

The Migrant Festival 30 May – 2 June 2019



*Queen Victoria's statue with a demonstrator from the Indian Workers Association
Black and White Unite and Fight. (1968) Photograph by Nick Hedges.*

Ikon hosts *The Migrant Festival*, a four day festival fusing visual art, music, film and performance.

Events include a performance by Syrian Oud player, Rihab Azar with *Celebrating Sanctuary*; a screening of *The Colony* (1964) directed by Philip Donnellan and filmed in Birmingham; an introduction to Professor Stuart Hall's newly acquired archive at the Library of Birmingham and an in conversation event with Rt. Hon David Lammy MP and artist Hew Locke; and much more.

The Migrant Festival occurs during the last four days of Hew Locke's exhibition, *Here's The Thing*, at Ikon. It includes *Armada* (2019), an installation of suspended galleons, cruisers, lifeboats and rafts, conflating historic and contemporary migratory trends. Amidst the flock is the *Empire*

Windrush, symbolic of a mass movement of people from the Caribbean to the UK between 1948 – 1971. *The Migrant Festival* starts with this history, whilst providing a platform for individuals to speak about Brexit and share their plans for Refugee Week 2019.

Like most people, it never occurred to me that the Windrush issue was not settled, that it was even an issue at all... This stuff is so hard to talk about, I get angry. Now, in the light of what we're facing with Brexit and ideas of national identity, I'm rethinking Britishness in different ways, saying to myself "OK Hew, so we're not as accepted as we thought we were", and that's disturbing. This is one of the things that motivates me to make work, to get up in the morning and head down to the studio. Hew Locke

Full programme:

Thursday 30 May

Talk – *Introducing Stuart **Hall's** Archive*

Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham, 1-2pm – FREE

Booking essential

Stuart **Hall's** archive recently arrived at the University of **Birmingham's** Cadbury Research Library. At this lunch-time seminar, archivist Dr Helen Fisher and historian Dr Rob Waters introduce highlights from the archive, and how its holdings relate to the history of political activism and black intellectual work in Birmingham.

Please email special-collections@bham.ac.uk to book or call 0121 414 5839.

Talk – *Jon Bloomfield and Vanley Burke*

Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm – £3

Booking essential

Author Jon Bloomfield's latest book *Our City: Migrants and the Making of Modern Birmingham* (Unbound, 2019), features a photograph by Vanley Burke on its front cover. The author and artist exchange notes on their research into and experience of migration to Birmingham from all corners of the world and how this has influenced the economy and culture of the city.

Film – *The Colony*

Ikon Gallery, 7-8pm – £3

Booking essential

Directed by Philip Donnellan and broadcast on the BBC, *The Colony* (1964) was filmed in Birmingham, giving a voice to working-class settlers from the Caribbean. The documentary uses no narration or commentary, allowing its participants - including a railwayman from Saint Kitts, a bus conductor from Jamaica, a family of singers from Trinidad and a nurse from Barbados - to articulate their experiences of Britain. With thanks to the BFI National TV Archive.

Friday 31 May

Family Workshop – *Crows on the Canal*
Slow Boat, Brindleyplace 1-3pm – £3

Booking essential, places limited

We invite Ikon families to join artist Matthew Krishanu on *Slow Boat* for a drawing workshop inspired by his crow paintings. While *Slow Boat* tours Birmingham's canals, participants draw crows that take flight as they decorate the windows of the moving boat. This workshop is suitable for children over 6 accompanied by an adult.

Talk – *Creative Conversations with Polish Women*

Yorks Café, 3-4pm – £3, includes a drink

Booking essential

There are many Polish artists living and working in the UK and Polish has become the most commonly spoken non-native language in England. Coinciding with Brexit, we analyse the artistic practices of Polish artists who have made Britain their home, including artists, curators and creatives Joanna Gemes, Founder and Director of l'étrangère, Karolina Korupczynska, Founder and Co-Director of Stryx, Sylwia Krason, Founder and Director of Contemporary Lynx and Katarzyna Perlak, artist.

Talk – Rt Hon David Lammy MP and artist Hew Locke

Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm – £3

Booking essential

Both sharing Caribbean heritage, David Lammy and Hew Locke discuss the meaning of 'Home'. David Lammy has been the Labour Member of Parliament for his home constituency of Tottenham since 2000 and is one of Parliament's most prominent and successful campaigners for social justice including leading the campaign for Windrush British citizens to be granted British citizenship and fighting for the rights of families affected by the Grenfell Tower fire.

Saturday 1 June

Family Workshop – *Imagery and Ornament*

Ikon Gallery, 12-4pm – FREE, drop in

Join artist Farwa Moledina to create embellished imagery in response to Hew Locke's installation *The Nameless* (2010), reminiscent of a medieval tapestry, and *Souvenirs* (2018-19), busts of the royal family heavily decorated by the artist. Moledina's artworks reclaim images of Muslim women from Orientalist art historical tradition.

Performance – *Currents: Empire and Migration*

Slow Boat, 2-4pm – FREE, drop in

Referencing Hew Locke's *Armada* (2019), artist Jane Thakoordin, Ikon Youth Programme (IYP) and the Barber Collective decorate *Slow Boat*. It floats between Ikon and The Barber Institute of Fine Arts where Idia, the first queen mother of Benin is housed. In partnership with The Barber Institute of Fine Arts.

IKON

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

Music – *Celebrating Sanctuary* present *Germa Adan*

Ikon Gallery, 3-5pm – FREE, drop in

Germa Adan is a Haitian folk artist known for her ability to write and perform in the style of a storyteller with a strong undercurrent of social consciousness at the heart of her music and a desire to explore themes of the past and the modern day. Adan performs throughout Ikon, transforming the spaces with her music.

Talk – *Hew Locke in conversation*

Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm – £3

Booking essential

Artist Hew Locke discusses his Ikon exhibition with Hammad Nasar, Executive Director of The Stuart Hall Foundation. They consider Locke's interest and interventional approach to cultural heritage, including his recent installation on board HMS *Belfast*, and his plan to redress Birmingham's statue of Queen Victoria in time for the Commonwealth Games in 2022.

Music – *The Diskery*

Yorks Café at Ikon, 7pm – 10pm – FREE, drop in

Ikon teams up again with local independent record shop The Diskery (est. 1952), for a celebration of second-hand vinyl with Roots Reggae, Ska and Dub on rotation.

Sunday 2 June

Talk – *Handsworth Self Portrait: Forty Years On*

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC), 2-3pm – FREE

Booking essential – macbirmingham.co.uk

In 1979 Derek Bishton, Brian Homer and John Reardon created a pop up photography studio on the street outside their community design and photography office in Handsworth. They invited passers-by to take their own photograph, passing them the shutter release so they could control the process of representation. This event marks the end of the exhibition with a talk by Bishton.

Fashion Parade – *with Osman Yousefzada*

Meet at The Rotunda, 2-3pm – FREE, drop in

Designer Osman Yousefzada leads a fashion parade through the city centre, featuring his spring/ summer collection.

Music – *Celebrating Sanctuary* present *Rihab Azar Trio*

Ikon Gallery, 3-4pm – FREE, drop in

Rihab Azar Trio take the audience on a journey through rich sounds of both classical and contemporary Middle-Eastern music performed by oud player Rihab Azar, upright-bassist Dudley Phillips and percussionist Corrina Silvester.

Talk – *Soapbox & Shawarma*

Yorks Café at Ikon, 4-6pm – £6, includes food by Yorks

Booking essential

20 quick-fire soapbox presentations from individuals and groups supporting migrants in the Midlands, including plans for this year's Refugee Week with its theme 'You, me and those who

came before'. Chaired by Liz Clegg, Founder of the Meena Centre. Formerly known as the Unofficial Women's and Children's Centre in the Calais "Jungle", Liz Clegg and Inca Sorrell then set up Meena in Birmingham focusing on the often overlooked women and children in the refugee crisis, only now much closer to home.

Talk – *Living with Difference*

Ikon Gallery, 6-7pm – £3

Booking essential

Gilane Tawadros, author of *The Sphinx Contemplating Napoleon* (upcoming publication, Bloomsbury, 2019), chairs a discussion with Black Audio Film Collective member Trevor Mathison and Dubmorphology collaborator Gary Stewart. The panel discuss key themes including the fear of difference in science fiction and how black British artists in the 1990s were represented.

Film – *The Last Angel of History*

Ikon Gallery, 7-8pm – £3

Booking essential

Directed by John Akomfrah and produced by Lina Gopaul, *The Last Angel of History* (1995) is a sci-fi documentary about Africa, history and memory. The film demonstrates the Black Audio Film Collective's exploration of the chromatic possibilities of digital video embedded within a mythology of the future that creates connections between black unpopular culture, outer space and the limits of the human condition.

Book online at ikon-gallery.org or 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.

Venues

Ikon Gallery & Yorks Café at Ikon
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2HS
ikon-gallery.org / 0121 248 0708

Ikon Slow Boat
Brindleyplace
Birmingham B1 2JB
See website for location and access details

The Barber Institute of Fine Arts
University of Birmingham
Edgbaston
Birmingham B15 2TS
barber.org.uk/0121 414 7333

Midlands Arts Centre (MAC)
Cannon Hill Park, Queen's Ride
Birmingham B12 9QH
macbirmingham.co.uk / 0121 446 3232

University of Birmingham
Cadbury Research Library, Chamberlain
Seminar Room, Muirhead Tower,
Birmingham B15 2TT
Birmingham.ac.uk / 0121 414 5839

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Emily Luxford or Sam Newman on 0121 248 0708 or email e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org or s.newman@ikon-gallery.org.

Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery #TheMigrantFestival

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, 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 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.
3. *Hew Locke: Here's the Thing* is supported by the Ikon Investment Fund and organised by Ikon Gallery, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and Colby College Museum of Art.

Image reproduction terms and conditions:

- Credit information must accompany each photo that you publish: credits are as per their file titles with the credit 'Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, ikon-gallery.org'
- No cropping or text overlay of any kind is permitted without permission
- Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, you will have the non-exclusive license to use each Photo for one-time print and online editorial purposes only
- Except as expressly permitted by this Agreement, you may not copy, reproduce, market, sell, distribute, publish, display, perform, modify, create derivative works of, download, or transmit, in any form or by any means, electronic, optical, mechanical or otherwise, any Photos. This restriction includes the distribution, marketing and selling of unauthorised "hard copies" of Photos and the distribution, marketing and selling of Photos through any electronic medium or any electronic storage device.
- You may store Photos electronically until such time as the Photo is used in your publication. You are not allowed to enter Photos into a database or hold them longer than you need to for publication.



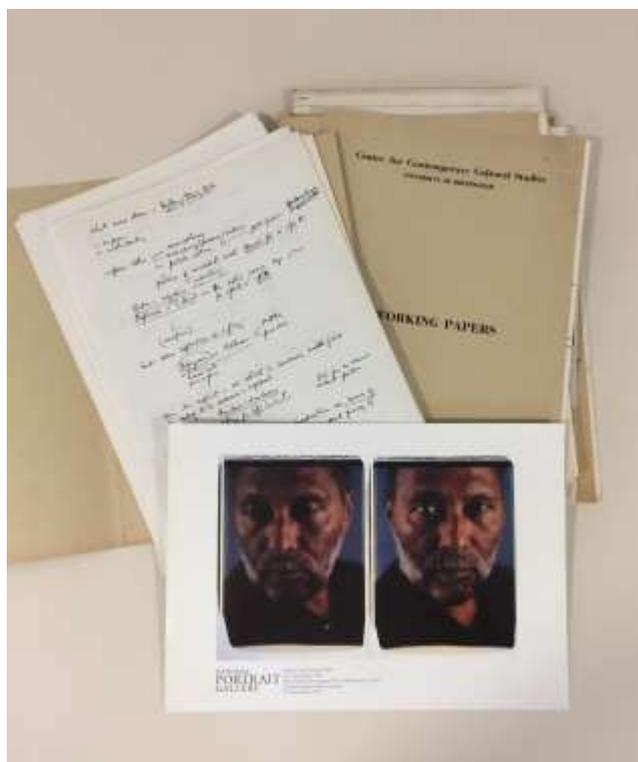
Hew Locke: Here's the Thing (2019), Ikon. Courtesy the artist and Ikon

IKON

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



Rt Hon David Lammy MP



Stuart Hall's archive



Rihab Azar. Photograph Joe Ehlen

IKON

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



Osman Yousefzada fashion parade (2018)



Katarzyna Perlak, *Niołam Ja Se Kochaneczke* (2016), video, courtesy the artist.