

GEOMETRIC FRIENDS

Project

Using Visual Art, as a thread to bring diversity of Dewsbury's neighbours to be creatively involved in a series of 'sacred geometry pattern-making workshops' over a period of months in Dewsbury Museum in Crow Nest Park. The project will involve participation in creative workshop with groups of local participants from diverse ages, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

The inspiration of the project is based Islamic, traditional and universal principles of visual *Geometry* (i.e. proportion and symmetry seen in nature, solar system, and sciences), *Colour* and *Harmony*. The visual language of geometry and symmetry are governed by universal principles in nature and can be observed and appreciated by all regardless of cultural background beautifully demonstrating the concept of 'Unity in diversity'.

Workshops will explore geometry in nature, science and local architecture of St Johns Church Dewsbury Moor's stained glass windows. Using traditional compass and ruler draw simple patterns and develop rich patterns through tessellation, semi-regular grids and 3-D shapes.

The workshops are designed as drop-in sessions, and accommodate complete or partial commitment to dates. Working in a group for a common cause can serve to build trust, mutual understanding and friendship.

For inspiration participants, will visit local gardens/parks, museum/art gallery and Dewsbury Minster – explore visual geometry and symmetry in architectural spaces (i.e. arches and stain glass windows).

All artwork (on paper, fabric, canvases, and possibly ceramics), sketches, photography and 3D studies, created during workshops, will culminate in final collective (i.e. mural, installation or projections) piece of work alongside individual artwork to be displayed in local public spaces.

This is a wonderful opportunity for participate and contribute to a semi-permanent installation that will tour in local or regional public spaces. This project hopes to engage through collaboration with diverse neighbours to promote and support positive and progressive dialogues.

Saba Rifat MA - Visual Artist

I am currently working on a long-term Near Neighbour's Project in collaboration with Reverend Kathy Robertson from St Johns Church Dewsbury Moor, funded by Church Urban Fund. I am using the ubiquitous visual language of Geometry (Sacred and Islamic) as seen in art, referencing St John's stained glass windows and Islamic patterns, as a thread to bring diverse communities together, to create contemporary 3D installation work.

My background is although I had no art training, based on my portfolio and passion, I was accepted and enrolled on a 2-year full-time post-graduate M.A. in Visual Islamic and Traditional Art (VITA) at Prince Charles School of Traditional Arts (PTSA) in 1999.

It was through visiting art galleries and exhibitions, at the time of living in London, I stumbled on an Islamic art exhibition by PTSA Alumni. I was absolutely stunned by the mysterious meditative and breathtaking beauty resonating from the intricate interlacing abstract forms.

PSTA teaches traditional art disciplines in variety of areas such as Indian Miniature painting, Stained-glass windows, Arabic and western Calligraphy, Christian Icon painting, and Ceramics all underpinned by Sacred Geometry.

Currently my practice occupies a space between painting, experimenting with 3D polyhedral forms in various media and teaching the art of Sacred and Islamic Geometry and Patterns. *Shapes and mathematical forms seen in geometry are not just for appearance sake but have a qualitative and symbolic purpose echoing spirituality*

I am truly inspired by visual beauty that is based on universal principles of balance, harmony, colour, symmetry and proportion and how it brings about the concept of 'unity in diversity'. Art can be vehicle to communicate and breaks down barriers, foster understandings and nurture inspiration amongst diverse communities and backgrounds that inspires and motivates my work.

I am at the callout stage of my Near Neighbours Project entitled 'Geometric Friends'. I am looking for local participants to participate, importantly make friends, in this exciting Visual Art Project. It is a unique and wonderful chance to get creative, meet local and diverse community groups and be part of something fresh and new, in the local area of Dewsbury.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Fb- Geometric Friends