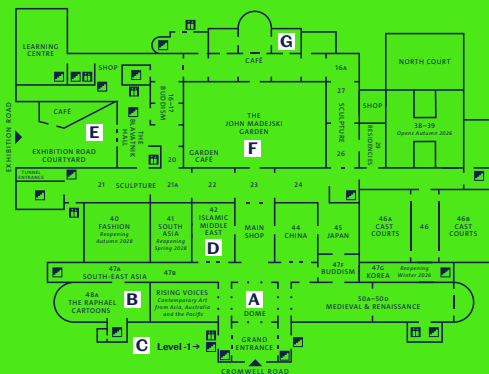


FRIDAY

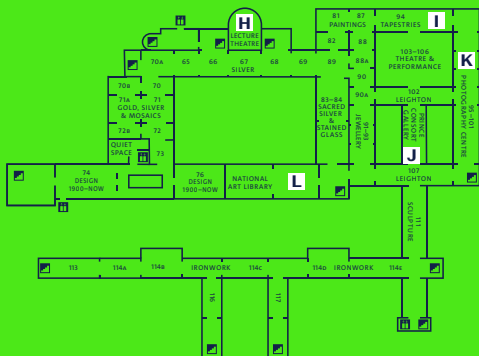


LATE

Level 0



Level 2



FRIDAY LATE X SHUBBAK: BODY AS A VESSEL

31 July, 18.30–22.00

Marking the 15th anniversary of Shubbak Festival, this Friday Late celebrates multi-sensorial facets of contemporary Arab & SWANA cultures. Co-curated with the V&A, the Late explores the body as an artistic medium, transforming it into an expressive site of wisdom, resistance, sense-making, healing and joy. From dynamic performances, outdoor fashion installations, digital encounters to somatic experiences, join the artists in examining histories and lived realities together, weaving new narratives beyond the present moment.

All events are free, and places are designated on a first-come, first-served basis unless stated otherwise. Filming and photography will take place at this event. If you have any access requirements, please let us know in advance by emailing accessibility@vam.ac.uk

Please note if the V&A or any of the activations reaches capacity, we will allow access on a one-in, one-out basis.

#FridayLate
@shubbakfestival

A

DJ Set by Basma

*The Grand Entrance,
Cromwell Road*

Join Basma's set inspired by wedding anthems and eclectic folk of Sudan, the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, and beyond. Basma is the host of Khartoum Arrivals on NTS Radio and the co-host of radio show and record label *Hear, Sense and Feel*.

@ogbasma

B

TootArd

*The Raphael Cartoons,
Room 48a*

Performances at 19:50, 20:50

Duration: 30 minutes

Experience live music by TootArd established by brothers Hasan and Rami Nakhleh. Originally from the occupied Golan Heights, their boundary-pushing sounds transcend genres, blending global pop hooks, quarter-tone melodies, retro funk, disco, and dance music inspired by SWANA traditions.

@tootard



Nazar

*The Globe, Europe 1600–1815,
Room 4*

Duration: 20 minutes for each participant
Please note, the sessions have a limited capacity. Sign up from 18:30–19:30 at the Globe.

Led by Lara Habib Kobeissi, *Nazar* is a tender, intimate encounter between participant and performer, merging live performance with VR. It unfolds as experiential poetry within evil-eye protection sessions originating from Southern Lebanon, shared by the artist and her mother across decades of regional unrest and their eventual separation. The individual VR experience can also be viewed on screen.

@larakob

D

An Artist's Manual Against Apartheid

*Islamic Middle East, Room 42,
The Jameel Gallery*

Drop in

Immerse yourselves in the poetic experience unpeeling layers of cultural resistance. Conceived by Shubbak and its partners, the project was executed by the duo chamæleon (Farah Chamma & LIEV). The work is an open-source knowledge-sharing platform fueled by poetry, connecting us to ancestries of artistic defiance and explorations of Palestine as a metaphor for many interconnected struggles.

@___chamaeleon

E

Create your own scented pouch

Exhibition Road Courtyard

Drop in from 18:30–20:45

Explore Arab culture through scent and nostalgia. Create your own scented pouch to take home. Relax and make a unique pouch with your own blend of spices, herbs and dried flowers. Produced and led by the V&A Youth Collective.

F

Kazna Asker Presents 'Through the Eyes of a Bride'

The John Madejski Garden

Installation on view from 18:30–
20:45

20-minute catwalk at 19:20,
20:20

Celebrate fashion, culture, and community through the perspective of an Arab bride, featuring dance, music, material culture and Shubbak's signature programme 'People's Catwalk' as expressions of family and heritage. Kazna is a multidisciplinary artist, curator, and designer whose practice explores identity, migration, heritage, and collective storytelling.

@kazna.asker



Shubbak Sofa Sessions

The Poynter Room, Main Café

Drop in from 18:30–21:00 to
meet the festival team

Please note that the core team are
present from 18:30–18:50 and 20:40–
21:00. The event includes food items
that may contain allergens

Have a cup of tea and dates
with the Shubbak family. Find
out more about the festival, or
simply relax and have a chat.
The experience is rooted in the
ethos of Arab hospitality.

@shubbakfestival



Panel Discussion: 15 Years of Arab arts in the UK

*The Lydia and Manfred Gorvy
Lecture Theatre*

19:30

Duration: 50 minutes

Join us in this panel discussion reflecting on 15 years of Arab & SWANA arts and culture in UK. Shubbak's Executive Director, Dr Dima Mekdad will be in conversation with playwright Hassan Abdulrazzak, artist Aya Haidar and V&A curator Rachel Dedman. Together they will share a plurality of perspectives, observations and experiences on cultural shifts and trends.

@dima_mkd

@iamayahaidar

@baghdadwedding

@racheldedman



Gut Feelings 2.0

Tapestries, Room 94, Level 2

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Explore the forgotten lives of gender-marginalised people in 19th Century Iran through Kasra Jalilipour's installation – a speculative archive inspired by the art and literature of the Qajar era. Utilising 3D animation hologram displays and sculpture, the artist's work often draws on pre-modern cultural and religious practices with interest in the erotic and humour.

@kasrajalilipour

J

Baraka Obscura

Prince Consort Gallery, Room 110

Drop-in from 18:30–21:30

Please note this event includes food items which may contain allergens

Encounter one of the smallest containers of cultural heritage: a black seed, long known as ‘a cure for everything but death’ in historical context. In this installation by Yasmeen Ayyashi, explore the seed as a conduit to new imaginaries, diving into its lore, material states and poetics through embodied, sensory exchange. Collaborators include Bluman Associates and Stochastic Resonance.

@yasmeen.ayyashi

@bluman_associates

@stochasticresonance

K

Athar / أَثَر : Notes in the Margins of the City

*Photography Centre, Room 98,
The Kusuma Gallery*

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Be part of the living archive of SWANA memory across London through Athar; the first digital youth led Arab anti-archive, by Young Shubbak in collaboration with their elders. Through oral histories, images, textiles and objects, you are invited to immerse in intimately shared stories of the community and add your own.

@shubbakfestival



The Park (Dancing on the Rubble of Empire)

National Art Library

Film on loop from 18:30–21:00

A special selection of books will be also available for view.

Duration: 34 minutes

Imperial exhibitions have deeply shaped British cultural institutions including the formation of the V&A. This film, by Arwa Aburawa and Turab Shah, meditates on the colonial remnants lodged in our lives and asks what it means to celebrate, play, and belong amid the rubble of empire.

Supported by the V&A's Jameel Programme

COVER ARTWORK

Courtesy of Kazna Asker, photo by
Sandra Nagel

CREDITS

Co-curated by Shubbak and the V&A
Friday Lates are produced by the
museum's Contemporary Programme
Team, with support from design, audio-
visual, operation and marketing teams

ALSO ON TONIGHT

Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art

The Sainsbury Gallery

This exhibition has been created in
collaboration with Schiaparelli

Rising Voices: Contemporary Art from Asia, Australia and the Pacific

The Porter Gallery

Sponsored by Aesop
Discount for under 26s

KEEP IN TOUCH

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