Events Diary

June – September 2018

All events take place at Ikon Gallery unless otherwise stated.

All events can be booked online at ikon-gallery.org unless indicated otherwise. Alternatively please call Ikon on 0121 248 0708.

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

Exhibition Openings

Francis Alÿs, Knots’n Dust
Wednesday 20 June, 6–8pm – FREE

Vladimír Kokolia, Epiphany
Wednesday 4 July, 6–8pm – FREE

Young Birmingham Artists
Thursday 12 July, 6–8pm – FREE
Medicine Bakery & Gallery

Join us to celebrate the opening nights for our new exhibitions. Pay bar.

Symposium

Small Nations and Global Identities: Czech Questions
Thursday 5 July, 9.30am–5.30pm – FREE
Booking essential
This event considers the formation of modern Czech identity in the arts, politics and media, focusing on key global events of the 20th century. It responds to various celebrations in the Czech Republic and the UK, including the centenary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 and the fiftieth anniversary of the Prague Spring. It includes an exhibition tour with artist Vladimír Kokolia and contributions from leading historians and theorists. Organised by Dr. Marta Filipová and Professor Matthew Rampley, University of Birmingham. Visit ikon-gallery.org for full details.

Workshop

Making Knots
Wednesday 25 July, 2–5pm
£25, including materials and refreshments
Slow Boat, Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace, B1 2JB
Booking essential, places are limited
Join artist and Ladywood resident Maral Mamaghani-zadeh to create a piece of jewellery inspired by Francis Alÿs’ work Exodus 3:14, an animation of 670 drawings of a woman tying a knot in her hair. Mamaghani-zadeh, Grand Union artist-in-residence, explores the cultural challenges facing women in Iran, where it has been compulsory to cover their hair since 1979. Aimed at an adult audience, British Sign Language interpretation is provided.
Concert

*Chaconnes, Re-imagined*
*Sunday 15 July, 3–3.45pm*
*FREE – drop-in*
Join violinist Shi Ling Chin in Vladimír Kokolia’s exhibition for an evening of classical music. Shi performs a number of violin chaconnes by composers including Bach, Reger and Bartok. Mirroring the spirit of Kokolia’s work, the performance creates a ‘mesh’ through unconscious improvisation in sound, presenting the chaconne form in a raw and organic way. Organised in partnership with the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire as the part of the ARCO project.

Pop up Shop

*Independent Birmingham Festival*
*Saturday 21 & Sunday 22 July, 12–7pm – £10*
*Free for children aged under 12*
*Aston Hall, Trinity Road, Birmingham B6 6JD*
Ikong Shop travels to the Independent Birmingham Festival, held in Aston Hall. Celebrating all things unique about our city, Ikong Shop champions Birmingham products and local makers alongside Ikong’s own collection of catalogues. To book visit independent-birmingham.co.uk

Tours

*Tornado Tracers*
*A guided walk with Carolyn Morton*
*Saturday 28 July, 2.30–5.30pm*
*£6 (£10 for Tornado Tracers and Knot Working)*
*Booking essential, places are limited*
*Meet outside All Saints Church, 2 Vicarage Road*
*Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 7RA*
*Finishes at Christ Church, Farm Road*
*Sparkbrook B11 1LT*
*Tornado Tracers* marks the 13th anniversary, to the day, of the 2005 Birmingham tornado. This walk, led by Birmingham-based visual artist Carolyn Morton, charts the tornado’s route over three miles, identifying fragmented evidence, drawing from public records and personal anecdotes and exploring lasting impacts on the local community. Join us for rest, refreshments and conversation afterwards in a local public house. Please wear shoes suitable for urban walking. Presented in partnership with Still Walking Festival stillwalking.org
Knot Working
A guided walk with Ben Waddington
Saturday 11 August, 1–3pm
£6 (£10 for Tornado Tracers and Knot Working)
Booking essential, places are limited
Meet at Ikon for a tour of the Francis Alys exhibition, followed by a guided walk led by Ben Waddington, Still Walking Director, as he attempts to tie up some of the loose ends experienced as a Birmingham pedestrian. This walk explores themes of town planning, encroaching private spaces and invisible boundaries. Join us for rest, refreshments and conversation afterwards in a local public house. Please wear shoes suitable for urban walking.

Spotlight Tours
Every Friday, 12.30pm and Sunday, 3pm – FREE
Join a member of Ikon staff for a 15 minute spotlight tour focused on a key work in the exhibition. No need to book, meet in Ikon foyer.

Access Tours
Available on request – FREE
Booking essential
Ikon can provide British Sign Language (BSL) and audio described introductions to our current exhibitions. Individual or group bookings are free but must be booked. Call Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email learning@ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Slow Boat

A converted narrow boat, Slow Boat is a unique floating space for local communities and artists to make and experience art in a stimulating and creative environment. Slow Boat is curated by Ikon’s Learning Team with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP).

Meet the Artist – Ming de Nasty
Bring Your Own Vinyl night
Saturday 28 July, 7–10pm – FREE, drop in
Slow Boat, Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2JB
Ming de Nasty has made a significant contribution to Birmingham’s photographic landscape since the 1980s. Join the artist at the beginning of her journey onboard Slow Boat. Presented in partnership with The Diskery, the oldest record store in England, and headlined by de Nasty, the evening also gives visitors the opportunity to explore her archive of photography, vinyl, collage and fanzines.
Kayaking and Herbal Infusions  
Saturday 25 August, various times (2 hour slots)  
£20  
Booking essential, limited availability  
Artists Ming de Nasty and Sarah Wilson, and horticulturalist Alys Fowler, author of Hidden Nature, lead kayak tours around Icknield Port Loop. Paddlers can also enjoy herbal teas and infusions from foraged edibles. Organised in partnership with B-Row. Please see ikon-gallery.org for times and meeting point.

Wild Dining  
Sunday 26 August, 1–4pm and 6–9pm  
£35, includes welcome drink and 4 course vegetarian meal  
Meet at Ikon Gallery  
Limited capacity, booking essential  
Wild Dining is a unique way to explore Ming de Nasty’s photographic exhibition LADYWOOD, a series of studio portraits of female refugees, produced in partnership with Mothership. Displayed around the Soho Loop, the photographic series includes studies of flora and fauna in an urban exhibition of strength, beauty and diversity. Take a leisurely journey aboard Slow Boat before experiencing a magical feast in a secret canalside location. Presented in partnership with York’s Bakery Café.

Slow Boat is accessible by wheelchair via a ramp and lift and crew are on hand to provide additional assistance for foot passengers boarding the boat. We advise visitors to call 0121 248 0708 to discuss any access requirements before booking.

Looping the Loop  

Looping the Loop (2017–2019) takes place between the canal and community spaces in Birmingham’s Ladywood district. A socially responsive programme, Slow Boat offers a vehicle for greater understanding of the experiences of refugees and new arrivals to the city through artist residencies with Ming de Nasty and Celebrating Sanctuary.

Meet the Artists — Celebrating Sanctuary  
Wednesday 20 June, 4–6pm (Slow Boat)  
and 8–8.45pm (Yorks Café at Ikon)  
FREE — drop in  
Celebrating Sanctuary use the power of music to raise awareness of the contributions made by refugees to the UK and in particular to Birmingham. Join Celebrating Sanctuary on Slow Boat to hear more about their forthcoming festival and events, followed by a special performance by Senegalese kora player and singer Kadialy Kouyate. This event marks World Refugee Day and the opening of Francis Alỹs’ exhibition at Ikon.
Meet the Instruments – Celebrating Sanctuary
Tuesday 10 and Tuesday 17 July, 1–3pm
FREE – drop in
An opportunity to meet the artists including Zimbabwean Mbira player, percussionist and singer Millicent Chapanda, and find out about their musical practices and instrumentation. Open to all ages.

Artist Workshops – Celebrating Sanctuary
Wednesday 11 and Wednesday 18 July
1–2.30pm – FREE
Booking essential, limited capacity
Join artists, including Angolan singer/songwriter Ben Pathy, for music and song during fun workshops aimed at giving an insight into traditional instrumentation, vocals, music and songs from their native countries. Open to all ages.

Community Concert – Celebrating Sanctuary
Friday 20 July, 7–9pm – FREE
St John’s & St Peter’s Church, Darnley Road
Ladywood, Birmingham B16 8TF
Booking essential, limited capacity
To celebrate the end of their residency, Celebrating Sanctuary present a concert showcasing resident artists including musician, composer, author and teacher Chartwell Shorayi Dutiro.

Ikon Youth Programme

Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) is a group of young people, aged 16–21 years old, who share an interest in visual art. They meet weekly to visit Ikon’s exhibitions and produce activity with artists and communities on board Slow Boat. For more information contact James Latunji-Cockbill on 0121 248 0708 or visit ikon-gallery.org/iyp

Canal clean up
Tuesday 3 July, 6–8pm – FREE
Tuesday 7 August, 6–8pm – FREE
Tuesday 4 September, 6–8pm – FREE
Booking essential, meet at Ikon Gallery
IYP has adopted a section of the Birmingham Old Line Canal at King Edwards Wharf, near Sheepcote Street Bridge. Join us with artist Emily Warner, Canal & River Trust and Centre of the Earth to tackle the growing problem of plastic waste.

Meet IYP
Wednesday 4 July, 2–6pm
FREE – drop in
Slow Boat, Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2JB
Join artist Emily Warner and members of IYP onboard Slow Boat for a workshop using waste materials collected from Birmingham’s canals. If you’re aged 16–21 and want to join IYP, come along and hear more about the group’s activity.

Fanzine & Showcase Launch
Thursday 16 August, 6–8pm
Showcase continues to Sunday 19 August,
open 11am–5pm
FREE – drop in
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace
IYP launches its limited edition fanzine, The Cut, which uses a variety of hand-printing techniques inspired by Ming de Nasty’s fanzine Raw Eggs, produced in the 1980s and providing perspective on feminism, activism and music. This event includes live music.

Family Events

Free Drop-in Activities

Suitable for all ages. No need to book, stay for as long as you like.

Family Saturdays
Saturday 14 July, 12–4pm — FREE
Saturday 11 August, 12–4pm — FREE
Saturday 8 September, 12–4pm — FREE
Join us for practical and hands-on activities inspired by the current exhibitions. Spend some creative time making and experimenting as a family.

Art Explorer
During Exhibitions — FREE
Available at reception
Explore the galleries with your family and friends in a fun and creative way. Art Explorer is our specially designed riso-printed guide. Suitable for all ages, just ask at reception.

Bookable Family Workshops

Activities aimed at specific age groups.

Summer School
Monday 6 – Friday 10 August, 10am–3pm
£100 per child
Booking essential, places are limited
During this week-long summer school, children work with professionals at Ikon, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and onboard Slow Boat, to perform, produce and present their own films. The school responds to Francis Alÿs’ work Tornado, in which he attempts to run into a whirling column of air with a video camera. Suitable for children aged 7–12 who are happy to attend without parental supervision. Please book by 27 July and indicate children’s ages.

Schools Showcase

Creative Connections
Thursday 28 June – Sunday 1 July, 11–5pm – FREE
This showcase is a celebration of artwork made by pupils from seven Birmingham primary schools during April – June 2018 as part of regional schools consortia, Creative Connections. Over 400 children aged 5–10 years old, took part in a series of workshops at Ikon Gallery with artists including Juneau Projects, Sarah Taylor Silverwood, Wendy Tournay, Emily Warner and Dan Newso.

Group Visits

Group visits, tours and creative workshops are available for each exhibition. For more information see ikon-gallery.org/learning/adults or call the Learning Team on 0121 248 0708.

School Visits

At Ikon your pupils can enjoy creative learning and develop key transferable skills such as problem solving, communication and literacy. We offer countless opportunities to think creatively and critically, engaging in cross-curricular learning, narrowing the achievement gap and raising attainment. There is a range of options available to suit your needs.

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Note to Editors:

1. Ikon’s Learning Programme is supported by Arts Connect West Midlands, Birmingham City University, Cass Art, the Michael Marsh Charitable Trust and The Rowlands Trust. Ikon’s Slow Boat programme, Looping the Loop, is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, the Canal and River Trust and Grantham Yorke Trust.
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.

3. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free.

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

5. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council.

6. For more information and high-res images or to request interviews please contact Heather Thomas at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email h.thomas@ikon-gallery.org

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry
Ikon Gallery Limited trading as Ikon. Registered charity no. 528892.

Alpha Elema, Celebrating Sanctuary
Canal clean ups

Maral Mamaghanizadeh, Tales of Tresses (2017).
Brooch – Human hair, Coconut shell, Oxidised copper sheet, Stainless steel