

FAITH, PLACE AND MIGRATION

8 – 17 MARCH 2024

JULIE MARSH
& SHAHED SALEEM

Opening 7 March 6–9pm
5–8pm Thurs, Fri, 12–6pm Sat, Sun

STAFFORDSHIRE ST

Staffordshire St presents Faith, Place and Migration, curated by Shahed Saleem and Julie Marsh in collaboration with the Old Kent Road Mosque community. The exhibition will represent the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of London's oldest Nigerian community, the Muslim Association of Nigeria (MAN UK). Originating in the 1960s as a transient group, it wasn't until the 1980s that a more permanent community began to form which led to their first place of worship - the Old Kent Road Mosque in Southwark. In 2018, approval was granted for a six-storey mosque to be built on the site, as both an act of devotion and a practical response to a growing community. In September 2021 the original building was demolished to make way for the new mosque.

This exhibition will feature two expanded moving image installations created by artist Julie Marsh during a five-year collaboration with the Old Kent Road Mosque congregation. One of the installations, 'Assembly' (2024) attempts to filmically perform Islamic prayer through a moving floor projection. Originally filmed and exhibited in the original mosque, this film now serves as a record of the final Jumu'ah (congregational) prayer that took place before the mosque closure. For this exhibition the film will be projected into Staffordshire St, bringing the mosque congregation and wider community together through the re-performance of congregational prayer. The second installation, 'Virtual Assembly' (2023), is an interactive 3D model of the mosque building hosting stories and accounts from mosque members. The audience is encouraged to navigate the site using a controller to trigger these insights as they move around the space revealing the lived experiences and embodied knowledge of the community.

Shahed Saleem and Julie Marsh will co-curate the exhibition and events programme in collaboration with the Old Kent Road Mosque community, which will offer the wider community an opportunity to connect with the congregation through workshops and events such as an Open Iftar, a meal to celebrate the breaking of fasting during Ramadan. The exhibition will question the nature of a community archive and explore how the narratives of community members are embedded in and told through the architecture of their sacred spaces.



Shahed is a Reader in Architecture at the University of Westminster. His book, 'The British Mosque; an architectural and social history', published in 2018 by Historic England is the first ever overview and explanation of Islamic architecture in Britain. He recently worked with the V&A museum for the 'Three British Mosques' exhibition at the 2021 Venice Architecture Biennale, producing a series of 1:1 reconstructions of mihrabs, minbars and other architectural elements which document and celebrate the unique visual language of Islam that has emerged in British architecture.

Julie Marsh is an artist and researcher at the Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media, University of Westminster. In 2017, as part of her practice-based PhD at the London College of Communication, UAL, she coined the term 'site-integrity', a site-specific and collaborative research practice which presents 'place' as dualistically experienced and represented. Julie's long-standing research project 'Assembly' has been exhibited internationally as part of the 'Three British Mosques' exhibition, V&A Pavilion for La Biennale di Venezia 2021.

EVENTS

PAST AND FUTURE WORKSHOP

Saturday 9 March, 12 – 4pm

Old Kent Road Mosque community will gather, share and document their community histories and future aspirations through stories, objects and images. The local and wider community will be invited alongside local councillors/ planning officers/ architects to discuss community perspectives

OPEN IFTAR

Saturday 16 March, 6 – 9pm

includes a Tafseer beginning at 5pm.

The local community will be invited to join our Open Iftar at the gallery, a fast-breaking evening meal during Ramadan. The Iftar will be a great opportunity for the congregation and wider public to connect and celebrate heritage.

MEET OUR MOSQUE

Daily talks from local Imam(s)
and Q+A session 4 – 5pm daily



More information on upcoming events:

staffordshirest.com

info@staffordshirest.com

[@staffordshirest](https://www.instagram.com/staffordshirest)

Opening Hours:

Thurs – Fri 5 – 8pm

Sat – Sun 12 – 6pm

49 Staffordshire Street

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