

IKON

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
free entry / donations welcome
Registered charity no. 528892

The Migrant Festival 19 – 22 August 2021



Ikon presents the third annual *Migrant Festival*. A four day programme mixing visual art, music, film and performance, it celebrates the contribution made by refugees and migrants to Birmingham and the UK, whilst bearing witness to the hardships and sacrifices involved.

The 2021 festival comprises digital and live events including performances by musicians curated by Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham; our annual Soapbox event featuring quick-fire presentations from individuals and groups supporting migrants in the Midlands; talks with artists including Keith Piper with Robert Beckford and Osman Yousefzada with Sathnam Sanghera; plus a series of family events and guided tours.

This year's festival is closely linked with Osman Yousefzada's major new installation *Infinity Pattern 1* at Selfridges Birmingham. The work is co-commissioned by Selfridges and Ikon, as is an instore exhibition and art trail which, along with new film, poetry and screenprints by Yousefzada, features the work of three Birmingham artists, Hira Butt, Farwa Moledina and Maryam Wahid, all informed by the experience of migration. Osman Yousefzada also curated Ikon's first *Migrant Festival* in 2018.

Selected Events:

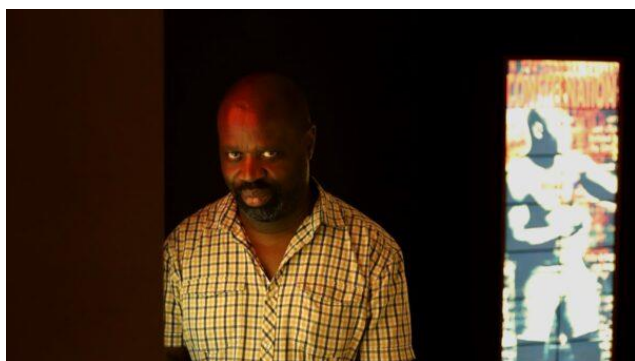
Talk and Screening – Keith Piper and Robert Beckford

Thursday 19 August, 1pm-2pm

Digital event, via Zoom

Free, book online, suggested donation £5

Artist Keith Piper discusses his new digital video, *A Ship Called Jesus (Redux)* (2021) with Professor Robert Beckford, Director, Institute of Climate and Social Justice, University of Winchester and Professor of Black Theology, The Queen's Foundation, Birmingham. Together they consider the complex relationship between people of African descent and Christianity, and the Blk Art Group's covert, sometimes nostalgic, sometimes antagonistic, relationship with Black Christianity. This event is supported by Paul Mellon Centre.



Left: Keith Piper. Right: Keith Piper, *A Ship Called Jesus (Redux)* (2021)

Performance – Ikon Youth Programme

Thursday 19 August, 6-7pm

Slow Boat, Centrala, Minerva Works, Digbeth

Free, no need to book, just drop in

Join Ikon Youth Programme and visual artist Jaz Morrison for their performance of *Firmament* – a response to Keith Piper's *Ghosts of Christendom* and *Rites of Passage*. *Firmament* explores the movement of the Black Diaspora across sea, sky, and land. It stands as a music-based tribute to, and celebration of, the infinite passengers of the *Ship Called Jesus*. This event is supported by Freelands Foundation.

Family workshop – Heirlooms of the Future

Friday 20 August, 11am-3pm

Brindleyplace Pop-Up Garden, Central Square, Brindleyplace

Open to all ages, please book tickets for all participants (adults and children)

Choose from two sessions – 11am–12pm or 2pm–3pm
Free, suggested donation £5

In this creative workshop join artists Margaret Murray and Kirstie Lewis to respond to Perminder Kaur's work *Fallen* (1995), currently on display at Ikon. Families can experiment with a variety of textiles, sewing techniques and collage to explore culture and heritage, creating objects referencing the human form. In association with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham. This workshop is supported by Brindleyplace.

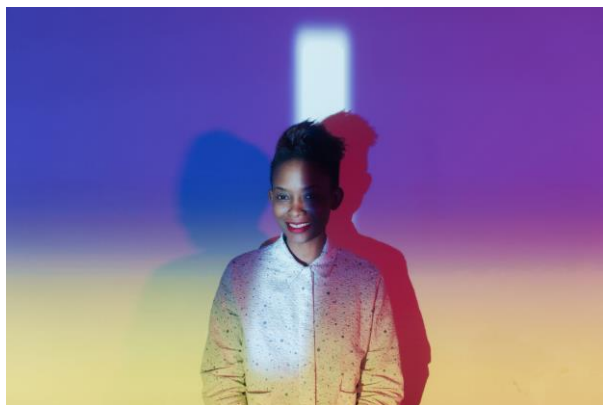
Talk -Dr Jareh Das and Dr Virginia Nimarkoh on Donald Rodney

Friday 20 August, 1-2pm

Digital event, via Zoom

Free, book online, suggested donation £5

Dr Jareh Das, curator, and Dr Virginia Nimarkoh, artist, consider the development of Donald Rodney's artistic practice in the 1990s whilst living with sickle cell disease. The event is chaired by Melanie Pocock, Ikon curator, and features Donald Rodney and Rose Finn-Kelcey's soundwork *Truth, Dare, Double Dare* (1996), currently on show at Ikon. This event is supported by Paul Mellon Centre.



Left: Dr Jareh Das. Photo © Sen Yang. Right: Virginia Nimarkoh. Photo © Saira Niazi.

Walking workshop – As Strange As Familiar

Friday 20 August, 2.30-4.30pm

Meet at Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace

Free, suggested donation £5

Join students and staff from the MA Arts and Education Practices Course, Birmingham City University, for a walking tour exploring the city centre through collective play and peer to peer activities. Starting at Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, the tour takes in sites across the canal network, ending at Centrala, Digbeth. This is an opportunity for students to share activities developed for the digital publication *As Strange As Familiar*. Tea and coffee provided at Centrala at the end of the tour.

Talk – Osman Yousefzada in conversation with Sathnam Sanghera

Friday 20 August, 6–8pm

Gran Café on 1 Selfridges Birmingham

£5, book online via Selfridges

Author and journalist Sathnam Sanghera discusses his new book *Empireland* (2021) with artist Osman Yousefzada. Through his writing Sanghera demonstrates how so much of what we consider to be modern Britain is actually rooted in our imperial past. It is only by stepping back and seeing where we really come from, that we can begin to understand who we are and what unites us. This event is supported by Selfridges.



Left: Osman Yousefzada in front of *Infinity Pattern 1*, Selfridges Birmingham. Right: Sathnam Sanghera.

Family workshop – My Story

Saturday 21 August, 9.30–10.30am

Gran Café on 1 Selfridges Birmingham

£5 per child, book online via Selfridges

Recommended for children aged 7 – 12 years old.

Join artists Margaret Murray and Kirstie Lewis to create a mini wall hanging inspired by the motifs and patterns in Osman Yousefzada's *Infinity Pattern 1*. Use a variety of textile techniques, collage, hand sewing, embroidery, embellishing and beading in bold and vibrant colours to tell a story. In association with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham. This event is supported by Selfridges.

Concert – Nifeco Costa & Babock Djazz

Saturday 21 August, 3–4pm

Brindleyplace Pop-Up Garden, Central Square, Brindleyplace

Free, no need to book, just drop in

Singer and guitarist, Nifeco Costa moved to the UK from Guinea Bissau, West Africa via Portugal, where he spent several years performing many events, festivals and

making television appearances. Now based in the UK, Costa has formed the band *Babock Djazz*, bringing together local musicians with origins from around the globe. Costa brings beautiful melodies, a sweet voice and an infectious Latin groove, guaranteed to get people dancing. In association with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham. This concert is supported by Brindleyplace.

Talk – Felicity Allen

Saturday 21 August, 5- 6pm

This event takes place at Ikon Gallery

Free, suggested donation £5

Felicity Allen discusses her collaborative process in front of the work *Baby II* (1989) currently displayed at Ikon Gallery. During *The Migrant Festival* 2021, Ikon screens Allen's new digital video, *Figure to Ground – a site losing its system* (2020) commissioned as part of *People Like You: Contemporary Figures of Personalisation*. Through portraiture, Allen considers this shifting sense of self in relation to data science with her sitters, who are selected because of their interest in and relationship to digital culture, or to portraiture and archiving, or to issues of borders and locality (including refugee status). Several sitters are involved with *Refugee Tales*, which stems from Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group and Kent Refugee Help, and calls for a future without immigration detention.

Family workshop – Adornment

Sunday 22 August, 9.30-10.30am

Gran Café on 1 Selfridges Birmingham

£5 per child, book online via Selfridges

Recommended for children aged 7 – 12 years old.

Join artists Margaret Murray and Kirstie Lewis to create textiles inspired by Osman Yousefzada's *Infinity Pattern* 1. Experiment with tassles, pom poms and yarn flowers to create mobiles and bunting for adorning an outdoor environment. In association with Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham. This event is supported by Selfridges.

The Migrant Festival 2021 is supported by [Brindleyplace](#), [Freelands Foundation](#), [Paul Mellon Centre](#) and [Selfridges](#).

The festival is organised to coincide with Ikon's exhibition *A Very Special Place: Ikon in the 1990s*.

Visiting Ikon: Entry is free. To book a ticket or for more information on current opening times and visiting guidelines please visit ikon-gallery.org

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Laura Jaunzems on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or l.jaunzems@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery
Links: ikon-gallery.org

Note to Editors:

1. Please note all dates are subject to change, in particular as a result of Government announcements relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon 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 and 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, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art. ikon-gallery.org
3. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
4. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. ACE support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, ACE will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. artscouncil.org.uk