

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 14 – 17 July 2022



Ikon presents the fourth annual *Migrant Festival* (14 – 17 July), a four-day programme mixing visual art, music, film and performance. The festival celebrates the contribution made by refugees and migrants to Birmingham and the UK, and highlights the migrant stories of artists in Ikon's programme, including Abdulrazaq Awofeso and Osman Yousefzada.

For the 2022 festival, events include a talk with artist Hew Locke at Birmingham Cathedral; the launch of *A Gift to Birmingham* by photographer Vanley Burke at Saathi House, Aston; archive qawwali music curated by artist Faisal Hussain at Moseley Community Hub, Balsall Heath; and our annual *Soapboxes* event at Yorks Café, featuring individuals and groups supporting migrants in the Midlands.

The Migrant Festival 2022 is part of Ikon's *Arrivals* programme for Summer 2022, concerned with the international movement of people and ideas and organised to coincide with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

THURSDAY 14 JULY



Left: *Foreign Exchange* by Hew Locke, presented by the Birmingham 2022 Festival and commissioned by Ikon. Photo by Shaun Fellows. Courtesy of Birmingham 2022 Festival and Ikon. Right: Germa Adan. Photo: Stephen Kopec.

MA Arts and Education Practices – Takeaways

1-3pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Please note this is a 2-hour walking tour.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS to Centrala, Unit 4 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5RT

Join students and staff from the [MA Arts and Education Practices](#) (MAAEP) course at BCU for a *Takeaways* workshop, involving a walking tour and collective play. Starting at Ikon Gallery, participants explore sites across the city centre and canal networks that lead towards [Centrala](#) in Digbeth.

Teacher Twilight CPD

4-7.45pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

Teachers and art educators are invited to join artist teacher Laura Reid to discuss [Foreign Exchange](#) (2022), by artist Hew Locke. Participants consider how Locke reimagines historical sculptures, including *Souvenir 9* (2019), on display at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. Supported by Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Artist's Talk: Hew Locke and Dr Gus Casely-Hayford

6-7pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

Guyanese-British artist Hew Locke discusses his new public artwork, [Foreign Exchange](#) (2022), with Dr Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of V&A East. Together they consider Locke's reimagining of Birmingham's city-centre sculpture of Queen Victoria. Supported by Birmingham Cathedral and Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Concert: Germa Adan

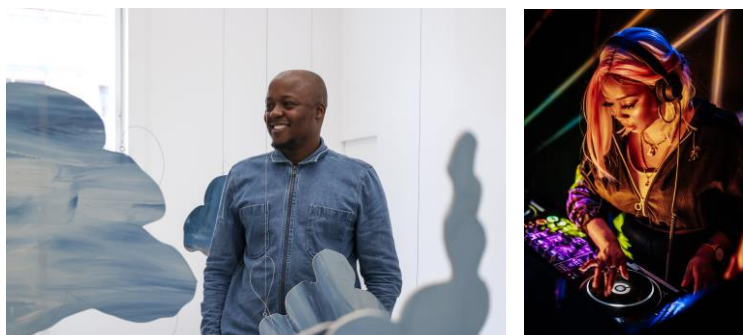
7.15-7.45pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Birmingham Cathedral, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QB

[Germa Adan](#) is a Haitian musician, composer and singer songwriter. Social

consciousness is at the heart of her storytelling, exploring themes of the past and the modern day. This event is presented by Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham. Supported by Birmingham Cathedral.

FRIDAY 15 JULY



Left: Abdulrazaq Awofeso. Image courtesy Tegen Kimbley. Right: Lola So.

[Exhibition Launch: A Gift to Birmingham](#)

12-2pm. Free. No need to book, just drop in.

Saathi House, 49 Bevington Road, Aston, Birmingham, B6 6HR

Photographer Vanley Burke is in conversation with Selbin Kabote, a member and ambassador of [Migrant Voice](#), to launch *A Gift to Birmingham* at Saathi House. The exhibition is open 15 – 24 July and gives local residents an opportunity to see Burke's photographic portraits; each image tells a story of migration, either recent or long past, with subjects accompanied or alone.

[Film Screening: Welcome to Woomera](#)

4-5pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Australian Aboriginal artist [Yhonnie Scarce](#) has selected the documentary film *Welcome to Woomera* (Dir. Steve Thomas, 2004) to feature in *The Migrant Festival*. It tells the story of Woomera town, which in the early 2000s was synonymous with what the Australian government called its "immigration reception and processing centre". This screening is supported by the National Film and Sound Archive, Australia.

[Exhibition Launch: Adeela Suleman, Allegory of War](#)

6-8pm. Free. No need to book, just drop in.

MAC Birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham B12 9Q

Internationally acclaimed artist Adeela Suleman is known for her works exploring social and political issues, particularly the links between historic and contemporary violence experienced in her home city Karachi, Pakistan. mac Birmingham presents *Allegory of War* (16 July – 9 October 2022), Suleman's most comprehensive solo exhibition at a public gallery in the UK.

[Artist's Talk: Abdulrazaq Awofeso and Dr Jareh Das](#)

6-7pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Nigerian artist Abdulrazaq Awofeso discusses his Ikon exhibition, [OUT OF FRAME](#), with researcher, writer and curator Dr Jareh Das. Together they consider Awofeso's installations as reflections on human migration and his own frequent journeys between Nigeria, South Africa and Europe.

[DJ set: Lola So](#)

7-9pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Yorks Café at Ikon, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

London-based DJ Lola So's set complements Abdulrazaq Awofeso's exhibition *OUT OF FRAME* with a mix of Kwaito (a variant of house music that originated in the South African townships in the 1990s) and Amapiano (a hybrid of deep house, jazz and lounge music that emerged from South Africa in the 2010s).

SATURDAY 16 JULY



Left: Artist Haseebah Ali leads a printmaking workshop, The Migrant Festival 2021. Right: Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan

[Workshop: Family Saturday with Haseebah Ali](#)

11am-3pm. Free, suggested donation £5. No need to book, just drop in.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Join artist [Haseebah Ali](#) to experiment with different printmaking techniques including soft lino print and foam, to create a postcard-style picture of an item that's important to you and represents your family's journey. Ali also exhibits her *Syrie* series, including dry point and lino prints, based on the Syrian refugee crisis. The prints are for sale with 50% of the proceeds going to a charity that supports Syrian families.

[Workshop: Drawing and Painting with Rafal Zar](#)

11am-3pm. Suitable for ages 16+.

Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

This event takes place on *Slow Boat*, moored at Minerva Works.

Join artist [Rafal Zar](#) for a drawing and painting workshop on *Slow Boat*, taking inspiration from Birmingham's industrial and botanical landscape. Zar is Ikon's artist in residence on *Slow Boat* during *The Migrant Festival 2022*, engaging with local youth

groups and creating new works that fuse life, art and nature. Supported by Freelands Foundation and Centrala.

Artist's Talk: A Joyful Noise with Faisal Hussain

4.30-6pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Moseley Community Hub at The School of Art

496 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9AH

The first time qawwali master Ustad Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan performed outside Pakistan or India was in Balsall Heath in 1979, at the now-demolished Luxor Cinema and promoted by local record shop and label Oriental Star. For this conversation event Faisal Hussain reflects on music and faith, and Balsall Heath as a cultural hot spot, whilst sharing archive footage. Presented in association with Balsall Heath Film Festival (16 - 31 July). See www.flatpackfestival.org.uk for more details.

Artist's Talk: Osman Yousefzada and Ian Francis

7-8pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Moseley Community Hub at The School of Art

496 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9AH

Osman Yousefzada discusses the films that have influenced his interdisciplinary art practice with Ian Francis, founding director of Flatpack Projects. Clips from Merchant Ivory productions and documentaries about British Asians are considered alongside Yousefzada's own films, [*Her Dreams Are Bigger*](#) (2018) and [*Spaces of Transcendence*](#) (2022).

Concert: Tymoteusz Jozwiak with Marek Pospieszalski

7.30-9.15pm. £10/£8 concession. Booking essential.

Centrala, Unit 4 Minerva Works, 158 Fazeley Street, Birmingham B5 5RT

Originally from Poland, Tymoteusz Jozwiak is a drummer who studied jazz at the Birmingham Conservatoire and is now a key member of the Birmingham music scene. For this project he performs with double bass player Olie Brice and saxophonist Paul Dunmall from the UK and special guest Marek Pospieszalski from Poland.

SUNDAY 17 JULY



Left: Nabeel and Tasnime with Ramin, Khadijah and Rafin, *The Mosaic Road* (2022) © Dan Burwood. Right: Lekan Babalola. Image courtesy of Hebert W. Walter.

[The Mosaic Road Photo Studio](#)

11am-1pm. Free. No need to book, just drop in.

The Old Print Works, 498-506 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 9AH

Have a professional portrait taken by local photographer [Dan Burwood](#), with a copy for you to keep. This pop-up studio is part of [The Mosaic Road](#), a participatory art project celebrating the unique, diverse and creative community of Balsall Heath. Five portraits from the project will be transformed into large-scale mosaic artworks displayed around the area, while images and stories will also form an online archive.

[Workshop: Family Flag Making with Jane Thakoordin](#)

11am-3pm. Free, suggested donation £5.

No need to book, just drop in.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Join artist [Jane Thakoordin](#) to create artworks in response to [Foreign Exchange](#) by artist Hew Locke. Participants use a range of textile and collage materials to make flags and banners, sharing family stories and welcoming new arrivals to the city. This event is open to all families and aimed at all ages. Ikon's Learning Programme is supported by Cass Art.

[Talk: Soapboxes](#)

3-5pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Yorks Café at Ikon, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

Salman Mirza, Birmingham Network Worker for [Migrant Voice](#), chairs twenty quick-fire soapbox presentations from individuals and groups supporting migrants in the Midlands, including their responses to the [Refugee Week 2022 theme 'Healing'](#).

[Concert: Lekan Babalola Trio, with Kate Luxmoore and Tom Ford](#)

5.30-6.30pm. Free, suggested donation £5. Booking essential.

Yorks Café at Ikon, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS

To close *The Migrant Festival 2022*, [Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham](#) present a performance by some of Birmingham's finest musicians. With roots in Nigeria, the music has been chosen to complement Ikon's exhibition by Nigerian artist Abdulrazaq Awofeso.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Muskeen Liddar on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org or m.liddar@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery
#MigrantFestival

Links: ikon-gallery.org

Note to Editors:

1. 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
2. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.
3. 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