

Ikon Gallery sets sail with a new £120,000 investment



Black Country Voyages at Pelsall North Common © Ikon Gallery

Arts Council England is investing £120,000 to transform Ikon Gallery's canal boat into a floating arts centre as it sets sail on a three year tour of Ladywood's canals.

The money comes from the Arts Council's National Lottery supported [Strategic Touring](#) programme, which gives arts and cultural organisations the resources they need to bring great art and culture to more people across England.

Over the next three years, the £120,000 will help Ikon to produce its *Looping the Loop* tour. This artistic and creative programme will be shaped by local people, helping to create better access to art and culture in the Ladywood district where the gallery is located.

Events will take place on the canal boat and at community and heritage sites along the city's canal routes, including partnerships with the Centre of the Earth, Kharis Neighbour Scheme, Perrott's Folly and the Roundhouse.

The *Looping the Loop* tour will celebrate Ladywood's past, present and future through exhibitions and workshops, music events and film screenings. It will bring national and international artists to the city and offer opportunities for training and skills development.

Ian Hyde, Deputy Director, Ikon said: *"We are absolutely delighted to have secured this funding. It will enable us to build on our reputation following Slow Boat and Black Country Voyages for taking contemporary art to communities via the canals and waterways of the West Midlands. Our focus on Ladywood over the coming years is really important to us. We believe that working with residents in our local community, which is one of the most diverse districts in Birmingham, will help support our mission to engage a wide audience with all that we do."*

Peter Knott, Area Director, Midlands, Arts Council England said: *"We want to see our Strategic Touring fund creating new ways for people to take part in artistic and cultural experiences where they live. Ikon's canal boat offers so much potential to help make this happen, which is why we're investing in this new tour. It will be great to see the boat offering people in Ladywood new opportunities to enjoy contemporary art on their doorstep."*

Details about the artistic programme will be announced at a later date. £92,000 has already been raised in matched funding.

A total of £2,378,002 will be invested in 15 projects across England through this round of the Arts Council's Strategic Touring fund.

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Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery

Notes to editors

1. **Ikon Gallery** 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. www.ikon-gallery.org

Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity supported by public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. This project has raised matched funding from the Michael Marsh Charitable Trust and the Grantham Yorke Trust.

For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

2. **Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital 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 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. www.artscouncil.org.uk
3. 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. www.ikon-gallery.org
4. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
5. For more information or high-res images please contact Sam Skillings, Head of Communications (Maternity Cover) or Emily Luxford, Communications Assistant at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email s.skillings@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org

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Teacher CPD Event onboard Ikon's Canal Boat © Ikon Gallery

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Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org
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Registered charity no. 528892



Family Workshop onboard Ikon's Canal Boat © Ikon Gallery



Onboard Ikon's Canal Boat with artist Mahtab Hussain, 2016 © Ikon Gallery

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Artist Mahtab Hussain in his photography studio onboard Ikon's Canal Boat
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