

Curated by fashion designer
Osman Yousefzada

The Migrant Festival

A four day festival
fusing migration,
fashion, art and music

Thursday 14 to
Sunday 17 June
2018

IKON



Ikon is delighted to host the exhibition, *Being Somewhere Else*, and *The Migrant Festival* by Osman Yousefzada. From the start of our dialogue, it was clear that Ikon provided a fitting home for Osman whilst highlighting his connections across the city, from Selfridges in the Bullring — where his Autumn 2018 collection is on display — to Balsall Heath — where he spent his childhood. The exhibition reveals Osman's remarkable ability as a storyteller, a skill passed down through generations, combining fashion, film and family life. *The Migrant Festival* conveys a desire to move freely between cultures, philosophies and art forms — something Ikon is keen to make possible now and in the future.

Jonathan Watkins
Ikon Director

In many ways, F Allen's summed up Birmingham in the 1980s. A post-war corner shop on Ladypool Road, it occupied the crossroads of Moseley, Sparkhill and the red light district of Balsall Heath. One of my after school chores was to buy liquid paraffin from Ann, the formidable owner of F Allen's. Whilst her son dispensed the blue liquid I would look, somewhat intoxicated, beyond the wooden counter to the jars of pastel bonbons, cream cakes, custards and jellies. A cabinet of curiosities, and an insight into a different world to an eleven-year old Muslim boy. The experience further intensified when I stepped out of the shop and into a street awash with colours, smells and a babble of different tongues and dialects. Women in saris of bright hues under dark and khaki trench coats mixed freely with men in tailored blazers over traditional costumes. Yet the women from my community rarely ventured out onto the high street, let alone to shop at F Allen's. They didn't do their own shopping. Hence, I would hobble home with the full gallon where it would be used to heat our sitting room, and Jason the cat would lounge in front of it. We all waited whilst my Afghan mother cooked whole aubergines on a low heat on the gas hob, penetrating the house and our handmade polyester clothes with its sweet smell.

It is this total freedom of movement — between school and corner shop, mosque and high street, living room and kitchen — that I am celebrating in *The Migrant Festival*. Whilst this is a call out to the whole of Birmingham to demonstrate its community in providing a city of sanctuary for refugees, I also encourage the simple, solo act of walking down Ladypool Road where a culture of diaspora continues to flourish.

Osman Yousefzada



Osman Yousefzada's mother (c.1970s)

Thursday 14 June

Film Screening and Discussion

Slow Boat, 12-1pm — FREE, drop in

Join Chang Liu and Zhou Wei, students on the MA in Chinese Contemporary Art, Birmingham City University, and Yu-Chen Wang, Grand Union artist-in-residence, onboard *Slow Boat* for a discussion on the portrayal of migrant workers in contemporary art.

Discussion — Creative Conversations with Asian Women

Yorks Café at Ikon, 5-6pm — FREE

Booking essential

Introduced by Piali Ray OBE, Sampad Director and chaired by Professor Aisha K. Gill, Professor of Criminology at University of Roehampton, this panel examines the lives of British Asian women in the light of their creative talents. Speakers include photographer Suki Dhanda, fashion consultant Deep Kailey, community activist Kulsoom Yusuf and poet Mona Arshi.



Suki Dhanda, *Race, Place and Diversity by the Sea*, Plymouth (2017)



Gregory Mark Lewis
Hand drawn study no. 10 (2018)

Workshop — Fashion illustration Selfridges, 5.30-7.30pm — £15 Booking essential, limited capacity

A life drawing session led by fashion illustrator Gregory Mark Lewis who has worked in Paris at some of its leading fashion houses. Lewis is now based in Birmingham and for this event works with a contemporary dancer from Elmhurst Ballet School.

In conversation — Kit de Waal Ikon Gallery, 6.30-7.30pm — FREE Booking essential

Pre-order *The Trick to Time* online at ikon-gallery.org, discounted price £10.99

Kit de Waal discusses her new book *The Trick to Time* (2018) with fellow Birmingham-based author Catherine O'Flynn. Her novel follows Mona, a young Irish girl in 1970s Birmingham, with the thrill of a new job and her own room in a busy boarding house. This event includes a book signing.



Kit de Waal, photo: Sarah Lee (2018)

Friday 15 June

Demonstration — Boats & Totes Slow Boat, 12-4pm, FREE — drop in

The Solihull Embroiderers' Guild use textile off-cuts to make morsbags for The Real Junk Food Project Birmingham. Run by volunteers, TRJF Brum collect surplus food and feed anyone and everyone at cafes, boutiques, events and sharehouses on a Pay As You Feel basis in exchange for donations, time and skills. Drop in and find out more about how you can help.

Film Screening — *The True Cost* Birmingham City University 2-4pm — FREE

Booking essential

A free screening of *The True Cost* (2015), directed by Andrew Morgan. This ground-breaking documentary film considers the impact of the clothing industry on our world and features an introduction by Executive Producer Livia Firth, Founder and Creative Director, Eco-Age. Part of Birmingham City University's *Inspired Festival* (9-17 June). bcu.ac.uk/inspired



The True Cost (2015)
Dir. Andrew Morgan

Exhibition Tour — 100 Years, So What: Polish Multimedia Artists on the Centenary of Women's Voting Rights Centrala, 5-6pm — FREE Booking essential

Join curators Alicja Kaczmarek and Karina Cabanikova for a tour of this group exhibition by Polish multimedia artists including Malgorzata Dawidek, Iwona Demko, Dorota Hadrian, Zofia Krawiec, Katarzyna Perlak, Alicja Rogalska and SIKSA. This exhibition considers the significance of 100 years of women's voting rights in Poland and the UK. #100yearsSOWHAT
Please note the exhibition space is only accessible via a number of stairs.



Exhibition graphic by Patrycja Podkoscielny

Diaspora Disco Centrala, 10pm-4am — £5 Booking essential, limited tickets available on the door

Diaspora Disco presents a culturally diverse night of music with a mix of reggae and disco plus guest DJs from Saathi Night, founded in Birmingham in 2001 combining bhangra and drag elements, finishing with a headline set from London-based artists George Henry Longly and Prem Deep (*Anal House Meltdown*) who have run club nights since 2011. The party provides a fitting context for Osman's t-shirts — *Bhangra Boy*, *Bhangra Girl*, *Daytime Disco* — available to buy at Selfridges and Ikon. Please note that *Disapora Disco* takes place across two floors, one of which is only accessible via a number of stairs. Age guidance: 18+



Saffiyah Khan faces down English Defence League (EDL) protester (2017)
Joe Giddens, PA Wire/PA Images

Saturday 16 June

Performance — The Scent of Home Ikon Gallery, 12-4pm — FREE, drop in

Sample *The Scent of Home*, a perfume developed by writer Emily King and perfumer Nadjib Achaibou as part of Osman's exhibition at Ikon Gallery.

Family Day — Patchwork blanket Oozells Square, Brindleyplace 1-4pm — FREE, drop in

A call out to all Birmingham sewers and stitchers to help families make patchworks to add to a composite textile inspired by Osman's exhibition at Ikon Gallery. Customise the blanket with hand stitching, textile painting and printing. Organised as part of the Brindleyplace Family Fun Day. This workshop, based outside Ikon, is suitable for children over 3 accompanied by an adult.



Osman Yousefzada

Fashion Parade 4-6pm — FREE, drop in

This fashion procession of Osman's designs is led by Saffiyah Khan, activist, model and member of Ikon Youth Programme. She is accompanied by percussionists from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Samba Ensemble and dancers. Please see Ikon's website for a map and further details.

In conversation — Osman Yousefzada Yorks Café at Ikon

6.30-7.30pm — FREE, booking essential
Introduced by Ikon Director Jonathan Watkins with Claudia Croft, Contributing Editor at *British Vogue*, Osman discusses the diverse cultures referenced within his designs and how these reflect his experience of growing up in post-industrial Birmingham.



Caryn Franklin

In conversation — Caryn Franklin with Oriole Cullen: Disruptive Fashion Force Yorks Café at Ikon, 2-3pm — FREE Booking essential

As a fashion activist with an interest in identity politics, Caryn Franklin has challenged and changed the British fashion world. As young fashion editor for *i-D* magazine, to famed *Clothes Show* presenter and MBE, Franklin has provoked the industry to be more considerate, inclusive and positive. Chaired by Oriole Cullen, Curator of Fashion and Textiles at the V&A.

Concert — Themba Mvula leads the European Youth Music and St Chad's Sanctuary Refugee Choirs Yorks Café at Ikon, 3-3.30pm — FREE, drop in

To mark the start of Refugee Week (18-24 June), Ikon hosts a performance by the European Youth Music Refugee Choir. Young refugees and asylum seekers make up the choir which is accompanied by the St Chad's Sanctuary Refugee Choir. Both choirs meet at St Chad's Sanctuary with choral tutors Themba Mvula, Baritone and Lizzy Cragg, Soprano, at Birmingham Opera.

Soapboxes & Riceboxes Yorks Café at Ikon, 3.30-5.30pm £6, includes a Yorks ricebox Booking essential

Birmingham poet, rapper and educator Casey Bailey chairs 20 quick-fire, soapbox presentations in response to Refugee Week's *20 Simple Acts* campaign. Bailey kick-starts the event with *He's not coming back*, his poetic response to the Windrush scandal and presenters include Celebrating Sanctuary and DESIblitz. In 2018 Refugee Week celebrates 20 years (18-24 June). refugeeweek.org.uk

Sunday 17 June

Discussion — Threads of Hope Ikon Gallery, 5.30-6.30pm — FREE Booking essential

Osman Yousefzada and documentary film-maker Shaheen Dill-Riaz are in conversation with Diana Campbell Betancourt, Artistic Director of Samdani Art Foundation and Chief Curator of the Dhaka Art Summit. They discuss drawing inspiration from migrant communities and how their work challenges readings of complex social issues, including income inequality and gender based violence through a celebration of human resilience.

Film screening — The Happiest People Ikon Gallery, 6.30-8pm — FREE Booking essential, limited capacity

The Happiest People (2005) (12A) is a powerful visual journey that shows film-maker Shaheen Dill-Riaz reconnecting with four old friends in the chaotic metropolis of Dakha. Watch as he follows his friends in their search for happiness — each in their very own way. Introduced by Aftab Rahman, Director, Legacy West Midlands.



The Happiest People (2005), Dir. Shaheen Dill-Riaz

Book online at ikon-gallery.org or call Ikon on 0121 248 0708.

VENUES

Ikon Gallery & Yorks Café at Ikon

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2HS
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708

Ikon Slow Boat

Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2JB
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
See website for access details

Selfridges

The Bullring, Upper Mall East
Birmingham B5 4BP
selfridges.com / 0800 123400

Centrala

Unit 4 Minerva Works
158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5RT
centrala-space.org.uk / 0121 439 3050

Birmingham City University

Parkside Lecture Theatre (P350)
Faculty of Arts, Design and Media
5 Cardigan Street, Birmingham B4 7BD
bcu.ac.uk / 0121 331 5000

IKON GALLERY EXHIBITIONS

Osman Yousefzada

Being Somewhere Else
6-29 June 2018

The first solo exhibition by Birmingham-born fashion designer Osman Yousefzada, consisting of new commissions. Includes a personal consideration of the contemporary fashion world and its inherent inequalities, juxtaposed with representations associated with the experience of immigration.

Francis Alÿs *Knots'n Dust*

20 June - 9 September 2018

Ikon's exhibition with Mexico-based artist Francis Alÿs is an outcome of his long-term interest in current affairs in the Middle East and his frequent travelling to that part of the world, especially Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ikon Slow Boat, Looping the Loop (2017-2019)

This Summer Ikon Slow Boat continues its programme in Birmingham's Ladywood district with artists-in-residence Celebrating Sanctuary, aiming to encourage a greater understanding of the experiences of refugees and new arrivals to the city. Celebrating Sanctuary present a number of concerts and workshops during July.

Ikon Gallery

1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2HS
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm
Free entry, donations welcome

Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art gallery in central Birmingham. Housed in the neo-gothic Oozells Street School, it is an educational charity that encourages public engagement with contemporary art through a context of debate and participation.

Ikon Shop

Open daily 10.30am-5.30pm
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0711

Ikon Shop is Birmingham's only specialist art bookshop, stocking a range of books, cards, artists' limited editions, magazines and gifts. For *The Migrant Festival* Ikon Shop stocks specially designed t-shirts by Osman Yousefzada.

Yorks Café at Ikon

Open daily, visit yorkscafe.co.uk for current opening times
yorkscafe.co.uk / 0121 293 9186

Visit Yorks Café and enjoy speciality 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 menu and a daily changing selection of salads, sharing boards and sides.

   ikongallery

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

Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon.
Registered charity no. 528892

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The Migrant Festival is presented as part of Birmingham City Council's Year of Movement.

The Migrant Festival is supported by Selfridges, Leila Elling, Dazed and Michael Marsh Charitable Trust.

Selfridges Birmingham is the exclusive Midlands stockist for Osman designs.

Thank you to all our partners and supporters who have made this festival possible.



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