



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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WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK
HELLO@MACFEST.ORG.UK



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

#spreadhoneyothate



WELCOME TO MACFEST 2025!

#spreadhoneythat

in    

@MACFESTUK





Hello and Salaam...

Welcome to MACFEST 2025! 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 80 events from February to July 2025 across the North West, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Muslim diaspora communities.

We are delighted to offer you an international art feast, including events hosted from Afghanistan, Kenya, Kuwait, Iraq, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Canada, Philippines, Ghana, UAE and the USA.

We are proud to present various themed festivals across the North West within MACFEST: Youth, Women, Ramadan, Environment, Museum and Libraries Festivals. There are many highlights, including: Lowry Eid Musical, Women's Festival, and art workshops.

You will find something for the whole family: literature, art, history, music, performance, photography, culture, cuisine, comedy, art exhibitions, demonstrations, debates, women and youth panels, children's activities, art workshops and exhibitions.

We are bringing you a great line-up of local, national and international speakers, performers, writers, academics, photographers, comedians, poets, newsreaders, artists and singers.

We are happy to announce our two new initiatives: MACFEST Muslim Arts Awards 2025 celebrating Muslim Artists, and Heritage Tours to Albania and Oman. Together, we will go on a journey through these wonderful countries, exploring art, architecture, cuisine, local cultures, and much more!

On 22nd February, 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, Liverpool Arab Arts Festival, Northern Lily, Manchester City of Languages, Bury Active Women's Centre, Huddersfield Literature Festival, Sheba Arts, Venture Arts, Yaran North West, The Literary Circle of Kirklees, John Rylands Library, The Lowry, Manchester Museum, Blackburn Museum, MOSI, Gaskell House, Trafford/ Stockport College Partnership Group, University of Salford, Creative Manchester, Cartwright Hall Art Gallery in Bradford, The World Museum in Liverpool, The University of Manchester and libraries in Bolton, Stockport, Tameside, Accrington, Oldham and Manchester.

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 2025.

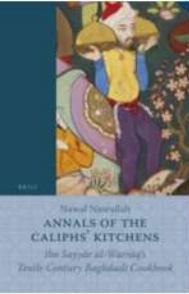
Nearly all of our events are free. Donations are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us!

Enjoy!



Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA
Author, Founder and Executive
Director and Producer
of MACFEST



BOOKS & LITERATURE



ENVIRONMENT



MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES



RAMADHAN FESTIVAL



CULTURAL HERITAGE



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN'S ARTS FESTIVAL



PERFORMANCE

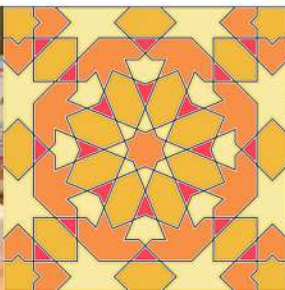
HERITAGE TOURS



ART & DESIGN



SCHOOLS & COLLEGES





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MACFEST 2025 OPENING CEREMONY!

Date: Saturday, 22nd February

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

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

Tickets: £12, includes Lunch



Wheelchair accessible

MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester
The Whitworth

Join us in celebrating the opening of MACFEST 2025 and the first round of MACFEST Arts Awards!

There is something for everyone:

- Welcome speeches; greetings from partners.
- Tilavat by: The Nile School.
- Poetry by the Blind Chef, Ibraheem Iqbal.
- Performance by: Syrian Band.
- Performance by: Arabic Sudanese School.
- Nasheed by: Whalley Range 11-18 High 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, Whitworth Art Gallery.

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



YOUTH FESTIVAL

Levenshulme High School: Climate Change is a concern for us all.

Date: Friday, 7th
February

Time: 11:30 - 13:00

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

Tickets: Invitation
Only



We would like to invite you to Levenshulme High School to celebrate our work on environmental issues. We will share ideas on the difference you can make to support our world.

With rising temperatures, rising seas and rising difficulties for communities across the globe, we all have a responsibility to do what we can to reverse the effects of climate change to safeguard our precious planet for generations to come. At Levenshulme High School, we take this commitment to positive change very seriously.

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



William Hulme's Grammar School celebrating Culture Day

Date: Friday, 23rd May

Time: 08:30 - 15:30

Venue: Spring Bridge Rd,
Manchester M16 8PR

Tickets: Invitation only



We are thrilled to celebrate the rich diversity and unique traditions that make our school community so vibrant. Culture Day is more than just a day of festivities - it's an opportunity to appreciate the many cultures that shape our identities, broaden our perspectives, and bring us together as a united community.

This special day is packed with exciting activities for everyone to enjoy! Together, let's celebrate, learn, and grow - embracing the differences that make us stronger and more connected.

Hosted by: William Hulme's Grammar School Teachers





Manchester High School for Girls celebrating Culture Day

Date: Monday, 17th - Thursday, 20th March

Time: All Day

Venue: Grangethorpe Road, Manchester M14 6HS

Tickets: Invitation Only



A week to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of the Muslim community through arts and creativity.

Our programme brings together students through a series of engaging lunchtime activities. It provides a platform for individuals to share their heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions. The week will culminate with a spectacular art exhibition during our Iftar evening.

Hosted by: Mrs Helen F Jeys, Head Mistress.



Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture at AGGS

Date: Monday, 10th - Friday, 14th February

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, celebrating the different cultures and traditions of the diversity 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: Mrs Stephanie Gill, Principal and Miss C O'Hara, Assistant Vice Principal, Altrincham Grammar School for Girls.





Stretford Grammar School celebrates MACFEST

Date: Tuesday, 18th February

Time: 12:00 - 15:00

Venue: 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 deliver them to the lower school community.

Hosted by: Elaine Eeles, Assistant Headteacher.



Burnage Academy for Boys celebrates their Cultural Heritage

Date: Friday, 27th June

Time: All Day

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

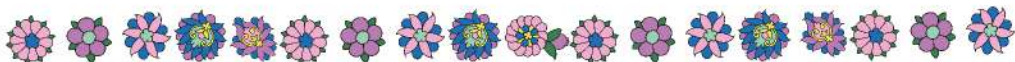
Tickets: Invitation Only

Burnage Academy for Boys is delighted to take part in MACFEST again!

We are pleased to celebrate the opulent tapestry of Islamic art, poetry, literature, and heritage.

We are looking forward to hosting our special Culture Day, celebrating the different cultures and traditions of the diversity of our pupils. We will be celebrating Eid-UI-Fitr with various cultural activities.

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



Manchester Academy: a Carnival Celebration of Colour!

Date: Friday, 4th April

Time: 09:00 - 14:00

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

Tickets: Invitation Only

Join us for a cultural feast with different students celebrating their cultural heritage.

Manchester Academy celebrates its culture and diversity throughout the day with its staff samba band, Dohl drummers from India, and street music. Cultural foods from across the globe are sold to all staff and students, plus other stalls raise money for UNICEF and our local charities.

Hosted by: James Eldon, the Principal, Gilly McMullen Vice Principal - Personal Development and Tahani Anani, teachers.



CHS South School is celebrating Culture Night

Date: Friday 20th June

Time: 12:00 - 15:00

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

Tickets: Invitation Only

Join us at CHS South for food, music, and entertainment as we host our summer celebration!

CHS South School is delighted to celebrate its Culture Night – a celebration of the rich cultural identity and diversity of CHS South.

Hosted by: Ms Sue Burke, Deputy Headteacher.





Youth Celebrating World Culture Day

Date: Wednesday, 21st May

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a cultural feast at which different students will celebrate their cultural heritage.

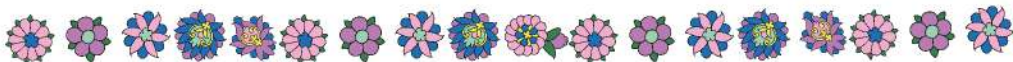
The event is a vibrant and educational gathering where students from various cultural backgrounds come together to celebrate and share the rich heritage of their countries of origin. This event provides a platform for young students to showcase their cultural traditions, histories, and values through diverse presentations.

The students will be introduced by their teachers or head teachers. Here's an overview of this exciting event:

Withington Grammar School; Loretto College; Canon Slade, Bolton; Manchester High School; Israa from Manchester Sudanese School

Hosted by: Dr Benjamin Eves, Assistant Head Teacher at Canon Slade, Bolton.

Chief Guest: Patsy Kane, OBE MA, former Executive Headteacher and Education Consultant working with Leadership Teams.



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

20 EVENTS!
FEBRUARY - JULY 2025

Saturday, 22nd February 2025, 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 22nd 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

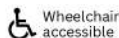
Cultural Heritage Hubs

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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, culture, and heritage feast!

Explore our cultural hub presentations from around the world, curated by our local Muslim women: Ethiopian, Eritrean, Uighur, Turkish, Pakistani, Libyan, Somalian and Moroccan.

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



Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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: Free, register on Eventbrite



Wheelchair accessible

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-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.



Art Exhibition by Venture Arts

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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.



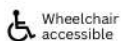
Exhibition and Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano

Date: Saturday, 22nd February

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

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

Tickets: Exhibition Free, 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 it.

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



Henna Body Painting with Khadija Kemlaoui

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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.



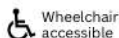
Art Exhibition by Yaran North West

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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.



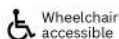
Children's Face Painting with Kinga Truszkowska

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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.



Art Exhibition by Mahvish Javed

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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 Mahvish Javed from Altrincham.

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



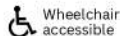
Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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 exciting activity for children to get creative with marble painting with Rabia Avci.

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



Art Exhibition by Asma Al-Neama

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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 AlNeama, who uses glass, mirrors and wood to create artwork.

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



Calligraphy Workshops with Farzana Patel

Date: Saturday, 22nd February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Workshop 1: 10.30am,
Workshop 2: 12.00pm,
Workshop 3: 2.00pm

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.



Muslim Arts Awards' Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 22nd 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 first MACFEST's Muslim Arts Awards.

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



Art Exhibition by Hafifa Ahmed

Date: Saturday, 22nd February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)


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

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Hafifa Ahmed is a Leeds-based artist who makes paintings, sculpture and installation pieces that blend physical and digital matter which explore issues of Memory, Text and Narrative. Hafifa develops ideas through research and practice-based making, telling stories through her work.

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



 Wheelchair accessible

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK 2025

Celebrating International Women's Day 2025! Muslim Women Speak Out!

Date: Saturday, 8th
March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

Muslim women celebrate International Women's Day and discuss the IWD 2025 campaign theme: 'Accelerate Action'!

Join Dr Myriam Francois, an Irish-French writer, broadcaster, and documentary film director, for an exciting panel focused around advancing and celebrating Muslim women's equality worldwide!

Myriam will be in conversation with International Muslim Woman: Rosemary Brown aka Akuapem Poloo, Ghanaian actress

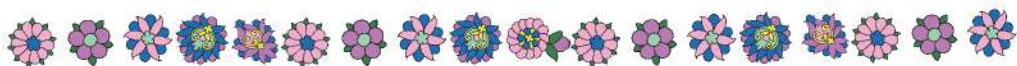
Our panellists will discuss International Women's Day and the strategies, resources and activity that can positively impact women's advancement. They will also discuss what this day means to them, their lives as Muslim women and their careers.

Hosted by: Dr Myriam Francois, writer, broadcaster and academic.
Chief Guest: Sharman Birtles MBE JP DL, Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.



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.



Celebrating IWD 2025: Young Muslim Women Speak Out

Date: Sunday, 9th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join young Muslim women from Manchester, who will talk about their stories, experiences of immigration, and their lives in Britain.

- Nada Chefchaoui from Morocco, Maryam Solaiman from Egypt, Israa Altayeb from Sudan and Nora Aden from Somalia.

From different backgrounds, they will share and explore their stories and experiences related to migration and Islamophobia. They will discuss their unique, individual journeys, challenges, and triumphs.

The event aims to amplify these voices, promote empathy, foster a sense of community and understanding, and encourage a more inclusive dialogue about immigration and its impact on individuals and communities.

Hosted by: Luljeta Halimi, producer and TV host, Islam Channel.



Women's Festival Party

Date: Saturday, 2nd August

Time: 13:00 - 16:00

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

Tickets: £12, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special end-of-the-year women-only party, as part of the women's festival, to celebrate their culture and heritage.

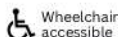
We will offer you a feast with fashion, poetry, food, entertainment and a female DJ!

All women are welcome!

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

Hosted by: Longsight Library team member.

Chief Guest: Mrs Mary-Liz Walker JP DL of Greater Manchester.





Celebrating International Women's Day: Role of Heritage and Arts in accelerating Women's Equality and Social Justice

Date: Wednesday, 5th March

Time: 12:15 - 14:30

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

Tickets: Free, Lunch provided, register on Eventbrite



Join Dr. Jenna Ashton, Mahboobeh Rajabi, Nusrat Ahmed as they discuss the theme, "Accelerating Action" with a particular focus on the role of heritage, arts, and culture for accelerating women's equality and social justice. This will be discussed in context of the UN's latest update report on the lack of progress around SDG5 on gender equality and women's empowerment, and the increasing threats to women's bodily autonomy and implementation of discriminatory legislation.

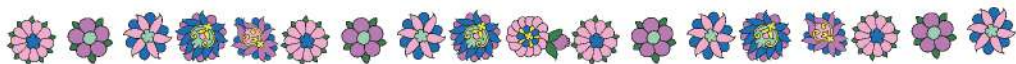
Jenna's latest book 'Handbook of Heritage and Gender' is published that week, which has very related topics that will be discussed on gender and the heritage sector; the role of heritage, arts, and culture for accelerating women's equality and social justice.

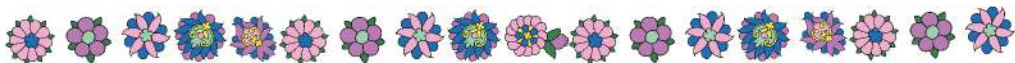
Speakers:

- Mahboobeh Rajabi, artist
- Nusrat Ahmed, Lead Curator for South Asia Gallery, Manchester Museum

Hosted by: Dr Jenna Ashton, Senior Lecturer in Heritage Studies, University of Manchester.

creativemcr





Living Better Together

Date: Wednesday, 23rd April

Time: 18:30 - 19:30

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

Tickets: Invitation Only



Wheelchair accessible

Manchester Lit & Phil



Immigration – essential support for our sagging economy or destroyer of community cohesion?

In a third special collaboration with the Manchester Lit & Phil Society, we are delighted to host an 'in-conversation' event with Qaisra Shahraz and Erinma Bell.

The multicultural dream seems to be threatened from all sides by street riots, terror threats, knife crime, far-right thugs and draconian reaction. But, as always, there is hope to be found in human responses.

We bring together two eminent Mancunian women, Qaisra Shahraz MBE an award-winning British-Pakistani activist, novelist and the founder of MACFEST and Erinma Bell MBE, a British-Nigerian community peace activist, councillor and training provider, who have shown what can be achieved through outreach and tough love, to talk through the issues and plot a way forward.

Their conversation will tackle the issues of integration and identity, aspirations and fears, education and culture, drawing upon their own unique experiences to suggest solutions to pressing problems and longer-term aspirations for a coherent, progressive society.

Hosted by: Darryl Morris, award-winning broadcaster, filmmaker and writer.

Chief Guest: Ian Cameron, former President of Manchester Lit and Phil Society.



FESTIVAL OF CALLIGRAPHY AND ARTS

Celebrating Calligraphy and Creativity with Lord Richard MacLeod

Date: Saturday, 19th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking session with Lord Richard MacLeod, an esteemed calligraphy painter and artist renowned for designing the first-ever Arabic-British script. Richard will take you on a journey through the intertwining worlds of art, faith, and identity. He will share his unique experiences and insights as a pioneer in contemporary calligraphy.

Hosted by: Brendan Fletcher, Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for BA Fine Art.

Chief Guest: Paul Vivian, Director of Art and Design at the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology



Silk Painting with Aysha Yilmaz at Manchester Library

Date: Saturday, 12 April

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: Manchester Central Library, St 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 its origins. She will also touch upon the origins of the motifs used.

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





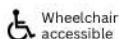
Art workshop: Along the Silk Road, make your bookmark

Date: Saturday, 28th June

Time: 15:00 - 17:00

Venue: 692 Wilmslow Rd, Didsbury, Manchester M20 2DN

Tickets: £10 Register on Eventbrite



Join Lizzie Hobbs, a Manchester-based artist who creates freehand drawings and paintings inspired by patterns from Asia and the Middle East.

Take a whistle-stop tour of patterns and designs along the Silk Road with Lizzie, before making your bookmark inspired by carpet designs.

Learn how to construct Persian carpet patterns and paint in your drawings for a colourful piece to take home.

Hosted by: Didsbury Library Team.



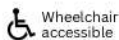
Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano at Heaton's Library; Stockport

Date: Thursday, 24th April

Time: 13:30 - 15:30

Venue: Heaton's Library, Thornfield Rd, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 3LD

Tickets: Free, 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.





Islamic Architecture: A World History - with Eric Broug

Date: Saturday, 15th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

When we think of Islamic architecture, we typically think of buildings in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Central Asia. But what about the rest of the world? There are over 3 million mosques in the world. Islamic architecture has had an important global influence on buildings for centuries. In this session, author Eric Broug shows you Islamic architecture in the widest possible context. It will encourage you to reconsider this architectural heritage, and it will cause you to be amazed at its extraordinary diversity and richness.

Hosted by: Mustafa Omar, Co-founder of Islamic Travels.



Celebrating Egyptian Culture and Heritage at the Nile School

Date: Sunday, 29th June

Time: 13:00 - 16:00

Venue: The Nile Language School, Burnage Lane, Manchester, M19 1ER

Tickets: Invitation Only

Immerse yourself in an afternoon dedicated to the celebration of Egypt's vibrant culture and rich heritage.

This unique event will take you on a journey through Egypt's traditions and history, featuring mesmerizing performances that highlight the beauty of Egyptian music, dance, and storytelling. Engage in enlightening presentations that explore Egypt's fascinating history, language, and customs, offering a deeper understanding of the country's extraordinary contributions to the world.

Enjoy the Egyptian feast!

Hosted by: Ghada Moustafa, Headteacher, and her team.



Youth Celebrating Arts

Date: Thursday, 10th April

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join the youth art panel, which highlights students' artistic achievements. The panel serves as a testament to the younger generation's creativity and talent, providing them with a valuable platform to share their work, gain recognition, and continue growing as artists.

Students from different schools in the UK celebrate their works by exploring art and heritage:
Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester; Levenshulme High School; Fatima Jilani, William Hulme's Grammar School; Withington Grammar School for Girls; CSH South School; Newman RC College; Hadiya Mirza Manchester High School for Girls

This panel is linked to the Macfest Arts Award. It serves as a testament to the creativity and talent of the younger generation, providing them with a valuable platform to share their work, gain recognition, and continue growing as artists.

Hosted by: Graham Gordon, Careers' Advisor, Eden Girls' Academy & Director of FIT Ltd.

Chief Guest: Sam Ingleson, Associate Dean for Enterprise and Engagement (EEP), School of Arts, Media and Creative Technologies, University of Salford.



Afghani Women Artists - hello from Afghanistan!

Date: Saturday, 3rd May

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 Becroft, Chair of the English Department, Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany.

Chief Guest: Seyfi Onur Sayın, Consul General, Turkey.



RAMADAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Cooking with the “Blind Chef” Ibraheem Iqbal

Date: Saturday, 1st March

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Ibraheem Iqbal, a business entrepreneur living with sight loss. He is a young man on a special mission: over the last decade, he has been pushing himself, and others around him, to be the very best version of themselves. He will discuss his passion for cooking, which has resulted in him running a successful online cooking platform.

Join us as Ibraheem shares his incredible journey, and talks us through one of his favourite recipes; a comfort, a way of leaving behind the pressure of work and exploring different sensory experiences.

Recently, he found a new way to tell his story through poetry. A tireless advocate for disability and equality, he gives his time freely to support several UK-based sight loss charities on an ongoing basis.

Hosted by: Haleh Moravej, nutritionist and environment champion



Celebrating at the Lowry!

Date: Saturday, 21st June

Time: 18:00 - 20:00

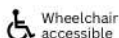
Venue: The Lowry, The Studio, Pier, 8 The Quays, Salford, Manchester M50 3AZ

Tickets: £15, 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 for you with talented and highly entertaining singers and musicians from the North West. They are: Hamza Bouzhar, Moroccan Nasheed Artist, singer and composer, and Sajal Chaudhary, a Pakistani singer.

Hosted by: Matt Eames – Head of Theatres (Contemporary & Commissioning).



THE LOWRY





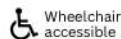
Iftar with our Partners

Date: Saturday, 15th March

Time: 18:30 - 21:00

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

Tickets: Invitation Only



Wheelchair accessible

Join MACFEST and Khizra Mosque for the breaking of the fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The evening will celebrate our festival's vast partnerships across Greater Manchester, inviting our valued partners and volunteers to join us for the breaking of the fast meal, during the month of Ramadan in May.

Hosted by: Jawad, Sajjid Amin and Qaisra Shahraz MBE.

Chief Guest: Rogers Govender MBE – The Dean of Manchester.



Celebrating Ramadan in the Philippines - hello from Philippines!

Date: Sunday, 2nd March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

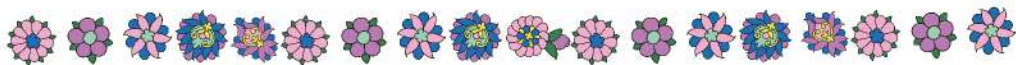
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Mars, who will share how they celebrate Ramadan in the Philippines, with a blend of Islamic traditions and local Filipino customs, reflecting the cultural diversity of the country.

Mars may also touch on how Filipino Muslims maintain their cultural identity, balancing Islamic practices with broader Filipino values and traditions.

Hosted by: Dr Mars El Brogy, TEDx speaker, award-winning multimedia executive, Head of Production, Islam channel.





Gastronomy in Medieval Baghdad: cooking for Pleasure and Health, as depicted in a Tenth-century Baghdadi Cookbook

Date: Sunday, 23rd March

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

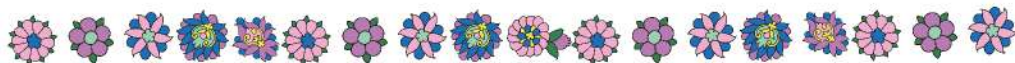
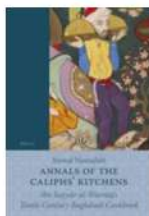
Join Nawal Nasrallah to talk about the culinary practices of medieval Islamic society, particularly in Baghdad.

Written more than a thousand years ago, Sayyār al-Warrāq's cookbook *Kitāb al-Ṭabīkh* offers a rich insight into the culture of food that flourished in Abbasid Baghdad during its prosperous times.

The talk will introduce al-Warrāq's cookbook, which anthologized the sophisticated Abbasid cuisine, with a comprehensive discussion of its origin and the dish varieties it offered, with an eye on their regenerative properties based on the Galenic theory of the four physical humours that dominated the thinking of the medieval world. All are accompanied by pictorial presentations that offer a window into the world being discussed.

Hosted by: Andrew Novell, press officer for The Nature Friendly Farming Network, former Manchester journalist.

Chief Guest: Sarah Mangan, Consul General for Ireland, Manchester.





Celebrating Ramadan in Iraq: History, Culture, Art, and Food. Hello from Iraq!

Date: Saturday, 22nd March

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join Ban Saleh and Luhaib Abboud in Iraq to celebrate Iraqi culture during Ramadan. They will take us on a journey through Iraq's timeless legacy from the cradle of Mesopotamia to the heart of Islamic tradition.

The panel explores the rich history that shaped the nation, highlighting the deep cultural significance of Ramadan, its sacred traditions, and the beloved foods that bring communities together.

Chief Guest: Mr Ihsan Allawi, Consul General of Iraq in Manchester.



Food Stories from the Middle East: Hello from Scotland!

Date: Sunday, 16th March

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 (Middle East and North Africa) 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 a lover of Malaysian cuisine.



MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES FESTIVAL

Arabic Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel at Blackburn Museum

Date: Tuesday, 27th May

Time: 12:00 - 15:00

Venue: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Street, Blackburn, BB1 7AJ

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



BM&AG
Blackburn Museum
& Art Gallery

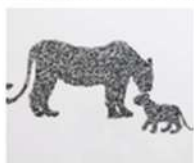


Join us at the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery for a FREE hands-on Arabic calligraphy workshop!

Farzana Patel is an Arabic calligraphist who was taught a unique style of calligraphy by senior calligraphist Hudhaifa Al Awaidi from Oman. Adapting her style and creativity from what was taught by her respected teacher, she went on to become a part of a calligraphy society, participate in various workshops, and host many exhibitions.

She now specialises in bespoke pieces of work for customers and attempts to share her passion for Arabic calligraphy in her spare time when not working in her day job as a Chemical Site Production Manager.

Hosted by: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery.





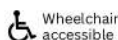
Fighting to be Heard – Big Family Event at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford!

Date: Saturday 18th January

Time: 11:30 - 15:30

Venue: Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Lister Park, Bradford BD9 4NS

Tickets: Free, drop in



Bradford District Museums & Galleries

Join us for a day of family friendly activities: calligraphy workshops, Mehndi designs, recitals by young people from the Al-Mustafa Centre, Girlington. And a chance to try boxing skills with the Tasif Khan Community Boxing Academy!

There will also be a talk about the making of Fighting to be Heard by co-creators, World Champion Boxer, Tasif Khan, calligrapher Razwan Ul-Haq and Daniel Lowe, Curator of Arabic Collections at the British Library.

The event is Free and Drop-in.

Hosted by: Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford.



Cartwright Hall Art Gallery

Discovering Islamic Poetry and Manuscripts

Date: Saturday, 24th May

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: John Rylands Research Institute and Library, University of Manchester Rylands Research Institute, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

Visit the John Rylands Institute and Library for an exciting afternoon of poetry and manuscripts. Hear words written by some of the finest poets of the Muslim world, in Arabic, Turkish, and Persian. From the epic to every day, these poems still resonate with us today, connecting us with the enduring human spirit.

Begin by exploring some of the stunning manuscripts at the library to see how these poems were preserved on the page in the most rich and decorative manner. Later, these ancient verses will be recited in the three languages, giving voice to the past for all to hear.

Hosted by: Zsofia Buda, Curator of Global Manuscripts and Gemma Henderson, Reader Services Coordinator (job-share). Coordinating and delivering a customer-focused Special Collections at John Rylands Research Institute and Library.



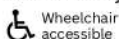
Islamic Geometric Patterns Eric Broug at the Science and Industry Museum

Date: Saturday 15th February

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

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.



Wheelchair accessible

SCIENCE+
INDUSTRY
MUSEUM

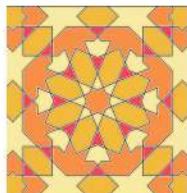
Join us for a 2-hour workshop on Islamic geometric design workshop with Eric Broug.

Participants will learn how to draw 2 patterns with just a compass and ruler, using a PDF template Eric has designed to get everyone started on a firm foundation.

Learn how to draw patterns in the same way that traditional craftsmen have done for centuries. Using just a ruler and pencil, author and artist Eric Broug will show you how these seemingly complex patterns are constructed. This workshop will start with a brief introduction to the basic design principles of Islamic geometric design.

Suitable for all ages.

Hosted by: Science and Industry Museum's Team.



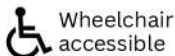
Manchester Museum Tour: Featuring Islamic Cultural Objects Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 10th May

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Venue: Manchester Museum, University of, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Wheelchair accessible

Join the guided tour of the Manchester Museum basement led by Dr. Njabulo Chipangura for a unique and enriching experience of Islamic Cultural Objects Exhibition.

Dr. Njabulo Chipangura will take groups of 10 people to view objects that have never been on public display.

The behind-the-scenes tour is part of the museum's ambition to truthfully disclose cultural heritage objects that it holds from colonial contexts by collaborating with diaspora communities as part of its effort to decolonise knowledge production. The dialogue and conversations that are going to be generated from this tour will help the Manchester Museum to improve provenance and biographical information on Islamic cultural heritage objects.

Hosted by: Dr. Njabulo Chipangura, curator of Living Cultures at Manchester Museum.



MANCHESTER MUSEUM



Metalware from 18th and 19th Century Syria and Egypt

Date: Tuesday 27th May

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Venue: University of Manchester, Oxford Rd, Manchester M13 9PL

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Wheelchair accessible



Come and see the beautiful metalware from 18th and 19th-century Syria and Egypt from the Khaleeq-Ayman collection.

Join us for an informative and interactive session focusing on some of the key objects from the Islamic collection that range from archaeology, coins, brass and metalware, and some everyday objects too.

Also, an opportunity to find out more about the museums to explore the stories, histories, experiences, and contributions of UK South Asian diaspora communities, which opened in autumn 2022.

Hosted by: Khaleeq-Ayman, curator and collector of Islamic Artefacts.



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.

eventbrite

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Islamophobia and Muslims in the Media. Hello from around the World!

Date: Sunday, 27th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a lively, engaging and thought-provoking discussion on the topic of Islamophobia and Muslims in the media, with a panel of an amazing group of Muslims.

This event will feature a distinguished panel of influential and diverse Muslim voices who will share their experiences, insights, and strategies for combating negative stereotypes and promoting accurate, respectful portrayals of Muslims in the media.

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:

- Saqib Iqbal Qureshi, Writer
- María Belén Roncero Moreno, Teacher
- Amna Inayat, Student, University of Salford

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

Chief Guest: Nihad Awad, Executive Director and co-founder of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), United States.



Comedy with Nadirah Pierre. Hello from the USA!

Date: Saturday, 17th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Nadirah Pierre who represents a new generation of Muslim comedians in America who have found their voice through social media.

Nadirah's niche of miniature comedic sets on social media touches on polygamy, racism, mental health, body positivity, and more – opening up her humor to a wider audience, both Muslim and not. Her work amplifies her own saying, "Nobody else wants to talk about it, so I have to talk about it."

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

Chief Guest: Chris Sacarabany, Executive Director of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FEU).



Narrating the Unknown: Arabic Travel Literature and Cultural Discovery with Prof Daniel Newman

Date: Saturday, 31st May

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Dr. Newman as he explores the rich tradition of travel in Islamic culture, grounded in both the Qur'an and hadith, which emphasize the pursuit of knowledge as a duty for all Muslims. The Prophet Muhammad famously encouraged believers to "Seek knowledge, even if it is in China," underscoring the importance of travel as a means of observing and reflecting upon Creation, the wonders of the world, and the power of God.

The traditional view is that medieval Muslims did not show any interest in the non-Muslim world, the so-called 'Dar al-Harb'. However, the reality is quite different. This talk will discuss some of the key figures and features of the Arabic travelogue (rihla) literature, which has been a prolific genre from the 10th century until the present day, with special emphasis on encounters with the non-Muslim Other.

Hosted by: Professor Daniel Newman FRGS, Chair, Arabic Studies University of Durham, School of Modern Languages and Cultures





“By the Fig and the Olive”: Ecology, Poetics and the Muslim Culinary Tradition. Hello from the USA!

Date: Saturday, 28th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

An active role in ecological stewardship is as much a part of the Islamic ethos as recognising, utilizing, and sharing the bounties of the planet. What does our tradition teach us about ecology and how do the culinary and literary arts reflect these teachings?

Join Yvonne Maffei, Chef & Cookbook Author and culinary expert, and Shadab Zeest Hashmi, poet and essayist, as they discuss the topic with a slideshow and share relevant recipes and literary offerings.

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



Celebrating the Historic Art of Palestinian Embroidery. Hello from Kuwait!

Date: Sunday, 6th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

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

Yasmeen will be drawing on her roots, 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 about the history of design, colour and fabrics used across Palestine.

Yasmeen will also demonstrate a live practice of embroidery with one beautiful motif that was found on dresses for hundreds of years.

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



Tapestry of Pakistan by Mobeen Ansari, filmmaker and photographer.

Date: Saturday, 10th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join Mobeen Ansari, for whom photography has always been his language and form of expression.

Mobeen, a celebrated photographer, artist, and filmmaker, has travelled across Pakistan, capturing not only landscapes but also historical sites and folklore that connect the country to the rest of the world. He has photographed many inspiring human-interest stories. Photography has helped him overcome communication barriers due to his hearing loss, and connect him with the world through this medium.

In his presentation, he aims to showcase these stories and talk about his journey as a photographer.

Hosted by: Dr Becky Alexis-Martin FRGS CIEH FHEA, Lecturer: Peace, Science, and Technology, University of Bradford, award winning photographer.

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



Fashion with Rabia Zargarpur. Hello from the Emirates!

Date: Saturday, 5th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Rabia Z. Zargarpur, the 'First Lady of Modest Fashion' and a multi-award-winning designer and entrepreneur. Her brand, Rabia Z., is sold in over 85 countries, with sustainable designs showcased on runways from New York to Dubai.

Beyond fashion, Rabia will speak about women's empowerment, ethical business, and sustainability, advising global organizations like the Dubai Islamic Economy Development Center. As an MBA graduate with honours, she continues to drive positive social impact and innovation.

Hosted by: Lulieta Halimi, producer and TV host, Islam Channel.



NATIONAL FESTIVAL

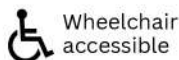
Celebrating Bury MACFEST

Date: Saturday, 12th July

Time: All Day

Venue: Bury Active Women's Centre, 90 S Cross St, Bury BL9 0RS

Tickets: TBC



Join us for a journey through the Middle East in the West with Bury Active Women's Centre (BAWC). 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!



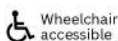
Our voices, our migrant stories with Manchester Histories

Date: Wednesday, 2nd July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

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

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join us for an exciting event celebrating Muslim Diaspora communities with Karen Shannon, CEO of Manchester Histories, for a riveting panel!

Hear the migration stories of four Muslim migrants from Egypt, Pakistan, Sudan, and East Africa. They will share their experiences and how they came to set up their lives in the city of Manchester.

- Mona Muhammad: Headteacher, Manchester Islamic Grammar School for Girls
- Nasrullah Khan Moghal MBE, Former councillor
- Qazi Abdul Hameed, Community Champion and Photographer
- Mahasin Mohamed Ali, right to buy & right to acquire officer

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

This panel is in partnership with the Manchester Histories.

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





Silk Painting Workshop: Tameside Library

Date: Wednesday, 18th June

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: Tameside Central Library & Art Gallery, 5 Market Pl, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 7JU

Tickets: Invitation Only



TAMESIDE LIBRARIES

In this workshop, motifs and designs from The Silk Road (Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkey etc) will be used to produce a Silk Painting. A briefing will be given by Aysha on how Silk is produced and its origins.

Also, she will touch upon the origins of the motifs used. Aysha will demonstrate how to apply the design to the Silk fabric from a drawing, followed by techniques of filling in with Silk paints.

This workshop is beginner-friendly and suitable for children 7+ years of age (accompanied by an adult if 7-11 years old). Suitable for adults



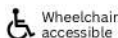
An Illuminated Path. A Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif: Oldham Library

Date: Saturday, 28th June

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Venue: Oldham Library, Greaves St., Oldham, OL1 1AL

Tickets: £10, register on Eventbrite



Join us for an exciting illumination painting workshop with Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and student of Tehzip Illumination. In addition to demonstrating, she will speak about her journey as an artist and showcase some of her work.

Hosted by: Kirsty Green, Development Officer, Creativity and Culture Heritage, Libraries & Arts.





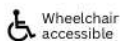
Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz: Bolton

Date: Saturday, 26th April

Time: 10:30 - 12:30

Venue: Bolton Central Library Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE

Tickets: £10, register on Eventbrite



Bolton
Library and
Museum Services

In this workshop, motifs and designs from The Silk Road (Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkey etc) will be used to produce a Silk Painting. A briefing will be given by Aysha on how Silk is produced and its origins.

Also, she will touch upon the origins of the motifs used. Aysha will demonstrate how to apply the design to the Silk fabric from a drawing, followed by techniques of filling in with Silk paints.

This workshop is beginner-friendly and suitable for children 7+ years of age (accompanied by an adult if 7-11 years old). Suitable for adults



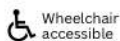
Egging - a new play by Adam Kotwal at Octagon Theatre: Bolton

Date: Friday, 9th May

Time: 19:00 - 21:00

Venue: Octagon Theatre, Howell Croft South, BL1 1SB

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite



A script-in-hand rehearsed reading of Adam Kotwal's brand-new play, Egging. This work-in-progress piece is supported by the Octagon Theatre, followed by a Q&A session with the writer and creative team.

Content to consider

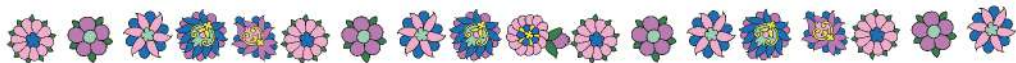
Please note the play contains swearing, discussions of child abuse, suicide and references to loss of parents and drug taking. The age 11+

Additional information: This is a script-in-hand reading.

Part of the Bolton MACFEST Celebrations.

Hosted by: Lotte Wakeham an artistic director at Octagon Bolton Theatre.





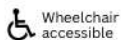
Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz: Heald Green Library, Stockport

Date: Tuesday, 15th April

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: Finney Lane,
Heald Green, Stockport,
SK8 3JB

Tickets: Free, Register
on Eventbrite



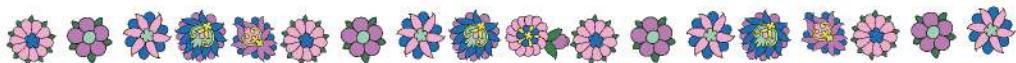
Wheelchair
accessible



In this workshop, motifs and designs from The Silk Road (Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkey etc) will be used to produce a Silk Painting. A briefing will be given by Aysha on how Silk is produced and its origins.

Also, she will touch upon the origins of the motifs used. Aysha will demonstrate how to apply the design to the Silk fabric from a drawing, followed by techniques of filling in with Silk paints.

This workshop is beginner-friendly and suitable for children 7+ years of age (accompanied by an adult if 7-11 years old). Suitable for adults.





Stockroom hosting MACFEST: Stockport

Date: Saturday, 24th May

Time: 10:30 - 14:30

Venue: Stockroom,
Merseyway Shopping
Centre, Stockport SK1
1PD

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite



Join us at Stockroom in collaboration with MACFEST to get together, get creative and try something new.

Make an Eid card for a friend or neighbour, try your hand at henna art or make some music with traditional Turkish music and dancing.

There will be something for everyone, young and old, come alone or bring a friend.

Hosted by: Stockroom Team



STOCKROOM

Hopwood Hall College celebrating 'Our journey'. Hello from Rochdale!

Date: Friday 14th
February

Time: 11:00 - 14:00

Venue: Rochdale
Campus, St Mary's Gate,
Rochdale, OL12 6RY

Tickets: Invitation Only

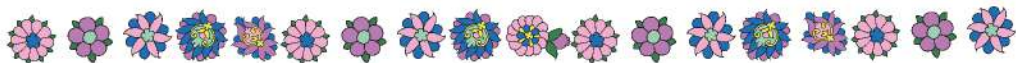
This year's event will be 'Our Journey'. The preparation for the event will include creative writing classes where all the learners will have the opportunity to explore the tools available to write about their journey using English. This may be a journey from a native land to the UK; a journey about life experience; a difficult journey; a fun journey. Who knows?

As part of their MACFEST journey, in addition to using creative language learned in their classes, they will create a book of their stories, which we can share. Furthermore, our event will be an opportunity for learners to read their creative writing and for the audience to ask questions about their journey.

There will also be a marketplace celebrating food and art from countries that are visited through the journey.

Hosted by: Julia Heap, Principal and CEO, Laura Wiggin, ESOL Program Manager, ESOL Team





The City of Liverpool College. Hello from Liverpool!

Date: Wednesday 2nd April

Time: 12:00 - 15:00

Venue: : The City Of Liverpool College, Roscoe St, Liverpool, L1 9DW 1ER

Tickets: Invitation Only

Liverpool City College offers an art and cultural feast to celebrate Eid-UI-Fitr. Hosted by the ESOL department, teachers and students - Sleiman, who is a student governor and is currently also the student voice officer for the student parliament. Lanya Osman is the Students' Union Vice President and Jahan Asadzadeh the gym Instructor.

They will showcase an art exhibition, including works by Muslim artists, as well as enjoy performances by local Muslim singers and international cuisine!

Hosted by: Student Support team and the ESOL Department.



Tameside College Celebrating Culture Day

Date: Monday, 19th May

Time: All Day

Venue: Tameside College, Old Street Campus Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne Greater Manchester, OL6 7SF

Tickets: Invitation Only

Join Tameside College to celebrate the diversity of cultures with our ESOL students! This vibrant event is a unique opportunity to showcase the rich cultural diversity within our community, bringing together students from various backgrounds to share their stories, traditions, and heritage.

Through a series of engaging activities, including cultural performances, traditional crafts, and international cuisine, our ESOL students will have the chance to highlight their unique cultures while fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect.

Come and experience the world through the eyes of Tameside's ESOL students at MACFEST 2025—a day of learning, sharing, and celebrating the richness of our global community!

Hosted by: Andy Macleod Head of Community Education & ESOL.





Celebrating Muslim Heritage: Stockport, Cheadle and Trafford Sixth Form Colleges; Hello from Cheshire!

Dates: Tuesday, 1st - Friday, 4th April

Marple Sixth Form College and Cheadle College -

Tuesday, 1st April

Trafford College - Stretford

Campus - Wednesday, 2nd

April

Stockport College -

Thursday, 3rd April

Trafford College -

Altrincham Campus - Friday,

4th April

Time: 10:00 - 14:00

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

Tickets: Invitation Only



The Trafford College Group is proud to announce that they will be hosting MACFEST in March 2025!

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 at Trafford, Stockport, Marple, and Cheadle Colleges. There will be food, art, literature, dance, and a henna demonstration!

Welcome message from James Scott, Principal and CEO, Trafford and Stockport 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 and Stockport College Group, and we look forward to many more collaborations to confirm our connection."

Hosted by: James Scott, Principal and CEO, Trafford and Stockport College Group, Michelle McLaughlin, Student Engagement and Student Voice Lead, Charlotte Brocklehurst student experience practitioner.



FESTIVAL OF WORDS AND BOOKS

Siobhan Lambert-Hurley - Muslim Women, Reform and Princely Patronage: Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal

Date: Sunday, 18th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

This talk will introduce you to a remarkable Muslim woman ruler: Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum (1958-1930, ruled 1901-1926). She was the last in a dynasty of four women who ruled the princely state of Bhopal in central India in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Distinguishing her reign was her determination to be an effective ruler and reformer while still maintain strict seclusion or purdah. Not only did she introduce administrative changes intended to form an efficient and merit-based bureaucracy in her state, but she also dedicated herself to social reform.

In Bhopal, she founded schools, hospitals, clubs, libraries, magazines and museums. She also patronised Muslim education, health programmes and women's organisations throughout India as a whole.

A keen traveller and a prolific author, she has over a dozen Urdu books to her name (some of which are also available in English translation). Join this event to find out more about her life, reign, journeys and writings.

Hosted by: Shamim Choudhury, award-winning Media correspondent and writer





Language and Power: Voices and Experiences

Date: Thursday 27th February

Time: 17:00 - 18:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join an insightful event where individuals from various backgrounds discuss the intricate relationship between language and power.

- Loana Aminian, sociolinguist specialized in endangered minority languages and cultures, Austrian Academy of Sciences and University of Vienna
- Mukhtar Omar, Student, Birmingham
- Mohammad Anser Aly, Head of Unilever's Global Learning & Leadership Development Centre, Four Acres Singapore

This panel brings together academics, and everyday people to share their experiences and perspectives on how language shapes and is shaped by power dynamics in society. The panel explores how language can be a tool of empowerment, control, and resistance.

It examines how language influences social structures, identity, and access to resources and opportunities. Through personal stories and expert analyses, the panel aims to shed light on the multifaceted nature of language and its impact on power relations.

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.

Hosted by: Yaron Matras, author and former Professor of Linguistics, University of Manchester.

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.



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.



The "Global Literary and Poetic Journey: Young Voices from the UK and Beyond"

Date: Tuesday, 25th February

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

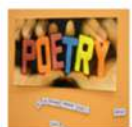
Join us for an exciting event with young people from the UK and around the world on a literary and poetic journey.

Atyab Adam, from Whalley Range High School | Newman College | Loretto College | Manchester Academy | Stretford Grammar School

They will encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and highlighting the power of words to connect people across borders. This event aims to create a vibrant space for cultural exchange, creativity, and the sharing of unique perspectives through written and spoken word.

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

Chief Guest: Jess Edwards is a Professor of Place Writing and Head of the Department of English at Manchester Metropolitan University.



Eid Celebration with Multilingual Mushaira and International Poetry

Date: Saturday, 10th May

Time: 15:00 - 16:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a captivating evening of multilingual poetry and Mushaira, where the rich literary traditions of the Muslim world come alive through the spoken word. This event brings together renowned Muslim poets from across the UK, USA, India and Denmark, showcasing their artistry in various languages, including Urdu, Arabic, Persian, English, and more.

Experience the beauty of poetic expression as these talented poets share verses that resonate with themes of spirituality, identity, culture, and human connection. The voices from different backgrounds will unite in the universal language of poetry again.

International poets include Zakia Zaheer (India), Ghaith Adnan Khaleel Alshati (Germany), Sadaf Mirza (Denmark), Nasima Begum (Bengali poet) Harmesh Manghra (Punjabi poet) and Leyla Colman (Turkye) who will do a presentation Al Maulana Rumi.

Hosted by: Rubina Khan, Poet and BBC Radio Presenter and Becky Swain, Director of Poetry Library, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Chief Guest: Salma Zaman, children's author and a Bollywood dance teacher.



Children's Books with Shirin Shamsi Hello from the USA!

Date: Saturday, 15th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

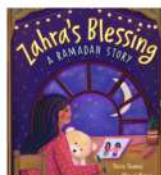
Join Shirin Shamsi, a successful children's author, as she reads her picture book, *Zahra's Blessing*.

A Ramadan Story, and shares how her journey began when she was a young mother looking for stories in which her children could see themselves represented.

She tells of her struggles as a writer, with numerous rejections. She speaks of the power of perseverance, persistence and passion to keep going in the pursuit of her dreams to publish children's stories that mirror her faith and heritage - books she wishes she had available to her as a child.

Bring along a notebook and pen, as Shirin will share important writing tips for beginner writers- and anyone who dreams of becoming an author.

Hosted by: Saimon Guirrer, writer, producer, author of "Sherlock Holmes - The Great War" (Titan, 2021) and chair of the Books Committee for the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.



Literature: Osman Yousefzada

Date: Sunday, 20th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Osman Yousefzada, an internationally renowned artist and writer.

He will discuss his Memoir 'The Go Between' reviewed by Stephen Fry as 'one of the greatest childhood memoirs of our time'. The book is narrated through the eyes of a child, trying to make sense of the adult world.

His visual art practice, has been shown internationally and his works explore themes of rupture, migration, intergenerational tacit knowledge, and these conversations take forms in sculpture, textiles and installation work. Yousefzada says 'he copies his mother to become an artist.

Hosted by: Dr Richard Fay, Senior Lecturer in Education (TESOL , Manchester Institute of Education)

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



OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR PLANET

Universities' Global Event on Sustainability and Environment

Date: Sunday, 6th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us at the "Universities Global Event on Sustainability and Environment" as we work together to build a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

5 Universities - 5 Continents

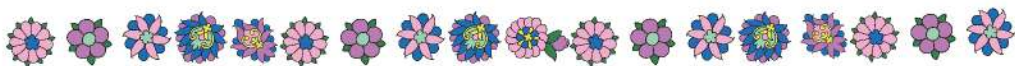
- Dr Faiza Abbasi, Aligarh University (India)
- Dr Saima Ansari, Manchester University, UK
- Prof James Trevelyan, Emeritus Professor, Engineering School, The University of Western Australia
- Prof Odeh Al-Jayyousi, Head of Innovation and Technology Management, Arabian Gulf University, Bahrain

The "Universities Global Event on Sustainability and Environment" is an international forum that brings together leading academic institutions worldwide to address critical issues related to sustainability and environmental conservation.

This event aims to foster collaboration, share innovative research, and develop actionable strategies to combat the pressing environmental challenges of our time.

Hosted by: Dr Karin Vogt, professor of teaching English as a Foreign Language and Head of Professional School, University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany.





International Youth Speak Out on the Environment!

Date: Sunday, 22nd June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us as we host a special panel with young people from five countries!

School students will share their thoughts, discuss and devise strategies to address pressing environmental issues in their countries. They will share their knowledge, experiences, and innovative solutions for protecting our planet.

Inarah Ali and Raniyah Ali, Mearns Castle High School, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow; Hadassah Dekary, Kenya; Asmaa Mohammed Dhannon, Cambridge International School, Erbil; Benbassam Abdeselam, UGR University of Granada, Spain; Muhammed Azzam Mohammed, Johannes Kepler Gymnasium, Germany. They will be introduced by their teachers or headteachers.

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

Chief Guest: Sherilyn MacGregor, Prof of Environmental Politics, University of Manchester.



Women Leading Sustainability in Morocco: Champions of Change in Food

Date: Sunday, 4th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

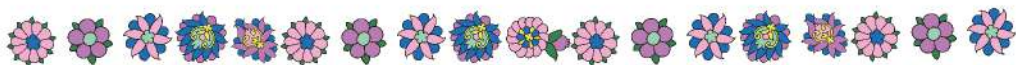
Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Hanane to share the stories of women in Morocco who are making significant strides in leading sustainability efforts within the food sector.

Hanane will bring to the stage the women in Morocco who have increasingly taken on pivotal roles in leading sustainability efforts, particularly within the food sector. Their contributions have fostered environmental conservation, empowered communities, and promoted social change.

Presented by: Hanane El Hadioui, one of the Directors of Heart and Parcel, MACFEST team member.





From Orchard to Jar in Oldham: Exploring Apples and Traditional English and Persian Jam Making

Date: Tuesday, 10th June

Time: 12:00 - 16:00

Venue: Grass Roots
Marlborough Drive
Failsworth M35 0LE

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite



Wheelchair
accessible



Join Victoria Holden and Haleh Moravej in this immersive workshop which combines an exploration of apples in a beautiful orchard setting of Northern Lilly with Persian art and heritage influences.

Participants will delve into the diversity of apple varieties with Victoria Holden, and then unleash their creativity in a jam-making session led by Haleh Moravej, incorporating traditional Persian flavours and English artistic elements.

Following the orchard exploration, Haleh Moravej will guide you through a creative jam-making session that blends traditional Persian flavours with English culinary techniques. This hands-on experience will allow you to unleash your creativity, experimenting with ingredients and crafting your own delicious jams while celebrating the cultural fusion of English and Persian heritage.

Hosted by: Victoria Holden, Director of Northern Lilly and Haleh Moravej, nutritionist and environment champion.



Environment Panel: Faith, Environment, and Islam with Dr Iyad Abumoghli

Date: Saturday, 12th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on
Eventbrite

Join Dr Iyad Abumoghli, Founder and Director of the Faith for Earth Coalition (UNEP), who will share an overview of Islam and Ecology – highlighting how these key Islamic principles and practices for the protection of the Earth promote its conservation, protection, and bring out a sacred duty to protect it.

Notably, Dr. Iyad will also speak about how these principles are presented in 'Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth' aiming to mobilise individual and community action globally.

Hosted by: Sherilyn Macgregor, Prof of Environmental Politics, University of Manchester.



The Ecological Wisdom of the Islamic Gardens of Paradise

Date: Sunday, 25th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join Emma Clark, a specialist in Islamic gardens, art and architecture, lecturer and author of *The Art of the Islamic Garden*. She will examine the importance of Nature in the Qur'an and how the Qur'an demonstrates a profound understanding of the close relationship between humankind and the natural environment. All of us may learn from this knowledge and understanding regardless of background, culture or creed.

The talk introduces the principal elements of the traditional Islamic garden, in particular the chahar-bagh (4-fold garden) form associated with the Gardens of Paradise, the jannat al-firdaus. The Qur'an's descriptions of these Gardens are viewed as the chief source of inspiration for their varied representation on earth. The speaker explores how an understanding of the principal elements, together with their integral spiritual symbolism may shed light upon the inherent ecological wisdom of the Islamic Gardens of Paradise.

Presented by: Emma Clark, British garden designer, historian, and author, who specialises in designing Islamic gardens.

Hosted by: Safia Florence Ascoli-Ball, Bayt Ahikma Director and - Movement Specialist & Taekwondo Instructor, freelance translator, part-time Pilates teacher.



Creative Recycling with Alaa Zalat

Date: Saturday, 19th April

Time: 16:30 - 17:30

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.

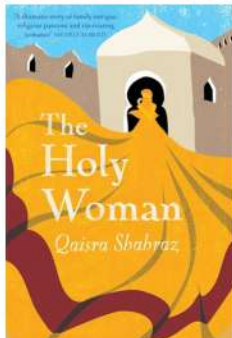
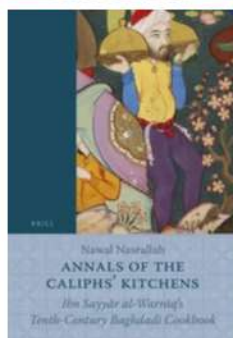
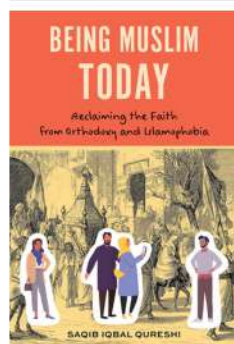
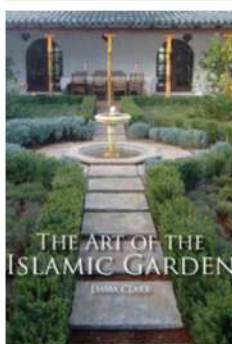
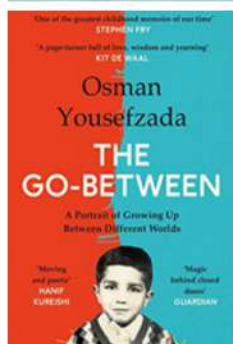
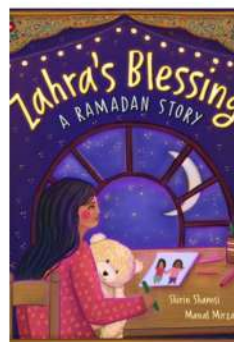
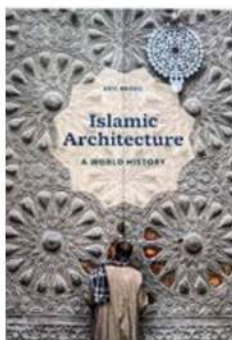
Presented by: Alaa Zalat, Artist and MACFEST team member

Hosted by: Ryan Humphrey, is an Arts and Cultural Management Lecturer at the University of Manchester.



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: Siobhan Lambert-Hurley Muslim Women, Reform and Princely Patronage; Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum of Bhopal, Eric Brough Islamic Architecture: A World History; Shirin Shamsi Zahra's Blessing. A Ramadan Story; Osman Yousefzada The Go-between; Emma Clark The Art of the Islamic Garden; Qaisra Shahraz The Holy Woman; Nawal Nasrallah Annals of the Caliphs' Kitchens; Ibn Sayyār Al-Warrāq's Tenth-century Baghdadi Cookbook; Saqib Qureshi Being Muslim Today: Reclaiming the Faith from Orthodoxy and Islamophobia; UNEP and the Parliament of The World's Religion: Faith for the Earth, A call to action.



WELCOME TO MACFEST HERITAGE TOURS 2025!

Join us on our three amazing and culture rich Heritage Tours in 2025 to Albania, Cambridge Mosque and Oman!

There's a Tour for everyone! Join us in exploring the picturesque and breath-taking landscape of Albania whilst visiting spiritually uplifting mosques in Oman and Cambridge.

PROUDLY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



islamictravels.com
exploring the ummah



For more Information, Please contact:
tours@macfest.org.uk | 020 8123 7861

UK HERITAGE TOUR - DISCOVER CAMBRIDGE MOSQUE

Dates: Saturday, 26th - Sunday, 27th July 2025

Time: 14:30 - 15:30

Venue: Cambridge Central Mosque 309-313 Mill Road Cambridge CB1 3DF

Tickets: £25 (for the meal and the tour)

Visiting the Cambridge Central Mosque offers a unique and enriching experience, blending spirituality with a remarkable commitment to sustainability.

Join us on a guided tour that transports you from the lively atmosphere of Mill Road into a serene, transformative journey. We will explore the mosque's eco-friendly design and delve into the meticulous craftsmanship behind its award-winning architecture.

As you pass through the portico and atrium, you'll experience a sense of purification, preparing you to enter the grand prayer hall—a sanctuary of tranquility, ideal for spiritual reflection and connecting with the unseen. While marvelling at the structure, ideal for we will explore the mosque's evolution as an eco-friendly project, offering insights into the principles that make this space truly extraordinary.



CAMBRIDGE
CENTRAL MOSQUE



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via tours@macfest.org.uk or 020 8123 7861. For more information and cost see Eventbrite. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



OMAN – EXPLORING THE JEWELS OF SOUTHEAST ARABIA

Date: Sunday, 2nd - Friday, 7th February 2025

Main Locations: Muscat, Sur, Wadi Shab, Wahiba Sands & Nizwa

This immersive 6-day tour takes us on an enchanting journey through the rich cultural heritage and captivating landscapes of Oman.

Starting in the vibrant capital Muscat, we explore impressive monuments such as Al-Jalali Fort and Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, as well as Mutrah Souq. We then follow the Arabian Sea coastline to Sur and Ra's Al-Jinz where nesting turtles can be observed.

Later we venture into Oman's desert interior to experience the lush valley of Wadi Shab and the vast wilderness of Wahiba Sands. The final part of our adventure brings us to the ancient city of Nizwa and the verdant Jebel Akhdar region before we make our way back to Muscat.

This package covers 4-star accommodation with breakfast, ground transport, experienced tour guide and entrance fees to historical sites. Flights are excluded.



ALBANIA – DISCOVERING OTTOMAN ILLYRIA

Date: Saturday, 4th - Saturday, 11th October 2025

Main Locations: Tirana, Shkodër, Berat, Gjirokastër & Durres

This autumn we visit one of the lesser explored parts of Europe that has been blessed with diverse landscapes, hospitable people and a rich culinary tradition.

We begin in the capital Tirana with its vibrant streets and captivating mix of Ottoman, Fascist and Communist era influences. We then head north to Shkodër which has served as an important cultural, educational and economic centre for centuries.

Later we visit the ancient town of Berat which is renowned for its stunning hilltop views and architecture before proceeding south to Gjirokastër, famous for its diverse population, imposing fortress and traditional bazaar. Our adventure is concluded with time to relax on one of the pristine beaches of the Adriatic Sea.

This package covers 4-star accommodation with breakfast, private transport, tour guide and entrance fees to historical sites. Flights are excluded.





MACFEST



ARTS AWARDS

MACFEST Arts Awards Logo by Maaida Noor, Calligraphy by Samir Malik



2024 WINNERS:

Calligraphy:

Mahvish Javed

Photography:

Shireen Malik

Painting:

Carol Souza

Atefeh Seifi

Drawing:

Mohamad Aaqib Anvarmia

MACFEST's second year of the 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. 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.

WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK/ARTS-AWARDS



MACFEST
MUSLIM ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL



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University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

1967-2017 50 YEARS



islamic art prints



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, Abbie Donald, Barbara Dresner, Nabila Farooq, Hanane El Hadioui, Nafisa Madany, Steve Roman, Steven Tennant, Dudiya Zilic, Alaa Zalat, Tehmina Ahmed, Susie Bolchover, Hajra Mubashar, Anila Saeed, Katarzyna Jablonska, Rania Abdalla, Andrew Nowell, Wafaa Sirokh, Phil Portus, Manorama Venkatraman, Luljeta Halimi, Aicha Aboubaker, Hind Gaily, Tom McGuinness and Ban Saleh.

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS:

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

IN-KIND SPONSORSHIPS:

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



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
- 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, Oldham
- Manchester Islamic Girls Grammar School
- Freehold Community Primary School Oldham
- Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Altrincham
- William Hulme Grammar School
- Stretford Grammar School, Trafford
- CHS South, Manchester
- Manchester High School for Girls
- Sudanese Supplementary School, Manchester
- Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester
- Burnage Academy for Boys
- The Nile Language School
- Tameside College
- Oldham 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

- Science and Industry Museum (SIM)
- Manchester Museum
- Stretford Public Hall
- Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre
- Khizra Mosque
- The Portico Library
- Tameside Library
- The Met, Bury
- Oldham Gallery
- The Lowry - Salford
- Bolton Central Library
- Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery
- Northern Lily, Oldham
- Cambridge Mosque
- Stockport Library
- The World Liverpool Museum
- John Rylands Library
- British Muslim Heritage Centre
- Elizabeth Gaskell's House
- The Heaton's Library
- Whitworth Art Gallery
- Huddersfield Festival
- Cartwright Hall Art Gallery
- Heald Green Library, Stockport

FESTIVAL DIARY

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

JANUARY 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|--|---------------|------|
| 18th | Big Family Event at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Bradford! | 11:30 - 15:30 | 32 |

FEBRUARY 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|--|---------------|------|
| 2nd | Oman – Exploring the Jewels of Southeast Arabia | All Day | 57 |
| 7th | Levenshulme High School: Climate Change | 11:30 - 13:00 | 7 |
| 10th | Celebrating Muslim Art and Culture at AGGS | All Day | 8 |
| 14th | Hopwood Hall College Celebrating 'Our journey' | 11:00 - 14:00 | 43 |
| 15th | Islamic Geometric Patterns with Eric Broug in Manchester | 14:00 - 15:30 | 33 |
| 18th | Stretford Grammar School celebrates MACFEST | 12:00 - 15:00 | 9 |
| 22nd | Opening Ceremony | 11:30 - 13:00 | 6 |
| 22nd | Cultural Heritage Hubs | All Day | 14 |
| 22nd | Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid | All Day | 14 |
| 22nd | Art Exhibition by Venture Arts | All Day | 15 |
| 22nd | Exhibition and Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano | All Day | 15 |
| 22nd | Henna Body Painting with Khadija Kemlaoui | All Day | 16 |
| 22nd | Art Exhibition by Yaran North West | All Day | 16 |
| 22nd | Children's Face Painting with Kinga Truszkowska | All Day | 16 |
| 22nd | Art Exhibition by Mahvish Javed | All Day | 17 |
| 22nd | Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci | All Day | 17 |
| 22nd | Art Exhibition by Asma Al-Neama | All Day | 17 |
| 22nd | Calligraphy Workshops with Farzana Patel | All Day | 18 |
| 22nd | Muslim Arts Awards' Exhibition | All Day | 18 |
| 22nd | Art Exhibition by Hafifa Ahmed | All Day | 18 |
| 25th | The "Global Literary and Poetic Journey: Young Voices" | 18:00 - 19:30 | 48 |
| 27th | Language and Power: Voices and Experiences | 17:00 - 18:30 | 47 |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|--|---------------|------|
| 1st | Cooking with the "Blind Chef" Ibraheem Iqbal | 14:00 - 15:00 | 27 |
| 2nd | Celebrating Ramadan in the Philippines | 14:00 - 15:30 | 28 |
| 5th | Celebrating International IWD - Research Cafe | 12:15 - 14:30 | 21 |
| 8th | Myriam Francois & Women Speak Out | 14:00 - 15:30 | 19 |
| 9th | Celebrating IWD 2025: Young Muslim Women Speak Out | 14:00 - 15:30 | 20 |

MARCH 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|-------------|--|---------------|-------------|
| 15th | Children's Books with Shirin Shamsi. Hello from the USA! | 14:00 - 15:30 | 49 |
| 15th | Iftar with our Partners at Khizra Mosque | 18:30 - 21:00 | 28 |
| 16th | Food Stories from the Middle East: Hello from Scotland! | 14:00 - 15:30 | 30 |
| 17th | Manchester High School for Girls celebrating Culture Day | All Day | 8 |
| 22nd | Celebrating Ramadan in Iraq | 14:00 - 15:00 | 30 |
| 23rd | Gastronomy in Medieval Baghdad with Nawal Nasrallah | 14:00 - 15:00 | 29 |

APRIL 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|-------------|--|----------------------|-------------|
| 1st | Celebrating Muslim Heritage: Stockport, Cheadle, Trafford | 10:00 - 14:00 | 45 |
| 2nd | The City of Liverpool College. Hello from Liverpool! | 12:00 - 15:00 | 44 |
| 4th | Manchester Academy Carnival Celebration of Colour! | 09:00 - 14:00 | 10 |
| 6th | Universities' Global Event on Sustainability and Environment | 14:00 - 15:30 | 50 |
| 10th | Youth Celebrating Arts | 18:00 - 19:00 | 26 |
| 12th | Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz in Manchester | 10:00 - 12:00 | 23 |
| 12th | Environment Panel with Dr Iyad Abumoghli | 14:00 - 15:30 | 52 |
| 15th | Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz in Stockport | 14:00 - 16:00 | 42 |
| 19th | Celebrating Calligraphy & Creativity with Lord Richard MacLeod | 14:00 - 15:00 | 23 |
| 19th | Creative Recycling with Alaa Zalut | 16:30 - 17:30 | 53 |
| 20th | Literature: Osman Yousefzada | 14:00 - 15:30 | 49 |
| 23rd | Living Better Together | 18:30 - 19:30 | 22 |
| 24th | Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano in Stockport | 13:30 - 15:30 | 24 |
| 26th | Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz in Bolton | 10:30 - 12:30 | 41 |
| 27th | Islamophobia and Muslims in the Media | 14:00 - 15:30 | 35 |

MAY 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|-------------|---|---------------|-------------|
| 3rd | Afghani Women Artists. Hello from Afghanistan! | 14:00 - 15:30 | 26 |
| 4th | Women Leading Sustainability in Morocco | 14:00 - 15:00 | 51 |
| 9th | Egging - a new play by Adam Kotwal at Octagon Theatre, Bolton | 19:00 - 21:00 | 41 |
| 10th | Manchester Museum Tour: Featuring Islamic Cultural Objects | 10:00 - 12:00 | 33 |
| 10th | Tapestry of Pakistan by Mobeen Ansari | 14:00 - 15:30 | 38 |
| 10th | Eid Celebration with Multilingual Mushaira | 15:00 - 16:30 | 48 |
| 17th | Comedy with Nadirah Pierre. Hello from the USA! | 14:00 - 15:00 | 36 |
| 18th | Siobhan Lambert-Hurley - Muslim Women, Reform | 14:00 - 15:30 | 46 |
| 19th | Tameside College Celebrating Culture Day | All Day | 44 |
| 21st | Youth Celebrating World Culture Day | 18:00 - 19:30 | 11 |
| 23rd | William Hulme's Grammar School celebrating Culture Day | 08:30 - 15:30 | 7 |

MAY 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|---|---------------|------|
| 24th | Discovering Islamic Poetry and Manuscripts | 14:00 - 16:00 | 32 |
| 24th | Stockroom hosting MACFEST in Stockport | 10:30 - 14:30 | 43 |
| 25th | The Ecological Wisdom of the Islamic Gardens of Paradise | 14:00 - 15:00 | 53 |
| 27th | Metalware from 18th and 19th Century Syria and Egypt | 10:00 - 12:00 | 34 |
| 27th | Arabic Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel in Blackburn | 12:00 - 15:00 | 31 |
| 31st | Arabic Travel Writing with Prof Daniel Newman | 14:00 - 15:30 | 36 |

JUNE 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|--|---------------|------|
| 10th | From Orchard to Jar in Oldham | 12:00 - 16:00 | 52 |
| 15th | Islamic Architecture: A World History-with Eric Broug | 14:00 - 15:30 | 25 |
| 18th | Silk Painting Workshop: Tameside Library | 11:00 - 13:00 | 40 |
| 20th | CHS South School is celebrating Culture Night | 12:00 - 15:00 | 10 |
| 21st | Celebrating Eid at the Lowry; Salford | 18:00 - 20:00 | 27 |
| 22nd | International Youth Speak Out on the Environment! | 14:00 - 15:30 | 51 |
| 27th | Burnage Academy for Boys celebrates their Cultural Heritage | All Day | 9 |
| 28th | An Illuminated Path. A Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif in Oldham | 10:00 - 12:00 | 40 |
| 28th | "By the Fig and the Olive": Ecology, Poetics | 14:00 - 15:00 | 37 |
| 28th | Art workshop: Along the Silk Road, make your bookmark | 15:00 - 17:00 | 24 |
| 29th | Celebrating Egyptian Culture and Heritage, the Nile School | 13:00 - 16:00 | 25 |

JULY 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|---|---------------|------|
| 2nd | Our voices, our migrant stories with Manchester Histories | 14:00 - 15:30 | 39 |
| 5th | Fashion with Rabia Zargarpur. Hello from the Emirates! | 14:00 - 15:00 | 38 |
| 6th | Celebrating the Historic Art of Palestinian Embroidery | 14:00 - 15:00 | 37 |
| 12th | Celebrating Bury MACFEST | All Day | 39 |
| 26th | UK Heritage Tour - Discover Cambridge Mosque | 14:30 - 15:30 | 56 |

AUGUST 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|------------------------|---------------|------|
| 2nd | Women's Festival Party | 13:00 - 16:00 | 20 |

OCTOBER 2025

| Date | Event | Time | Page |
|------|---------------------------------------|---------|------|
| 4th | Albania – Discovering Ottoman Illyria | All Day | 57 |



FEBRUARY - JULY 2025



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:

Katarzyna Jablonska and Abbie Donald



The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

