

# IKON

Exhibitions / Events

November 2018 – February 2019

[ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

Free entry



# Haroon Mirza

reality is somehow what  
we expect it to be

## Exhibition

30 November 2018 – 24 February 2019

First and Second Floor Galleries and Tower Room

Please note the Tower Room is only accessible

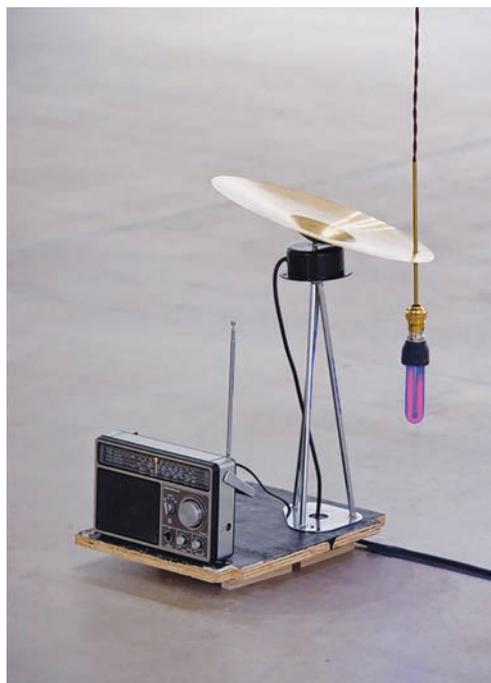
via a number of steps

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Cover Haroon Mirza  
*The National Apavilion of Then and Now* (2011)  
Installation view, Venice Biennale  
Courtesy hrm199 and Lisson Gallery  
Photograph by Kiki Triantafyllou

- 1 Haroon Mirza  
*Taka Tak* (2008)  
Courtesy British Council Collection,  
Lisson Gallery and hrm199
- 2 Haroon Mirza *Siren* (2012)  
Courtesy BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art  
Photograph by Colin Dawson
- 3 Haroon Mirza  
*A Chamber for Horwitz; Sonakinatography  
Transcriptions in Surround Sound* (2015) (detail)  
Installation view at Museum Tinguely, Basel  
Courtesy hrm199 and Museum Tinguely  
Photograph by Bettina Matthiessen



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This is the most comprehensive exhibition of work by Haroon Mirza in the UK to date, filling Ikon's exhibition spaces with moving imagery, sculptural installation and electronic sound. Involving smart sampling, sometimes through collaboration with other artists, Mirza's practice overall is characterised by a knowing eclecticism and sheer physical impact. His (mis)understanding of the nature of human perception – of what and how we see and hear – is demonstrated and combined with countless possibilities of meaning, and so his aesthetic proposition is more to do with messages received than those transmitted, circumscribed by our constitutions, testing the limits of what we can experience and what we think we know.

Born in London in 1977, Haroon Mirza studied at Goldsmiths' College and Chelsea College of Art and Design. He has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad and was awarded the Silver Lion for a Promising Young Artist at the 2011 Venice Biennale. Early works often mix old-fashioned furniture and electrical equipment, including radios, TVs and gramophones, synthesised with looping film footage and sound to arrive at robotic orchestral results. *Taka Tak* (2008) for example, features Mirza's video of a Pakistani street food chef chopping ingredients



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with two spatulas, like drumsticks, at the heart of a high energy composition, while flashing fairy lights, a turntable and spinning Sufi statuette provide kinetic accompaniment.

*An\_Infinato* (2009), from Mirza's *Optical Sound* series, problematises the possibility of the visual and acoustic as one singular aesthetic form. It combines a readymade assemblage, involving a piano keyboard, LED light circle and galvanised bin, with a looping video excerpt of swarming bats from Jeremy Deller's *Memory Bucket* (2003) and off-cuts from a 16mm film by Guy Sherwin (*Cycles #1, 1972/77*), back-projected onto a screen.

Mirza has been exploring a more minimal approach to installation, and has become less inclined to use found objects. This tendency was epitomised at the 2011 Venice Biennale by *The National Apavilion of Then and Now*, an architectural structure that referred to its context while being abstract in the extreme. Lined with grey sound-insulating pyramidal foam, the *Apavilion* is an anechoic chamber in which neither light nor sound is reflected. At its centre, suspended from the ceiling is a circle of white LED lights, a halo-like symbol of heavenliness, of spiritual perfection. After a period of total darkness, the LEDs

get increasingly bright, accompanied by a crescendo of an electronic buzzing sound – our sensory perceptions affirming our vitality – then to abruptly stop, plunging the room back into darkness until the cycle starts again.

Circles – loops and cycles – are ubiquitous in Mirza's work. Sometimes symbolic, and often inherent in the materials and objects he uses, on the whole they undermine ideas of straightforward narratives, and resolution, and so give rise to a more ambient aesthetic. His *Chamber for Horwitz: Sonakinatography Transcriptions in Surround Sound*, made in 2015, is another case in point. Inspired by LA-based artist Channa Horwitz (1932–2013), best known for her systematic colour schemes on graph paper, translating sound into configurations that seem to anticipate digital style, it is a ring of LEDs, speakers and pyramidal foam panels that we enter to be immersed in the mix of light and sound that Mirza has composed.

The exhibition is supported by The Ampersand Foundation, The Arts Club, Lisson Gallery and the Ikon Investment Fund. A new Haroon Mirza limited edition, priced £500, is available to purchase from Ikon Shop.

# Associated Events

## Talk

### *Collaboration or Appropriation?*

Tuesday 15 January, 6–7pm – £3

#### Booking essential

The panel addresses the fine line between collaboration, appropriation and plagiarism across the visual arts, fashion and music. Chaired by Gilane Tawadros, Chief Executive of DACS and Vice Chair of the Stuart Hall Foundation, speakers include artist Haroon Mirza, fashion designer Osman Yousefzada and composer David Toop.

## Exhibition Opening

### Haroon Mirza

*reality is somehow what we expect it to be*

Friday 30 November, 6–8pm – FREE

Join us to celebrate the opening night of Haroon Mirza's new exhibition; *reality is somehow what we expect it to be*. Pay bar.

## Film

### Guy Sherwin Short Films

Tuesday 12 February, 6–7pm – FREE

#### Yorks Café at Ikon

#### Booking essential

This event showcases Guy Sherwin's *Optical Sound Films 1971–2007*, published by LUX, including works that were shot on the train from London to Birmingham when the artist started teaching at the University of Wolverhampton, then Polytechnic, in the 1970s. The event sheds light on Haroon Mirza's *Tescotrain (Homage to Guy Sherwin)* (2012) and *An\_Infīnato* (2009), which includes damaged off-cuts from Guy Sherwin's 16mm film *Cycles #1* (1972/77).

4 Tom McLean  
Courtesy hrm199

5 Matthew Krishanu  
*Crow (pink and green)* (2016)  
Oil on board  
Courtesy the artist



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## Music

### hrm199 Studio Sessions presents:

Tom McLean and special guest

Wednesday 20 February, 6–7pm – FREE

#### Yorks Café at Ikon

#### Booking essential

McLean delivers newly developed material from studio sessions at hrm199, the platform for collective and collaborative practice. Tom McLean uses a range of synthesisers, of his own creation, to explore aural textures and unconventional timbres. He collaborates in this one off performance with a special guest.

## Matthew Krishanu

### *A Murder of Crows*

#### Exhibition

8 January – 10 March 2019

Throughout Ikon

Dozens of Matthew Krishanu's painted crows will be displayed throughout Ikon's neo-gothic premises. Always painted singly and never in flight they appear almost anthropomorphic on their twin legs, whether looking directly at the viewer or stepping away.

Mischievous, malevolent and sometimes comical, Krishanu's birds are partly inspired by crows in art and literature; for example, *Crow* by Ted Hughes, Edgar Allan Poe's raven, or the mythical crows of trickster tales. Inspired by bird watching in England, they are also signifiers of Krishanu's childhood in Bangladesh where crows were always close by, cawing in trees or pecking at rubbish dumps.

The exhibition coincides with Matthew Krishanu's *The Sun Never Sets* at MAC Birmingham (12 January – 10 March 2019).

# Discuss, Explore, Learn, Create

## Exhibition Showcase

### Procession Banners

Tuesday 22 – Sunday 27 January

11am–5pm – FREE

Drop in, no need to book

This showcase comprises documentation of the banner making workshops led by Lucy Orta and MotherShip, a community arts organisation in Ladywood, as recent residents on Ikon's *Slow Boat*. It includes three banners with motifs and slogans derived from the suffragette movement and the experiences of women today.

## Tours

### Spotlight Tours

Every Friday, 12.30pm and Sunday, 3pm – FREE

Join a member of Ikon staff for a 15 minute spotlight tour focused on a key work in the exhibition. No need to book, meet in Ikon foyer.

### Access Tours

Available on request – FREE

Booking essential

Ikon can provide British Sign Language (BSL) and audio described introductions to our current exhibitions. Individual or group bookings are free but must be booked. Call Ikon on 0121 2480708 or email [learning@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:learning@ikon-gallery.org)

**Ikon is a registered charity and your support helps us with everything we do so please consider making a donation for free events.**

**All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated.**



6 Julian Lloyd Webber  
Photograph by John Millar

## Talk

### Julian Lloyd Webber

*These Are A Few of My Favourite Things*

Tuesday 11 December, 6–7pm – £3

Booking essential

Professor Julian Lloyd Webber, Principal of Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, discusses his eight favourite works of art, including Kandinsky and Atkinson Grimshaw. Widely regarded as one of the finest musicians of his generation and described by *Strad* magazine as 'the doyen of British cellists', Webber has enjoyed one of the most creative and successful careers in classical music today. He has premiered more than sixty works for cello and has inspired new compositions from composers such as Philip Glass. This is the latest in a series of *These Are A Few of My Favourite Things*, also recently featuring jazz saxophonist Soweto Kinch and horticulturalist Alys Fowler.

**Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call us on 0121 248 0708.**

# Family Events



## Free Drop-in Activities

**Suitable for all ages. No need to book, stay for as long as you like.**

### Family Saturdays

Saturday 1 December, 12–4pm – FREE

City centre based arts organisation BOM (Birmingham Open Media) lead a special Family Saturday collaboration as we explore the intersection between art and technology. Each family will have a chance to see Haroon Mirza's exhibition before making their own light spinner in Ikon's Events Room.

Saturday 5 January, 12–4pm – FREE

Saturday 2 February, 12–4pm – FREE

Join us for practical and hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibition. Spend some creative time making and experimenting as a family.

### Art Explorer

During Exhibitions – FREE

Available at reception

Explore the galleries your family and friends in a fun and creative way. Art Explorer is our specially designed riso-printed guide. Suitable for all ages, just ask at reception.

**Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.**



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## Family Workshop

**Swoomptheeng and Tha Daance Maast**  
**Tuesday 19 February, 11am–3pm – FREE**  
**Drop in, no need to book**

Visit during half term and be inspired by Haroon Mirza's exhibition, then get rhythmic and hands-on with the help of Birmingham-based Swoomptheeng, a brightly masked and mischievous art collective. Experience "Rave Craft, Zombie Bass and Ritualised Punk Technology" by playing *Tha Daance Maast* – a totemic, glowing sound system meets digital maypole. Up to eight participants write beats and loops together using wonky, wooden controllers to affect the position of sounds within a loop.

## Access Tour

**Uncovering Haroon Mirza**  
**Saturday 9 February, 10am–12pm – FREE**  
**Booking essential**

Artist Sarah Hamilton Baker leads an interactive exploration of Haroon Mirza's exhibition, highlighting sensory experience of the work using movement, smell, taste and touch. This tour also includes audio description and a chance to have an open discussion about the work over tea and cake. Open to all but would particularly suit a visually impaired and SEN audience.

**All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated. Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call us on 0121 248 0708.**

# Learning

**Learning Social with Lara Ratnaraja**  
**Thursday 24 January, 4.30–6.30pm – FREE**  
**Booking essential**

The session considers the process of making and displaying procession banners as a form of socially engaged art. Chaired by Lara Ratnaraja, Freelance Cultural Consultant, participants will share different models of practice, with a panel including Jane Thakoordin, Founder, Artivistas, Leonie Hart, Co-Director, MotherShip and Paula Dower, Operations Director, DASH.



## Creative Connections

During 7 January – 17 February Ikon is welcoming seven primary schools from Creative Connections, a Birmingham based school consortium. We are working closely with teachers and pupils to make artwork inspired by current exhibitions towards a showcase next summer.

### School Visits

At Ikon pupils enjoy learning to develop key transferable skills such as problem-solving, communication and literacy. We offer countless opportunities to think creatively and critically, engaging in cross-curricular activity, narrowing achievement gaps and raising attainment. There are a range of options available to suit a wide range of needs.

### Group Visits

Group visits, tours and creative workshops are available for each exhibition. For more information visit [ikon-gallery.org/learning/adults](http://ikon-gallery.org/learning/adults) or call the Learning Team on 0121 248 0708.

## Find Out More

**Resource Room, Second Floor**  
**During exhibitions – FREE**

Visit the Resource Room where you can find more information relating to our exhibitions including filmed interviews and related books.

# Ikon Slow Boat

Based in Ladywood, *Slow Boat* is crewed by members of the Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) who work with artists and local communities to explore the canals and organise workshops, exhibitions and film screenings in a unique social space.

Following on from recent residencies by Ming de Nasty and Justin Wiggan, part of Ikon's three year programme *Looping the Loop* (2017–2019), *Slow Boat* goes into hibernation for the winter. Check Ikon's website and social media accounts for details of our Spring programme with new projects and artist residencies.



## Ikon Youth Programme

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) is a group of young people, aged 16–21 years old, who share an interest in visual art. IYP meets once a week at Ikon to tour the exhibitions, get to know the Ikon team, share ideas and work with artists. These sessions are relaxed, friendly and informal. For more information contact James Latunji-Cockbill on 0121 248 0708 or visit [ikon-gallery.org/iyp](http://ikon-gallery.org/iyp)

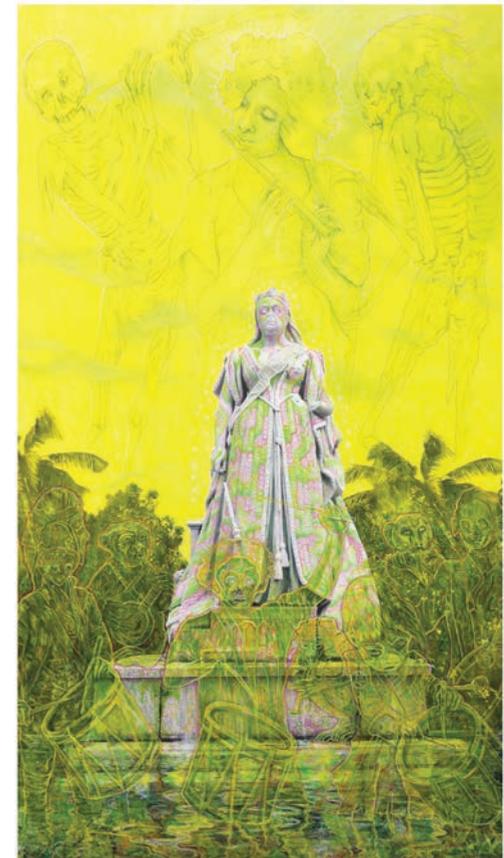


**Screening and Q&A – *Boarders Without Borders***  
**Thursday 7 February, 6–7pm – FREE**  
**Booking essential**

In 2017, GirlDreamer, an organisation that empowers women of colour, formed the UK's first women of colour longboarding crew. The collective is made up of young women aged 16–25 from different ethnic minority backgrounds, all with little or no experience in the sport. Join us for a screening of the resulting documentary, *Boarders Without Borders* and an informal Q&A session with the founders of GirlDreamer and longboarders from the film.

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# Future Exhibitions



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**Manif d'art 9, The Quebec City Biennial**  
***Large Against the Sky, Small Between the Stars***  
**14 February – 21 April 2019**

Ikon's Director Jonathan Watkins is curator of Manif d'art 9, The Quebec City Biennial 2019. Entitled *Large Against the Sky, Small Between the Stars*, paraphrasing lyrics by Quebec-born singer songwriter Leonard Cohen (*Stories Of The Street*, 1967), it is concerned with the place of humanity now in the natural order. Artists include Shuvina Ashoona, Polly Apfelbaum, Dinh Q. Lê, Meryl McMaster, Kelly Mark, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Haroon Mirza, Cornelia Parker, Susan Philipsz and Beat Streuli.

8 Photograph by Paul Stringer

9 Hew Locke *Hinterland* (2013)  
Acrylic paint, ink and pen on C-type photograph  
Courtesy Hales Gallery  
Photograph by Charles Littlewood

**Hew Locke: *Here's the Thing***  
**8 March – 2 June 2019**

This will be the most comprehensive exhibition to date of work by Hew Locke. Since his emergence as an artist in the 1980s, Locke has been remarkably consistent in his preoccupation with the languages of colonial and post-colonial power, and the symbols through which different cultures assume and assert identity. His ability to fuse historical sources with his own political concerns, either through juxtaposition or the modification of existing artefacts, leads to smart amalgamations of history and modernity. This layering of time corresponds to a distinct merging of influences from Guyana and the UK so that the aesthetic result is richly textured, compelling both in terms of visual impact and intrigue.

# Limited Editions



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10 Gillian Wearing  
*A Real Birmingham Family* (2014)  
 Cast bronze on granite plinth, edition of 20  
 £6,000 +VAT

11 Langlands & Bell  
*Apple Sunny Vale* (2018)  
 Signed giclee print, edition of 40  
 £200

12 Boyd & Evans  
*Motel Six* (2012)  
 Archival Inkjet print, edition of 50  
 £150

13 Shimabuku  
*Leaves Swim* (2013)  
 Analog C-print from colour negative,  
 edition of 50  
 £150

## Ikon Shop

Open daily, 10.30am–5.30pm

Shop online at [ikon-gallery.org/shop](http://ikon-gallery.org/shop)

Follow Ikon Shop's products of the week on  
 Instagram @ikongallery

If you are interested in collecting affordable art or need to find a special piece for your home then take a look at our limited editions. Each of these works are investment pieces, produced by artists who have previously exhibited at Ikon. View our full range instore or online.

# Hiring Ikon

Have you left it last minute for your Christmas party? Are you planning a drinks reception for clients or a surprise birthday for friends? If you would like somewhere that little bit different why not go creative and hire Ikon, where our Grade-II listed venue and exhibitions by leading artists such as Haroon Mirza provide a unique and unforgettable setting. We can cater for all type of events including festive canapé receptions and seated meals as well as smaller meetings and away days. If you are interested in holding an event at Ikon please email [hire@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:hire@ikon-gallery.org) or call 0121 248 0708.



*Ikon is a fantastic venue for those wanting something slightly different from the usual stuffy conference room. Guests arrived for our champagne reception into a quirky and interactive series of art installations, which were a great talking point and ice breaker. The conversion of the main gallery into a seated seminar layout, meant we could make our presentations surrounded by statement pieces of art, which added drama to the evening.*

Keith Fenwick  
 WYG, Director

# About Ikon

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Housed in the neo-gothic Oozells Street School, it is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation.

The gallery programme features artists from around the world. A variety of media is represented, including sound, film, mixed media, photography, painting, sculpture and installation.

Ikon's off-site programme develops dynamic relationships between art, artists and audiences outside the gallery. Projects vary enormously in scale, duration and location, challenging expectations of where art can be seen and by whom.

Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art. Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, our Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.



# Ikon Shop



Open daily, you'll find a wide selection of art books, exhibition catalogues and design led giftware suitable for all occasions, alongside seasonal ranges and unique items made in Birmingham.

Students, Independent Birmingham, Brindleyplace, Culture Card, and MyBull keyring holders receive a 10% discount (conditions apply).

Alternatively browse our shop online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

Follow Ikon Shop's products of the week on Instagram @ikongallery

For offers and news of our latest products sign up to the Ikon email list via the website.



# Yorks Café at Ikon

Visit Yorks Café at Ikon for own-roasted coffee (roasted at Yorks Coffee Roasters here in Birmingham), house-baked cakes, loose leaf teas, craft beers on tap, wine and cocktails. Enjoy Yorks' renowned brunch, lunch and later menu including shakshuka, Arabian buttered eggs and avocado smash alongside familiar favourites such as eggs benedict, flatbreads, sandwiches and salads. Visit [yorkscafe.co.uk](http://yorkscafe.co.uk) for menu details, opening times and events.

# Thank you

**Ikon would like to thank the following for their invaluable support over the past 12 months**  
ARTiMBARC; Australian Government through the Australian Cultural Diplomacy Grants Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Birmingham City University; British Museum; Canal & River Trust; Embassy of the Czech Republic in London; Gordon Darling Foundation; Dazed; Leila Elling; Elonex; John Feeney Charitable Trust; Flatpack Film Festival; Glenn Howells Architects; Grantham Yorke Trust; Henry Moore Foundation; Historic England; HMP Grendon; Japan Foundation; Peter Jenkins; Stephen and Sigrid Kirk; London College of Fashion; Medicine Bakery and Gallery; Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust; Mill Dam Trust; David Owen; Owen Family Trust; Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Research Grant from Art Fund; Saco Serviced Apartments; Selfridges; The University of Birmingham and others who wish to remain anonymous.

**Support Ikon**  
As a charity, Ikon needs your support. We rely on donations from individuals and businesses to fund what we do. If you would like to donate, become a patron or leave a legacy, call 0121 248 0708 or visit [ikon-gallery.org/support](http://ikon-gallery.org/support).

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**Ikon is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. Ikon would also like to thank all those who make a donation during their visit.**

**Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered Charity no. 528892**

**Exhibition supporters**  
Haroon Mirza's exhibition *reality is somehow what we expect it to be* is supported by The Ampersand Foundation, The Arts Club, Lisson Gallery and the Ikon Investment Fund.

**Project and Event supporters**  
Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Cass Art and The Rowlands Trust. Ikon's *Slow Boat* programme, *Looping the Loop*, is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Canal & River Trust and Grantham Yorke Trust. Artist in Residence at HMP Grendon is supported by Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust.

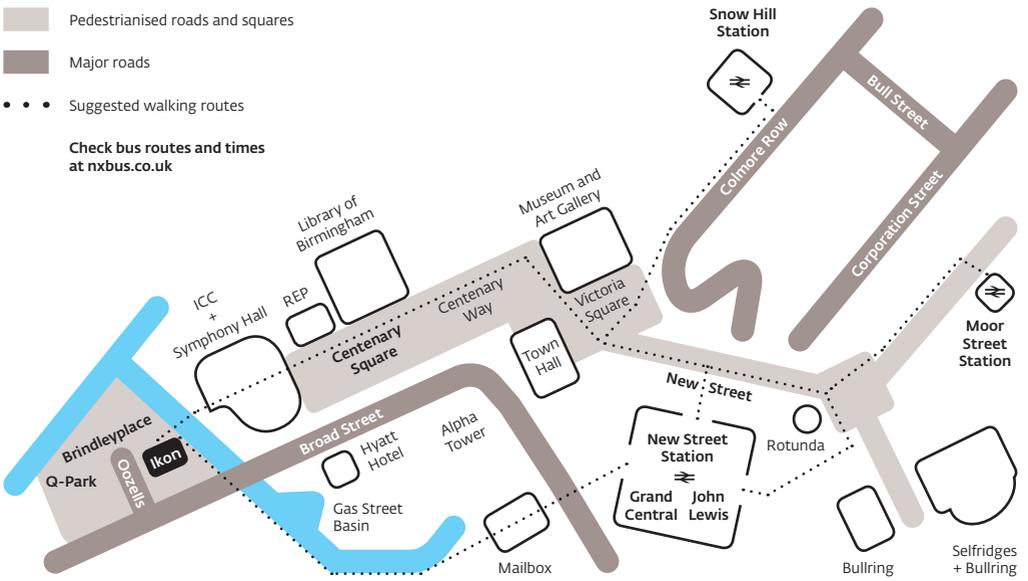


 Pedestrianised roads and squares

 Major roads

 Suggested walking routes

Check bus routes and times  
at [nxbus.co.uk](http://nxbus.co.uk)



## Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

+44 (0) 121 248 0708 / [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org)

   [ikon-gallery](https://www.ikon-gallery.org)

## Galleries open

Galleries closed 19–29 November 2018 for installation. Christmas closing dates: Monday 24 December 2018 to Tuesday 1 January 2019.

## Ikon Shop open

Daily 10.30am–5.30pm.

## Yorks Café at Ikon open

Daily, please check [yorksbakery.co.uk](http://yorksbakery.co.uk)

**Ikon is a charity and offers free entry for all, please consider making a donation during your visit.**

**Registered Charity no. 528892**

# Access

Ikon aims to be fully accessible for disabled visitors. Wheelchair and lift available. Assistance dogs welcome. Fitted induction loop and portable loop for talks.

## Local accommodation

Hilton Garden Inn offers visitors a discount rate.

Visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com), select Hilton Garden Inn, and enter n2771505 in Corporate Account.

# Getting to Ikon

Please note due to the transformation of Paradise Circus your journey to Ikon may be affected. Visit [birmingham.gov.uk/connected](http://birmingham.gov.uk/connected)

## Pedestrian route from New Street train station

From New Street station walk to Victoria Square, past the Town Hall and in front of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery onto Centenary Way. Continue through Centenary Square and the International Convention Centre (ICC). Walk over the bridge into Brindleyplace, and between Carluccio's and Slug & Lettuce. Alternatively turn left in front of the ICC and right onto Broad Street, then right into Oozells Street. Approximately 15 minute walk.

## By road

Birmingham is accessible by M5, M6, M40 and M42. Follow signs to the City Centre then brown tourist signs to ICC, Arena Birmingham and Brindleyplace.

## Car and bicycle parking

The nearest car park is Q-Park Brindleyplace on Brunswick Street (pre-book and quote IKON for 10% discount at [q-park.co.uk/parking/birmingham/q-park-brindleyplace](http://q-park.co.uk/parking/birmingham/q-park-brindleyplace)). Orange and blue badge holders may park on the double yellow lines on Oozells Street in accordance with badge guidelines. There is a bicycle rack near Ikon.