

20 MARCH - 1 JUNE 2025

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HTEIN LIN ESCAPE



Art
EXPLORER



MAHTAB HUSSAIN WHAT DID YOU WANT TO SEE?

2

Please consider making a donation for this free guide.

IKON

1

HTEIN LIN Escape

Htein Lin
is an artist from
Myanmar in
South-East Asia.



Htein Lin was in prison, for opposing military rule, between 1998 and 2004. He was a political prisoner and is still unable to leave the country.



“ Although I am currently unable to travel outside of Myanmar, knowing that my work is being shown in exhibitions overseas keeps open a window for me to look out on the world. It also offers a chance for the world outside to see what is happening in Myanmar. ”



How do you find Birmingham?

Htein Lin made this new painting to be shown at Ikon.

It is based on landmarks in Birmingham.

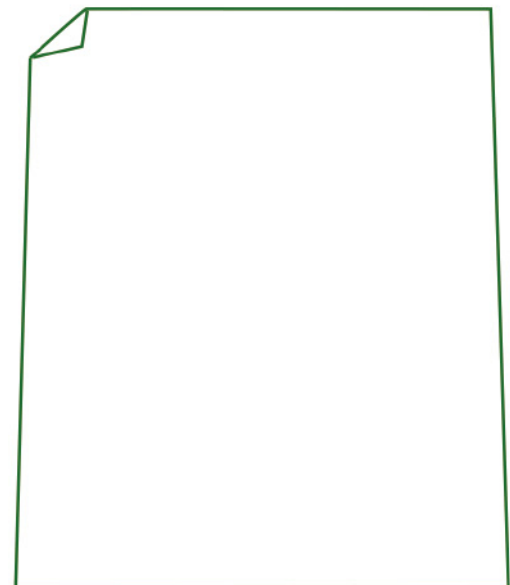
How many can you recognise?

Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda

This Buddhist temple in Birmingham is the only building of its kind (in the traditional Burmese style) in the Western Hemisphere.



- Central Library ●
- Selfridges ●
- Council House ●
- Old Joe ●
- Peace Pagoda ●



Draw a landmark or building that is important to you.

Match up the place names with their silhouettes!

2

MAHTAB HUSSAIN What Did You Want To See?



Mahtab Hussain was raised in Birmingham. He uses photography, portraiture, installation and sculpture to represent the vibrant Muslim communities in the UK and around the world.

Over 160 mosques

Mahtab has travelled around Birmingham with the aim of visiting and photographing every mosque in the city.



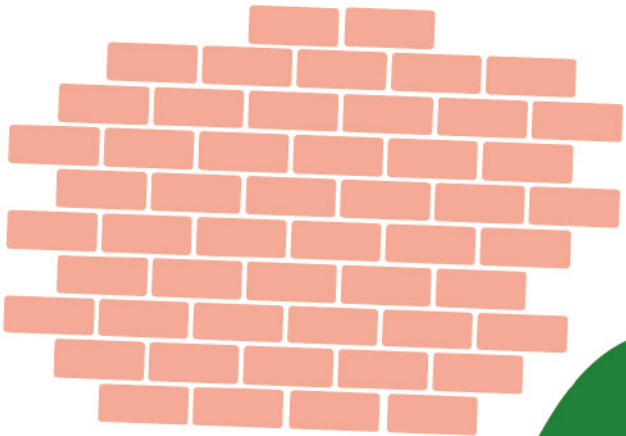
Did you know...

Birmingham Central Mosque was opened in Highgate in 1975 and can hold up to 6000 worshippers! Mosques also serve as schools, libraries, kitchens and community centres.



There are **3** postcode tags around the gallery ... can you find them all?

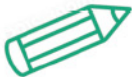
Make your own postcode into a tag here 



Portraits of Mahtab's family members are shown alongside members of the public.

Draw a portrait of a family member here.

Or choose your favourite from the exhibition.



Visit our website to download our **activity packs** with more creative ideas and step-by-step guides inspired by these exhibitions!



Ikon Family Activities

Ikon hosts a wide range of creative activities for families, schools and other groups.

Ikon Family Saturdays are free, artist-led sessions for all ages. On the first Saturday of every month, 11am-3pm. No need to book, just drop in!

Free family sessions also take place during half terms and school holidays.

Visit ikon-gallery.org for the latest events.

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP)

IYP are a collective of young people, aged 16-21, who together make artwork, meet artists, publish writing and organise events.

IYP members meet regularly at Ikon, as well as at different arts venues and art schools across the West Midlands, using the Ikon *Slow Boat*, which covers over 150 miles of the canal network.

Slow Boat is used by IYP as a studio and workshop space, somewhere to develop new work, experiment with ideas and meet other creative young people.

IYP has a proud environmental focus, addressing the climate crisis and harnessing the power of young people to lead on climate action for the future.



Share your creations with [@ikongallery](https://www.instagram.com/ikongallery)

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square
Brindleyplace
Birmingham
B1 2HS

+44 (0)121 248 0708
ikon-gallery.org

Open Tuesday - Sunday
11am-5pm
Free entry
Donations welcome

Cover:

Htein Lin, *How do you find Birmingham?* (2024) © Courtesy the artist.

Portrait of Htein Lin. Courtesy the artist and Richard Koh Fine Art Singapore.

Mahtab Hussain, *Shazana and Kaniz*. From the series *What Did You Want To See?* (2024). © Mahtab Hussain.

Mahtab Hussain, *Faizal Islam Masjid, Birmingham*. From the series *What Did You Want To See?* (2024). © Mahtab Hussain.

Inside:

Htein Lin, *Kalaw, Myanmar* (2024). Courtesy the artist.

Htein Lin, *How do you find Birmingham?* (2024) © Courtesy the artist.

Mahtab Hussain, *Birmingham Central Mosque*. From the series *What Did You Want To See?* (2024). © Mahtab Hussain.

Mahtab Hussain, *Acts of Defiance Postcode Tag: B12 Sparkbrook, Balsall Heath*. From the series *What Did You Want To See?* (2024). © Mahtab Hussain.

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

Escape is supported by the British Council through the Connections Through Culture grants programme and ai. gallery.

What Did You Want To See? is supported by the John Feeney Charitable Trust and Freelands Foundation.

Ikon is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

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