundation

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women

@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation | @mwartfoundation



Curated by:
Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA

Floral artwork by:

Ashfia Ashrif

Edited by:

**Dr. Manorama
Venkatraman**

Brochure
designed by:

Katarzyna Jablonska

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Muslim Women's Arts Festival

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women