

IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / www.ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday, 11am-5pm / free entry

Mahtab Hussain *Mitti Ka Ghar– Clay House* 25 October – 6 November 2016



Mahtab Hussain, Raw House in Kashmir Nakyal, 2016

This autumn, artist Mahtab Hussain presents *Mitti Ka Ghar– Clay House* at Ikon Gallery. The work is a scaled replica of a traditional Pakistani clay house, containing a sound installation, a display of Hussain's tintype photographic portraits alongside miniature clay houses made by visitors to *Black Country Voyages* in 2016.

Hussain has been the lead artist for the Ikon's *Black Country Voyages* 2016, converting our canal boat into a vehicle for *The Auspicious Journey*. Through on-board workshops to create the miniature clay houses and primary research conducted in Pakistan, Hussain has explored the story of the construction of the Mangla Dam, across the Jhelum River in Pakistan. Between 1961 and 1967, over 280 villages and towns of Mirpur and Dadyal were submerged resulting in over 110,000 people being displaced, many of whom emigrated to the UK, finding work in the then thriving industry and canals of the Black Country.

About *Black Country Voyages*

Black Country Voyages (2014–2017) is an art programme for local people, involving members of the Ikon Youth Programme (IYP). It takes place on board a canal boat, lent by Sandwell Council.

Those wanting to discover more about this work can join Hussain and Dr Frank Uekötter from the University of Birmingham at Ikon on 27 October, 6-7.30pm for a discussion about the impact of dam construction on communities and landscape and a special viewing of the work. The event is free but booking is essential.

During half term (26-29 October, 12-4pm) *Black Country Voyages* hosts free drop-in clay workshops for all ages on board the canal boat, moored at Brewmaster Bridge, Brindleyplace.

Visitors to Ikon Gallery are also able to see a display of Hussain's work in Café Opus at Ikon (23 September - 27 November).

For more information visit www.blackcountryvoyages.org or call Ikon on 0121 248 0708.

Black Country Voyages is supported by Arts Council Strategic Touring, Canal & River Trust, Sandwell Council and Exterion Media.

Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook: @ikongallery #IkonGallery

Facebook: blackcountryvoyages Twitter: @bcvoyages #blackcountryvoyages

Note to Editors:

1. British social commentary artist, **Mahtab Hussain** (b. 1981), uses photography to explore the important relationship between identity, heritage and displacement. His themes have developed through long-term photographic research and been articulated into a visual language that challenges the prevailing concepts of multiculturalism.

While seeing his practice as an exchange between the artist and sitter, Hussain believes in placing considerable emphasis on the empowerment of the sitter, and in doing so, creates portraits that force a vital interaction between sitter and viewer.

www.mahtabhussain.com

2. 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. www.ikon-gallery.org

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](#).
4. For more information or high-res images please contact Sam Skillings or Emily Luxford at Ikon on 0121 248 0708 or email s.skillings@ikon-gallery.org or e.luxford@ikon-gallery.org
5. Black Country Voyages attends a number of canal festival and events during the year. For more information visit www.blackcountryvoyages.org

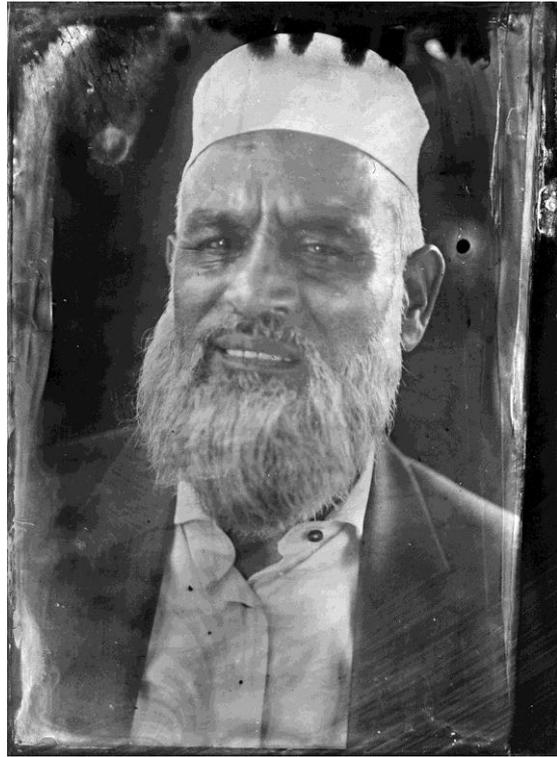
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Black Country Voyages



Mahtab Hussain *Fatimah*,
The Auspicious Journey (2016)



Mahtab Hussain *Mr Hussain*,
The Auspicious Journey (2016)