

## *Ikon Slow Boat* *Looping the Loop - Summer 2018*

### Highlights include:

**Celebrating Sanctuary Community Concert: Friday 20 July**

**Ming de Nasty artist in residence July - August**



*Ikon Slow Boat*

Ikon continues its three year programme *Looping the Loop* (2017–2019) on-board *Slow Boat* and in community spaces across Birmingham's Ladywood district.

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. As part of *Looping the Loop*, *Slow Boat* offers a vehicle for greater understanding of the experiences of refugees and new arrivals to the city through artist residencies and workshops.

*Slow Boat* is curated by Ikon's Learning Team with members of Ikon Youth Programme (IYP), a group of young people, aged 16-21 years old, who share an interest in art and culture. IYP meet once a week and use *Slow Boat* as a social space to develop ideas and skills.

During July Celebrating Sanctuary have been artists in residence which included a number of workshops on *Slow Boat* with Zimbabwean Mbira player, percussionist and singer Millicent Chapanda and Angolan singer/songwriter Ben Pathy. The workshops gave an insight into traditional instrumentation, vocals, music and songs from their native countries. Celebrating Sanctuary use the power of music to raise awareness of the contributions made by refugees in the UK and in particular to Birmingham.

To celebrate the end of their residency, Celebrating Sanctuary present a concert at St John's & St Peter's Church in Ladywood on Friday 20 June, showcasing resident artists including musician, composer, author and teacher Chartwell Shorayi Dutiro. To book visit [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org).

At the end of July, artist Ming de Nasty, who has made a significant contribution to Birmingham's photographic landscape since the 1980s, becomes artist in residence on-board *Slow Boat*. For *Looping the Loop*, de Nasty has created a series of photographic portraits of female refugees, titled *LADYWOOD* and 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 - on Sunday 26 August these portraits can be viewed as part of a unique journey on *Slow Boat* and a Wild Dining feast. To book visit [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org).

*This summer's Looping the Loop programme is packed with events and I am particularly looking forward to seeing the installation of Ming de Nasty's photographic portraits presented along the canals of Soho Loop. She has worked with MotherShip – a community organisation connecting communities through creativity – to reach female refugee groups and her portraits of vulnerable, often invisible, women invite us to celebrate the beauty and strength of these individuals. Audiences can travel onboard Ikon Slow Boat to see this off-site exhibition followed by a wild dining experience at a hidden canalside location. Kaye Winwood, Looping the Loop Producer*

*Looping the Loop* continues through the Autumn with artist-in-residence Justin Wiggin using *Slow Boat* as a sleep lab for his ongoing project *Life Echo*.

*Slow Boat* can often be seen journeying the canal network around Ladywood – it's easy to spot the striking blue and yellow exterior, featuring a design by Lamorna Conlon (Ikon Youth Programme member). Come and join us at one of our events.

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, Canal & River Trust and Grantham Yorke Trust.

## Events

All events take place on-board *Slow Boat* at Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB unless otherwise stated.

Book online at [ikon-gallery.org](http://ikon-gallery.org) or call us 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.

*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.

### 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.

### 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 Mamaghanizadeh to create a piece of jewellery inspired by Francis Alys' work *Exodus 3:14*, an animation of 670 drawings of a woman tying a knot in her hair. Mamaghanizadeh, 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.

### Meet the Artist – Ming de Nasty

Bring Your Own Vinyl night

Saturday 28 July, 7–10pm – FREE, drop in

*Slow Boat*, Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace, 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 on-board *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](http://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 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 Yorks Bakery Café.

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Emily Luxford on 0121 248 0708 or email [e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org](mailto:e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org)

## **Social Media Handles:**

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: [@ikongallery](#) [#IkonGallery](#) [#ikonslowboat](#)

## **Links**

[ikon-gallery.org](http://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](http://ikon-gallery.org)

## 2. Ikon's history on the canals

Ikon has a long history of working on the canals, collaborating with artists on the waterways for nearly 20 years. In 2000 Japanese artist Shimabuku made *Cucumber Journey*, a two week voyage between Chisenhale Gallery, London and Ikon, Birmingham, during which time he pickled vegetables, with the flavour intensifying as the journey progressed, echoing the slowness of the passage of time. In the same year Tadashi Kawamata collaborated with a group of local volunteers on his work *Canal Boat*, converting a narrowboat into a communal social structure. Subsequent artworks have included *Ickniel Port Loop* (2007) with Marie Lorenz who built a small boat by hand, using rubbish found in the city's canals; and *Hey for Lubberland!* (2009) with Simon and Tom Bloor, who painted the exterior of the canopy with their interpretation of dazzle camouflage.

In 2011 Ikon Sandwell Council generously lent Ikon a narrowboat, the Aaron Manby, launched for the first iteration of *Slow Boat* (2011–2013) involving the Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) and artists Marjolijn Dijkman, Sarah Browne and Navin Rawanchaikul. *Black Country Voyages* (2014–2017) saw Ikon navigate the canals in and around Smethwick, Langley, Cradley Heath, Stourbridge, Tipton and Brownhills. Artist-duo Juneau Projects transformed the boat into a hand-painted archive of people's ideas of the natural world, Jacques Nimki created a floating laboratory and Mahtab Hussain used the boat to tell a story of mass displacement in Pakistan in the 1960s. *Looping the Loop* (2017-19) commenced with artist residencies with James Lomax and Mahtab Hussain, working with local partners Brasshouse Languages, Canal and River Trust, Centre of the Earth, Roundhouse, Karis Neighbour Scheme, Ladywood Community Centre, The Real Junk Food Project Birmingham and MotherShip Projects in a programme of screenings and workshops.

3. 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](#).

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Chartwell Shorayi Dutiro

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0121 248 0708 / [www.ikon-gallery.org](http://www.ikon-gallery.org)  
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Millicent and Chartwell at mac Birmingham, courtesy Celebrating Sanctuary Birmingham.  
Photo Laura Rakotonirina



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

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Ikon Slow Boat



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Ming de Nasty, *Self Portrait* (1985). Courtesy the artist.



Soho Loop. Ladywood, Birmingham

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Floating Feast on-board *Slow Boat*, 2011 by Companis Food Provocateurs. Photo Rachel Marsden.



Canoes on the Birmingham Canal Network, courtesy B-Row