

## Bridging Landscapes

Curated by Aisha Zia

Amba Sayal-Bennett  
Anusheh Zia  
Haroun Hayward  
Hussina Raja  
Imran Perretta  
Kalpesh Lathigra  
Kazim Rashid  
Miriam Ali  
Mohammed Adel  
Sarah Ali  
Sofia Karim

Preview: Wednesday 20 July, 5 – 8pm

22 July – 7 August 2022

Open Friday – Sunday, 12 – 6pm

& By Appointment

French Riviera  
309 Bethnal Green Road  
London E2 6AH  
United Kingdom  
[frenchriviera1988.com](http://frenchriviera1988.com)



Mohammad Adel, Untitled, 2021  
Oil on canvas, 170 x 150 cm

French Riviera is pleased to announce **Bridging Landscapes**, an exhibition by curator **Aisha Zia**. For her group show at the gallery, Zia presents new mixed media work by British Artists from the South Asian diaspora.

"**Bridging Landscapes** is about our shifting cultural identities, shaped by our geographic locations looking at the borders we carry within us. Who we are and how we fit in, what we remember to be true to ourselves and how we are shaped by our past, helps us accept connectedness to the present and re-imagine a positive future. I am here now. And that is all. - This is a selection of work that shows us how we can heal and make sense of the world we live in now, and finally, to acknowledge our place in it, so we can move forward together, without division".

Aisha Zia is an award-winning playwright and photo editor as well as a curator based in London. In 2019 Aisha set up an independent art space in Peterborough, in her father's old Bollywood video shop. **62** is a social platform showcasing the work of British South Asian artists, activists and writers from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds. The project aims to combat the marginalisation of BME talent by broadening the online creative space to be more inclusive of diasporic arts, from Peterborough where 62 was born and across the UK. [62gladstonestreet.co.uk](http://62gladstonestreet.co.uk)

Artists Jennifer Lewandowski and Samuel Levack opened French Riviera in Bethnal Green, in 2011, as an extension of their longstanding artistic collaboration. The gallery has provided a vital exhibition platform for over 250 international emerging artists, alongside a public programme of performances talks and events, celebrating the diverse creative communities of London's East End. The 10th Anniversary Programme is supported using public funding by Arts Council England. [levacklewandowski.com](http://levacklewandowski.com)

Enquiries: [mail@frenchriviera1988.com](mailto:mail@frenchriviera1988.com)

## Workshops and Events at Rich Mix

5 – 6 August 2022

Accompanying the exhibition will be a series of workshops at Rich Mix, that will include Muslim Girls Fence, DJing, poetry, photography and a spoken word event by collective Off the Chest from 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> August. This will give the audience an opportunity to engage directly with artists. The workshops are aimed at 16–24-year-olds who are residents of Tower Hamlets.

Rich Mix  
25 – 47 Bethnal Green Road  
London  
E1 6LA

[richmix.org.uk/events/bridging-landscapes](http://richmix.org.uk/events/bridging-landscapes)

### Muslim Girls Fence

**Friday 5 August, 11.00am – 4.00pm**

Muslim Girls Fence is a project collaboration between Maslaha and British Fencing. Muslim Girls Fence aims to facilitate spaces at a grassroots level for Muslim girls and women to challenge assumptions and narratives relating to their gender, racial, religious and other identities through both physical and creative methods. The sessions will take place on 5th August 11am-4pm. Sessions are free but booking is essential. More details will be sent nearer the time but please dress comfortably.

### Photography Workshop with Sarah Ali

**Saturday 6 August, 11.00am – 12.30pm**

Sarah Ali is a photographer based in Birmingham. She first picked up a camera aged 14 to document her life as a British-Pakistani, and since then she hasn't gone a day without taking a couple of photos. She uses her heritage and cultural identity to fuel her art; having been inspired heavily by photographers based in Pakistan. Being an avid user of social media and having kick-started her career from it, she contributed to a BBC documentary titled 'is social media killing our creativity?'. 'Once we were too' will be the first major project that she has photographed. Sarah will also be exhibiting her work in Bridging Landscapes at French Riviera.

### DJ Workshop with Shimmy Ahmed

**Saturday 6 August, 2.00pm – 3.30pm**

Shimmy presents an inclusive DJ workshop, that will go through all the basics, from mixing to selecting and how to transition from a club DJ to a radio DJ. Shimmy hosts a weekly radio breakfast show, broadcast every Wednesday on Netil Radio and is also one of the founders of the Bollywood LGBTQ+ club night Hungama.



# FRENCH RIVIERA

## Poetry Workshop with Bayan Goudarzpour

**Saturday 6 August, 4.00pm – 5.30pm**

This workshop will help develop your poetry writing skills under the guidance of an experienced poet. Bayan is a poet, writer and twitter enthusiast. She started her journey as a poet in 2006 as a Roundhouse Poet and went on to join the Barbican Young Poets in 2009 until 2013. She is an alumnus of Unislam Post-emerging Poets and is currently the Poetry Editor at Khidr Zine and she has completed an MA in Poetry at Newcastle University. She spends the rest of her time trying her best to tend to her community and writing her unaccredited opinions into long essay forms. All ticket holders of this event gain free entry to A Night of Poetry – which takes place straight after this workshop.

## A Night of Poetry

**Saturday 6 August, 6pm – 10.30pm**

Off the Chest is bringing all the poetry vibes to Rich Mix for Bridging Landscapes. For your chance to take to the stage, book your ticket and sign up for the poetry open mic on the day of the event. Featuring lisa luxx, Bayan Goudarzpour and one more special poet to be announced.

lisa luxx is an poet, activist and writer of British and Syrian heritage. Her poems have been published in The Telegraph, The London Magazine and by publishers including Hatchette and Saqi Books. Her work is broadcast on Channel 4, BBC Radio 4 and TEDx. In 2021 she toured UK theatres with the show for her verse play Eating the Copper Apple, produced by a team of all Arab women artists. Her debut book Fetch Your Mother's Heart is out now through Out-Spoken Press. Her short stories are published by Comma Press.

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**RICH  
MIX**

**62**  
GLADSTONE STREET

**BRITISH  
FENCING** *maslaha*

**OFF  
THE  
CHEST**

ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND  
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