



**Salaam
Festival**

Exploring the Future of
Islamic Art and Culture

_Remembrance
_Büşra Plays Keys
_Qawwali
_The Weekend



— 10-11 Jumāda al-Awāl 1447 AH | 01 - 02 November 2025 —
Manchester

THINK OF OTHERS

As you prepare your breakfast, think of others
(do not forget the pigeon's food).

As you conduct your wars, think of others
(do not forget those who seek peace).

As you pay your water bill, think of others
(those who are nursed by clouds).

As you return home, to your home, think of others
(do not forget the people of the camps).

As you sleep and count the stars, think of others
(those who have nowhere to sleep).

As you liberate yourself in metaphor, think of others
(those who have lost the right to speak).

As you think of others far away, think of yourself
(say: "If only I were a candle in the dark").

فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ

وَأَنْتَ تُعَدُّ فُطُورَكَ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
لَا تَنْسَ قُوَّةَ الْحَمَامِ
وَأَنْتَ تَخَوِّضُ حُرُوبَكَ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
لَا تَنْسَ مَنْ يَطْلُبُونَ السَّلَامَ
وَأَنْتَ تَسُدُّ فَاتُورَةَ الْمَاءِ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
مَنْ يَرِصُّغُونَ الْغَمَامَ
وَأَنْتَ تَعُودُ إِلَى الْبَيْتِ، بَيْتِكَ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
لَا تَنْسَ شَعْبَ الْخِيَامِ
وَأَنْتَ تَنَامُ وَتُحْصِي الْكَوَاكِبَ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
ثَمَّةٌ مَنْ لَمْ يَجِدْ حَبْزًا لِلْمَنَامِ
وَأَنْتَ تَحْزَرُ نَفْسَكَ بِالِاسْتِعَارَاتِ، فَكَرَّ بِغَيْرِكَ
مَنْ فَقَدُوا حَقَّهُمْ فِي الْكَلَامِ
وَأَنْتَ تَفَكِّرُ بِالْآخِرِينَ الْبَعِيدِينَ، فَكَرَّ بِنَفْسِكَ
قُلْ: لِيَتَنِي شَمْعَةٌ فِي الظَّلَامِ

MAHMOUD DARWISH

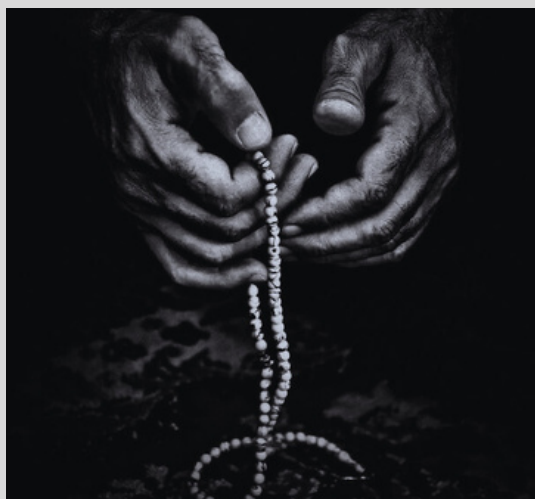
Front cover image credit: Fatma Çekmez
Minimag design: Rizwan Iqbal

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Instagram: @Salaam.Festival #salaamfestival

Programme curated and designed by Salaam Festival
with thanks to Contact Theatre



Salaam There



Foreword to Salaam Festival 2025

Over the past few years, we have faced profound challenges that have tested our resilience and sense of community. In these difficult times, art becomes a powerful tool for healing, allowing us to express our grief and fears while fostering a renewed sense of belonging.

Together, let us connect through creativity that transcends boundaries and bridging divides.

Embrace the beauty of our shared heritage and envision a hopeful future, as we honour the artists and guests who enrich this years programme.

For more information please visit salaamfestival.co.uk



Since the onset of COVID-19, our world has grappled with an overwhelming sense of uncertainty. Add to this the destruction in Gaza, Sudan, Congo and the Ukraine, the summer riots in 2024; we have been traumatised by the fragility of peace and justice. In England, we witness rising divisions and racism, tearing at the fabric of our communities. Yet, amid this turmoil, life persists, fuelled by hope, protest and inspiration.

Art and culture emerge as vital forces, offering pathways to reclaim narratives and foster understanding. They allow us to express our collective grief, celebrate our diversity, and challenge injustices.

In Manchester, a city rich in cultural heritage, we have the unique opportunity to harness creativity as a catalyst for change. Artists, musicians, and thinkers can inspire dialogue, promote empathy, and build bridges across divides.

This year we bring artists together from across the UK and World to amplify our solidarity with peace, understanding and protest through the beauty of art.

As we reflect on the past, let us recognise the importance of using our intelligence and creativity to envision a brighter future. By embracing art and culture, we can cultivate resilience, ignite passions, and create inclusive spaces where every voice matters.

Together, we can forge a positive future for Manchester, rooted in solidarity, understanding, and a shared commitment to justice and equality through showcasing relevant art and culture.

Artistic Director
Rizwan Iqbal

Remembrance:

Büşra Kayıkçı
— 06 —

Nusrat the Legend
— 08 —

Boiling Point
— 10 —

Hands on Art
— 11 —

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— 14 —



Büşra Kayıkçı

Born and raised in Istanbul, the composer and pianist Büşra Kayıkçı has an artistic foundation deeply rooted in a diverse range of disciplines. While devoted to piano since the age of nine, she also pursued ballet and attended art school on the weekends, fostering a multifaceted creative sensibility. Her academic background in interior architecture and environmental design at university further informs her unique approach to music, where structure and fluidity intertwine.

As an interdisciplinary artist, Büşra Kayıkçı seeks to forge a unique voice at the intersection of music, space, and visuals.

Since her debut recording, 'Eskizler' (2019), she has consistently sought to expand her sonic palette, further developing her sound in the album 'Places' (2024) and most recently in the EP project 'Weaving' (2025).

'Weaving' is a deeply personal and conceptual album inspired by the ancient weaving traditions of Anatolia, where she has familial roots. Through this music, she draws a parallel between traditional looms and her upright piano, both instruments of grand silhouettes and complex inner workings, to explore storytelling through both music and physical craft.

"In Anatolia, weaving was never just a craft—it was a form of expression," she says. "Women wove their life stories into each pattern, thread by thread, embedding their joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams into intricate designs. Perhaps they couldn't always speak their emotions, but they could weave them into something lasting. I believe composing music has the same effect on me. Even though our art forms are different, we are engaging in the same act, translating our inner worlds into something tangible."

Each track in this album is centered around a symbolic motif often found in the designs of Anatolian carpets, from a dragon, symbolising power or perhaps one's enemy, to a bird representing news, love, or happiness. More than mere decorations, these symbols carry deep cultural and emotional significance and speak a language of their own, communicating emotions that words themselves cannot always convey.



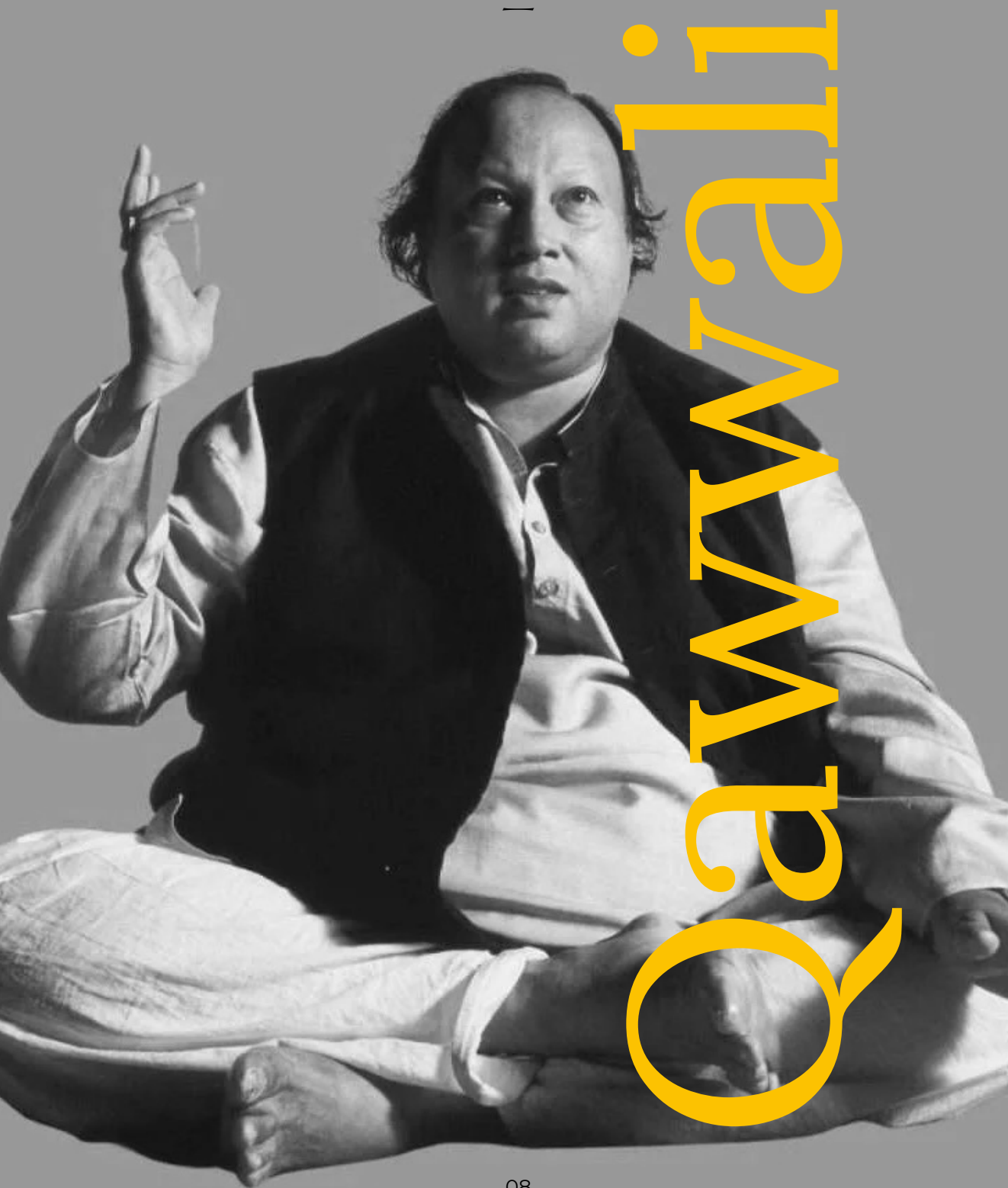
To further evoke the essence of this tradition within a modern soundscape, Büşra Kayıkçı has blended her intricate piano melodies with sounds from real looms: the album's introduction is built upon recordings from a workshop that capture the authentic, rhythmic pulse of the craft itself, synchronised with her own hands at the keys.

"I don't know if this is just a recording project or something deeper, perhaps an attempt to find my own thread within this long tradition," she reflects. "But I do know that, just like those carpets, it holds something personal, something unsaid, something waiting to be woven into sound."

"In a way, as a composer, I design a place, and the audience walks around in it and moves within its architecture. I believe that, when listening to a song, we travel from space to space, and from time to time. When a melody touches you deeply, you can experience a place with your mind and your soul."

Büşra will play live in Manchester for the first time at Contact Theatre, Sat 01 Nov 7pm for Dhikr.

—
An ode and tribute to the legend
Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan
—



In the bustling heart of Faisalabad, where the air was steeped in culture, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan was born on October 13, 1948, into a family rich in musical heritage. As the son of a renowned qawwali singer, he was destined to inherit a legacy that would transcend borders and touch souls across the globe.

From a tender age, Nusrat absorbed the rhythms and melodies of qawwali, a devotional genre that serves as a bridge between the earthly and the divine. By the time he began performing publicly in the 1970s, it was evident that Nusrat was not just a bearer of tradition but a transformative artist. His powerful voice, a blend of raw emotion and intricate skill, captivated audiences, drawing them into a world where spirituality and music intertwined. His performances transcended mere entertainment; they were spiritual experiences, a journey through love, devotion, and the mysteries of existence.

Nusrat's success soared as he embraced modern influences while remaining rooted in his Sufi traditions. In the 1980s, he gained international recognition, collaborating with Western artists like Peter Gabriel and Eddie Vedder, who recognised the universality of his sound. His album "Night Song" opened the doors of the Western music scene to qawwali, exposing a new audience to its profound beauty. With each note, he shattered cultural barriers, proving that music could be a universal language that spoke directly to the heart.

His legendary concerts were not just performances; they were communal gatherings where thousands joined in, losing themselves in the trance of his voice. Nusrat's ability to evoke deep emotions; joy, sorrow, longing was unparalleled. He had a unique gift of connecting with his audience, making each listener feel as though the song was written solely for them. His improvisational style, often extending songs into lengthy, soul-stirring journeys, left fans breathless and yearning for more.

Tragically, the world lost this incredible artist on August 16, 1997. His passing left an irreplaceable void in the music world and in the hearts of millions. Yet, even in his absence, Nusrat's influence continues to resonate. His recordings remain inspirational in homes, playlists, remixes and concert halls worldwide; his voice is a timeless reminder of the power of music to heal and uplift.

Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan's impact on qawwali is profound and enduring. He elevated the genre from its regional roots to a global phenomenon, inspiring countless artists across various musical landscapes. His blend of traditional qawwali with contemporary sounds paved the way for a new generation of musicians, encouraging them to explore the depths of their cultural heritage while embracing the global stage.

Today, as we listen to his timeless renditions of "Allah Hoo" or "Tumhein Dillagi," we are reminded of his genius. His music continues to inspire love, peace, and a sense of belonging, echoing the very messages he championed through his art. In every note sung, in every heart touched, Nusrat lives on, his legacy a testament to the power of music to transcend time and space.

In celebrating Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, we honour not just a remarkable artist but a spiritual guide whose voice continues to resonate with those seeking connection and understanding in an increasingly fragmented world. His melody is immortal, a celestial echo reminding us that we are all part of a greater symphony.

" I cannot allow the fame to go to my head; many have said I have compromised my faith by coming to the West. But this is not so. To travel the world and open the hearts of those whose were previously closed is a joy worth the other sacrifices ".



To honour Nusrat Fateh Ali's work, join a Live Qawwali performance by Imran Rahat Ali in Space 1 at Contact Theatre, Sun 02 Nov 7pm for Dua.

Boiling Point

Stories, Politics and Possibilities

Amerah Saleh is a spoken word artist born and bred from Birmingham. Her Muslim Yemeni roots give her space to get lost and found on multiple occasions between identity. She is the Co-Founder of Verve Poetry Press. Amerah has performed all around Europe and has released her first collection called 'I Am Not From Here' in April 2018. Her work touches on identity, womanhood, religion and the obscure idea of belonging only to one place.

Amerah aims to inspire and enthuse the younger generation whilst also making the older generation look at the current state of our society and addressing what needs to change. Amerah is a lover of words and wild creativity- with a strong belief that creativity rekindles our souls with life.

She is an artist who mixes passion with fiery intelligence and an uncanny insight into what it is to be human. She works in theatre, performance and poetry aiming to find new ways to engage communities and share secrets from within her own community.

She has performed around the world, sharing her stories and connecting with people. Poetry has taken her around the world sharing stories with people and also gathering them for her own suitcase when she needs them.

Amerah has been informally mentoring young artists for a while, working on their stresses, careers into the arts and confidence. She provides spaces for young people to talk and share new writing with her. She also mentors on producing, event management and hosting. Amerah is a board member at Apples & Snakes, the UK's leading Spoken Word Organisation.

She aims to bring young people to the forefront of organisations minds' and provide a voice in the room that could become potential opportunities for young people within the city and beyond.

She has worked as a poetry mentor with Brouhaha Festival working with poets from Liverpool, Belgium, San Francisco and Holland.

Amerah will host a specially curated conversation with guest artist, creatives and audience members at 'the kitchen /dining table called Boiling Point.'

"It's not a panel, it's a gathering".

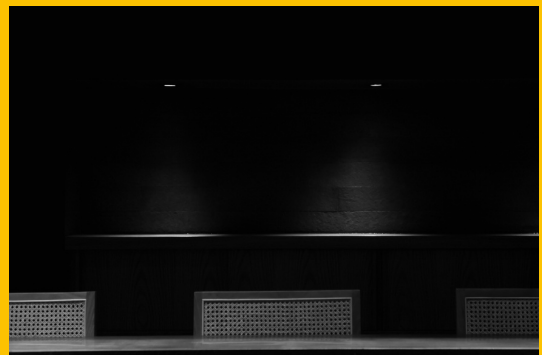
Each guest panelist is invited to the kitchen or living room to share over a cup of tea. Around a table set with offerings, conversations unfold on the state of our world: its fractures, its politics, its possibilities.

With hot cups and the table filling, truths are spoken as they are at home, honestly, sometimes heatedly, sometimes tender. By the end, the table opens out, and you may find yourself becoming a part of the live conversation. You go from audience to panel guest.

An unmissable event to hear and see influential thinkers and speakers on the subjects of art, politics and society.



'Boiling Point' will take place at Contact Theatre, Space 2, Sat 01 and Sun 02 Nov, 12pm.



Art & Film

Songs of the Sufi

Qawwali has become popular on the global stage since the mass appeal of **Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan**.

In conserving the traditions of qawwali, the producers and director hope that the film, *The Untold Stories of Classic Qawwali: Songs of the Sufi*, will spark further inquiry into this art form while informing and inspiring new and old music lovers to continue the tradition.

Film screening: Sat 01 Nov, 3pm, £7 Space 2

You may also like: Sun 02 Nov, 8pm
Live Qawwali by Imran Rahat Ali Qawwali in Space 1 at Contact Theatre



Print and Bind

Create something beautiful to take home.

Customise your own tote bag or craft a mosaic coaster with **Rayhaana Ouadi**.

Or make a hand-stitched notebook with **Ayşe Kaya**, using the traditional Ottoman bookbinding method.

Workshop: Sat 01 Nov, 11am, £20, Space 0

You may also like: Sun 02 Nov, 11am
Tatreez workshop in Space 0 at Contact Theatre

One Night in Al-Aqsa

Abrar Hussain's *One Night in Al-Aqsa* touched the hearts of Muslims and non-Muslims alike, and gave us all a new look at Masjid al-Aqsa.

This breath-taking documentary allowed us to have a profound look into the al-Aqsa compound and shared with the world the daily struggles Palestinians have to endure.

Film screening: Sun 02 Nov 3pm, : £7 Space 2

You may also like: Sun 02 Nov, 7pm
Extraordinary Palestinian musician Reem Anbar in Space 1 at Contact Theatre



Tatreez

Learn the history and techniques of Tatreez, the traditional Palestinian art of embroidery, in this hands-on workshop with **Tatreez Collective London**.

Whether you're completely new to embroidery or have years of experience, this workshop is designed for everyone.

Workshop: Sun 02 Nov, 11am, £20, Space 0

You may also like: Sat 01 Nov, 11am
Mosaic coaster making workshop in Space 0 at Contact Theatre



Travel

We kindly encourage everyone to think about the environment and commit to sustainable travel to Manchester.

All festival events will take place at CONTACT THEATRE, OXFORD RD, MANCHESTER M15 6JA between 01 to 02 Nov.

Contact are:

- A 15-minute walk from Oxford Road Station
- A 20-minute walk to St Peter's Square Metrolink
- A 25-minute walk from Piccadilly Station
- A 20-minute drive from Manchester Airport

Please see Transport for Greater Manchester's journey planner to plan your route to Contact.

Buses

Run every few minutes on Oxford Road from the City Centre, train stations and South Manchester (Rusholme direction). The closest stop is near to Manchester Academy.

Bicycles

If you're cycling to Contact, we have a limited number of covered bike stands available. We also have a free bicycle maintenance station at the venue.

Cars

We do not have a car park but there are several nearby, such as the University of Manchester car park on Cecil Street, and Q-Park Manchester Hospitals.

Please note, the car park adjacent to Contact is for permit holders only. We advise avoiding driving via certain parts of Oxford Road when travelling to Contact by car due to the recent implementation of traffic cameras.

Support

If you are able to support the festival through donations or sponsorship then please email hello@salaamfestival.co.uk

Thank You

We would like to thank the continued support from individuals, groups and organisations who believe in our dreams and aspirations of making a world class festival in Manchester.

By train

There are up to 26 regular direct trains between London and Manchester each day, and frequent services from many other major UK cities. Before travelling, visit National Rail website to check services due to recent national disruption of the rail network. Oxford Road and Deansgate stations are both located within the Oxford Road Corridor, Piccadilly Station is on the edge of the Corridor and is around a 15-minute walk from Oxford Road.

By coach

National Express and Megabus run coaches between Manchester and many major UK cities. Manchester's Central Coach Station is on Chorlton Street and is a short walk from Oxford Road. Find out more and book at the National Express and Megabus websites.

By air

There are direct flights to Manchester Airport from more than 190 destinations. The city centre is easily accessible from the airport by rail and Metrolink.

Accommodation

Hyatt Regency Booth Street West Manchester is the closest hotel to book your stay.

Volunteering

If you would like to be a part of our volunteer team and help welcome audiences then please email volunteer@salaamfestival.co.uk

Access

If you have access requirements please email hello@salaamfestival.co.uk or boxoffice@contactmcr.com

Food and refreshment

Contact have a cafe which will provide a curated range of halal food and non-alcoholic drinks to buy specifically for the Salaam Festival events.

Art shop

Artworks will be available to buy from our stall to help support local artisans.

If you are interested in receiving more information or would like to explore your next project or collaboration then please email hello@salaamfestival.co.uk

Saturday 01 Nov, Contact Theatre, Oxford Road, M15 6JA

WORKSHOPS

11am, Space 0

Screen Printing

RAYHAANA OUADI

£20 admission inc tote bag and materials

1pm, Space 0

Book Binding

AYŞE KAYA

£20 admission inc materials and notebook

TALK

12pm, Space 2

Boiling Point Part 1

AMERAH SALEH & FRIENDS (women only)

£5 admission

FILM

3pm, Space 2

Songs of The Sufi

with KAMRAN ANWAR

£7 admission

LIVE PERFORMANCE

7pm, Space 1

Dhikr

HAMZA BOUZHAR,

MARYAM ALSAEID,

MUHAMMED RECAI ÇİFTCI

MEHMET ZAHİT ŞEREFOĞLU

& BÜŞRA KAYIKÇI

£30 admission

£25 concession

For booking information

email boxoffice@contactmcr.com

www.salaamfestival.co.uk

Festival

Sunday 02 Nov, Contact Theatre, Oxford Road M15 6JA

WORKSHOPS

11am, Space 0

Mosaic Making

RAYHAANA OUADI

£10 admission inc materials

11am, Space 0

Tatreez embroidery

TATREEZ COLLECTIVE LDN

£20 admission inc materials

TALK

12pm, Space 2

Boiling Point Part 2

ELMI ALI & FRIENDS (men only)

£5 admission

FILM

3pm, Space 2

One Night in Al Aqsa

with ABRAR HUSSAIN

£7 admission

LIVE PERFORMANCE

7pm, Space 1

Dūā

REEM ANBAR

IMRAN RAHAT ALI QAWWAL

£30 admission

£25 concession

For booking information

email boxoffice@contactmcr.com

www.salaamfestival.co.uk

programme

