



*Exhibiting hope
and creating social inclusion
in our own ways*

AN ART EXHIBIT BY

AFGHAN YOUTH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A while ago, we heard a document created by young women at the Muslim Women's Association of South Australia. It was called, 'We try not to take people's hate into our hearts':

Hi. We're a group of young Muslim women who live here in Adelaide. We're interested in exchanging ideas and stories about ways of dealing with weird experiences like being stared at, being yelled at by random strangers driving by in their cars, or other strange stuff that happens here and other places. We've included here some of our stories and skills we've developed. We'd been keen to hear your ideas! There are a few different ways that we try not to take people's hate into our hearts ...

When we heard these young women's stories we said:

"It's amazing! Fantastic! We loved it. Thank you for sharing your words! We are a group of young Afghanis, both young women and young men. Your words made a good contact with our lives. The experiences were really familiar. Some of us are artists and photographers. We talked about how some of your stories could be turned into art or paintings or drawings. Would you be interested in this? Maybe we could work on this together?"

And so we have!

In this exhibit you will find our photography, paintings, calligraphy and songs.

We hope you like them!

About this project

Since July 2016, Afghan Youth of South Australia (through Lutheran Community Care) has been involved in a 'Contributing to Social Cohesion and Harmony' project coordinated by Dulwich Centre Foundation. This project, funded by the Department for Communities and Social Inclusion, enables young people to share their tips and stories about ways of dealing with discrimination/injustice and how they are creating social cohesion in their own inspiring ways. Community Centres SA has also provided support for this project.



*We try
not to take
people's hate
into our
hearts*

ARTIST:

Pari Moradi is a young Afghan photographer focusing mostly on portraits and landscapes.



Refugees and difficulties

Medium: Watercolour

Refugees. A refugee is a person who has fled his or her own country, cannot return due to fear of persecution, and has been given refugee status. These two paintings show how refugees face hardship to reach safety and to find peace and happiness in a new country.



ARTIST:

Ezatullah Gulistani is a 22 year old male was born in 1994 in Afghanistan. Ezatullah grew up and completed his year 12 in Pakistan. He has been painting for five years. Ezatullah has arrived in Australia about 10 months ago.



An unexpected journey

Medium: Black pen and acrylic paint on paper

'In these artworks, I captured my journey. I use continuous lines, black, red and green colours and my fingerprints. Different mediums allowed me to express different ideas. The continuous line in the background is unbroken from the beginning to the end. Basically I came up with the use of a continuous line as a powerful way to create an emotional, rational and representational piece all in one. Each of the artworks contain a figure with a different coloured fingerprint on the face. These fingerprints represent my identity. The colours have been chosen from the flag of Afghanistan and each represents a different meaning. In the first piece, there is a figure with black coloured fingerprint that represents how we come to a new country and experience difficulties of new language, culture and environment. In the second piece, there is a figure with a red coloured fingerprint which means you are fighting and still lost within the new atmosphere. In the last piece, the colour green has been used to represent that after all those experiences of resettlement, independence is achieved as well as success, hope and a bright future.'



ARTIST:

Ziagul Yahya was born in Jaghori Ghazni, Afghanistan and moved to Australia in November 2007. She graduated with a Bachelor of Visual Arts specialising in painting from the University of South Australia in 2015. Currently she is completing a Masters of Teaching at University of South Australia.

A dreamy girl with lots of wishes



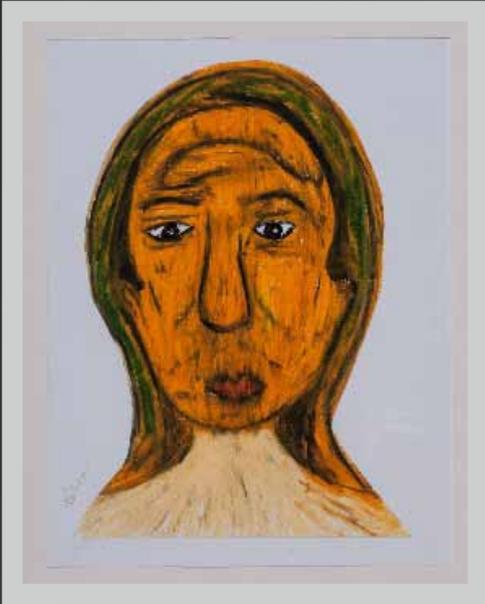
Medium: Watercolour

'The life is so much hard and complicated for every refugee. This girl is one of them. She has many wishes to come true. She has many pathways to go for, but she has already given up on her wishes because of racism and harassment to live a simple and quiet life.'

ARTIST:

Asif Hussaini is currently Studying in Marden Senior College. Asif has almost six years of art experience in Pakistan. He was student of Hasan Ali Hathif. There was a special class of art which he used to go.

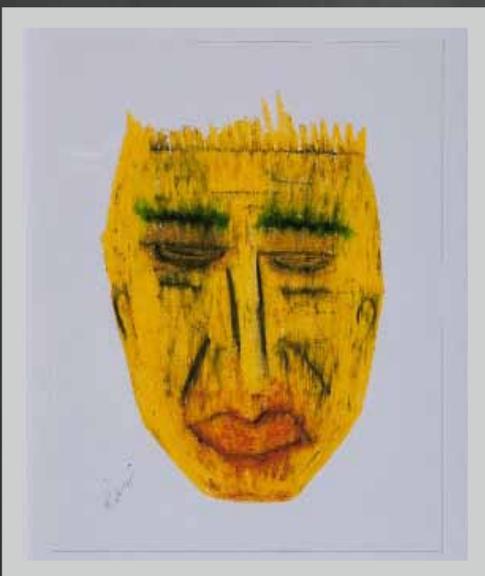
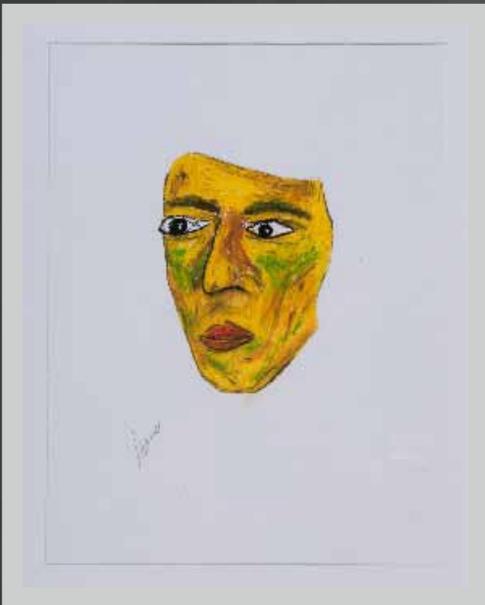




Faces in my head!

Medium: Pastel on paper

'My works are my feeling about life, especially in Afghan families. Suddenly I got to draw a face. While I was drawing I thought about a woman that is in a frustration and showed that it's a sad story of any woman who cannot be equal with the men around the world.'



ARTIST:

Zahra Hosseini is a 19 year old young female artist from Afghanistan. Zahra arrived in Australia one year ago. Zahra joined Afghan Youth of SA (AYSA) a few month after arriving. Zahra started painting through this project. Zahra did have no any experience with painting prior joining this project but she has been interested in painting since she was very young.

College leaders



Medium: Acrylic on canvas

'I have done this painting in memory of graduating from high school. It features me and thirteen other college leaders of the graduating year of 2014 from St Michael's College. It was a memorable moment spending time with my colleagues and teachers most who I never seen again. I intended to capture my personal story of settling in amongst an Australian community. Every migrant faces challenges coming to a new country. The kindness and respect of my friends and teachers helped me to elude my challenges and to settle in. It was an unforgettable experience that made me who I am today. The faces of each student in the painting denote the equality amongst all students regardless of their race and culture background. It's been painted in an abstract expression style. A key influence to this particular style of painting is Australian artist Ben Quilty who has worked in Afghanistan as a war artist.

ARTIST:

Murtaza Hussaini was born on the 15 April 1997 in Malistan Afghanistan. At the age of five he and his family fled from the Afghan civil war to seek refuge in the neighbouring country of Pakistan, in the city of Quetta. He did his early education there and started to take art classes under Pakistani artist Syed Shah Abdullah Alamee. He came to live in Australia in August 2009. He accomplished his high school education in Adelaide and currently studying Bachelor of Visual Art at the University of South Australia. His art works are inspired by his rich Afghan cultural and his experience of being removed from his culture. Artists such as Hossein Valamanesh and Louis Heselton have played a key role in his artistic life mentoring and inspiring him to create works. He is aiming to exhibit his works nationally and internationally.



Untitled - a self-portrait

Medium: Pen on a canvas and thread

'This artwork is my self-portrait. It represents my identity. I worked on a canvas with markers for the hair, I used stitching on some part with threads, and a black fine liner pen. My artwork does not have a title.'

ARTIST:

My name is Farzana Noori and I am an art student. I was born on 5th April 1996 in Ghazni province of Afghanistan. I lived in Quetta, Pakistan, for about two to three years and joined art class at Negarestane Hatif. I also became a member of an art community, the goal of which was to help people with their skill in visual art drawings. I practised and studied drawings, experimental pencil colours, charcoals, graphite pencils, soft pastel, oil pastel and oil colours. I produced more than three artworks and as a group we held many exhibitions in Quetta.

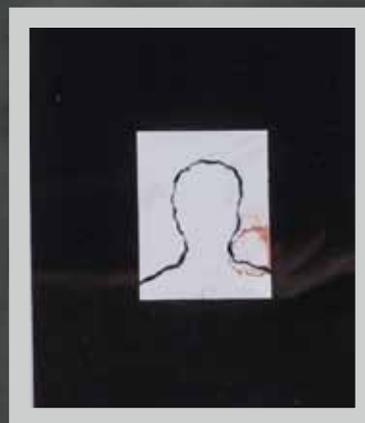
I arrived with a family in Adelaide on the 9th of February 2015 and began studying English.



Self-Portraits

Medium: Mixed media on paper

'In this series of self-portraits, I'm focusing on memory and identity. For me it was important to use my own passport size portraits because first of all this work is about me and my memories of living in Pakistan where our community was under attack each day. And secondly, because the most haunting memories that I carry with me even now, far away from Pakistan, are the distorted faces of people shot in the head and face. There was a time in Pakistan where members of our community were shot and killed daily and because of our facial features we were very easily recognisable even in the busiest parts of the city. After each attack the pictures of individuals killed, were uploaded on social media to be recognised and we as kids, having access to the internet, always saw those photos. These self-portraits are, in a way, the effect of those events and incidents that I might not ever be able to forget and will probably remain a big part of my identity.'



ARTIST:

Sohrab Rustami was born in Ghazni, Afghanistan and moved to Pakistan as a child with his family. In 2013 he moved to Australia as a refugee. In 2015 he graduated from Norwood Morialta high school and in 2015 he started studying Bachelor of Visual Arts in University of South Australia. His works are mostly concentrated about international issues, displacement and memory.

Untitled



Medium: Acrylic on canvas

'This is an abstract work. I am trying to show the suffering that all refugees experience to achieve a good life - especially the suffering that Afghan refugees experience in Iran and Pakistan who are oppressed and hurt by the country's government fall.'

ARTIST:

Javid Rabiee was born on 21 April 1992 in Shiraz, Iran. He was one of the Afghani refugees in Shiraz who did not have citizenship papers only an ID card to stay in Shiraz. Javid went to school and completed year 12. He liked painting and drawing classes at an advanced level, but because of problems in Iran for refugees, he could not continue this work. This project has enabled Javid to develop his painting skill.



Hello friend

Translation in English:

'A greeting from a friend, an acceptance from us'

This is a Quatrain poem from Bidel Dihlavi one of the famous Afghani poet. This poem emphasises 'openness' and 'receptiveness'. It acknowledges people's attention, humility and appreciation towards friendship.



Kindness

Translation in English:
'Kindness brings friendship'

This is a quotation of Imam Ali's (the first Imam for Muslim Shia people). It emphasises kindness and an appropriate behaviour with people.



HOPE



ALL TOGETHER



LOVE COLLECTION



MY CARPET FLOWER



INCLUDING MY KITE



ARTIST:

Sayed Musa Zakizada was born in Afghanistan. He moved to Iran with his family when he was ten. During schooling in Iran, he learnt Persian calligraphy and used to write poems. He finished studying at Baghe Firdows College of Filmmaking in Tehran and then moved back to Afghanistan where he made short documentary and fiction films in Kabul. Due to insecure conditions, he left his country again in 2007 and settled in Pakistan for six years. He was finally transferred to Australia in 2013 as a refugee. Here he has graduated with a Diploma of Screen and Media and is continuing studying filmmaking.

Layers of memories



Medium:
Acrylic on canvas

'This work is an abstract work. It was created by different layers on top of each other. I chose each colour to show different feelings during my first five years being in my new homeland, Australia.'

ARTIST:

Elyas Alavi (Instructor of the painting workshops) is an emerging artist and renowned poet based in Adelaide, South Australia. He is primarily working in the forms of painting, installation and performance art. Alavi was born in Afghanistan and moved to Iran as a child. In late 2007 he moved to Australia as a refugee at risk. Alavi graduated from a Masters by Research (Visual Arts) in 2015 and a Bachelor of Visual Arts (Honours) at the University of South Australia. He has exhibited in number of solo and group exhibitions in Australia and Afghanistan art spaces including CACSA Project Space, SASA Gallery, Nexus Arts, IFA (Kabul), Moonee Art Space (Melbourne) and Fontanelle Gallery. Alavi also is known as an internationally renowned poet. He published three poetry books in Iran and Afghanistan - 'I'm a daydreamer wolf', 'Some wounds' and 'Hodood'.

For more information: www.elyasalavi.com

A song: 'Spirit of pride'

نه راه به جایی، نه دست یاری

There is no pathway,
no hand offering help

نه امیدی، نه پناهی

No place to seek refuge,
no place to find hope

با جنگ برادر شدی و رنج کشیدی

We suffer when our brother is war

We suffer

رنج کشیدی!

بلگ رنژتو خلف به نژت

When war became a brother

We lost our home

چون رود بلندی که به دریا نرسیدی

Life became a long, long river
that cannot reach the shore

روزی به یک کشور

But each day is lived
in the hope of a country

و به یک شهر

Each step is taken
towards the city lights

آواره ی رنگی، چه سیاهی، چه سفیدی

Seeking refuge

of any colour

black or white

رنج کشیدی

We suffer

دکلمه: تو میتوانی با حرفه‌ایت شلاقم بزنی. به تمسخر بگیری
رنگ لباسهایم را، پوست بدنم را، چشمهایم را که در جستجوی شادی
است. اما هرگز نمیتوانی روحم را خدشه دار کنی،
غرورم را بشکنی. هرگز نمیتوانی آزادی را از من بگیری.

You may rebuke me with your words,
or ridicule the colour of my clothes or my skin
or my eyes which are looking for happiness.

But you can never hurt my spirit.

You can never break my pride.

You can never take my freedom.

یک روز گذشتی تو از دریا و رفیقت

جان باخت لب ساحل، تو در موج پریدی

The day we crossed the ocean

Our friend

died on the shore

اینگونه اگر خسته به دریا زده این قوم

Our tired tribe

escaped through oceans

مروز فراری شده از دست پلیدی

They have escaped from filth

ما خسته نمی شیم، شب و روز دویسیم

We won't get tired,
we have run days and nights

ما خسته نمی شیم، که سرشار امیدیم

We won't get tired

as our hopes carry us

ما کوه توانایی، ما کوه تلاشیم

We are a mountain of ability

We are a mountain of effort

ما روح غروریم که ثابت شده باشیم

And this mountain is
embraced by clouds of pride

که ثابت شده باشیم

We are embraced by clouds of pride

A song: 'The spirit of the sea'

The spirit of the sea

بسکه تنگ است دلم، از غمت دریایم
موج شادی چه شدی؟ چه شدی رویایم؟

When depressed, I am like a sea of sorrow
What has happened to you my happiness?
What has happened to you my dream?

دل من افسرده ست، زیر سنگ غم و درد

I feel desolate through sorrow and pain
موج شادی چه شدی؟ چه شدی رویایم؟

What has happened to you my happiness?
What has happened to you my dream?

دو قدم پیشترک، لب ساحل ای موج

O' waves, come forward two steps, come to the shore
غم و اندوه مرا ببر از دنیایم

Take my sorrow and grief from my world
موج شادی چه شدی؟ چه شدی رویایم؟

What has happened to you my happiness?
What has happened to you my dream?

به زلالیت قسم، به صدایت سوگند

I swear to your clarity, I swear to your voice
روشنی بخش دلی! به صفایت سوگند

Swear to your sincerity, you shine in my heart
موج شادی چه شدی؟ چه شدی رویایم؟

What has happened to you my happiness?
What has happened to you my dream?

رنگ دریا شده ام، روح من تر شده است

I have become as a sea, my soul has been cleansed
دل من با دل تو چون برادر شده است

My heart has become the brother of your heart

دو قدم پیش بیا، دو قدم پیشترک

O' waves, come forward two steps, two steps closer
روح موسیقی تو ست، در دلم پیشترک

The soul of your music is now deep in my heart

About narrative approaches

This project is based on narrative approaches to therapy, group work and community work. Narrative therapy centres people as the experts in their own lives and views problems as separate from people. Narrative therapy assumes that people have many skills, competencies, beliefs, values, commitments and abilities that will assist them to reduce the influence of problems in their lives. The word 'narrative' refers to the emphasis that is placed upon the stories of people's lives and the differences that can be made through particular tellings and re-tellings of these stories.

Collective narrative practice methodologies do not require young people to speak in the first person about their lives, and they emphasise the skills, abilities, hopes and dreams of participants. This ensures that these approaches do not 're-traumatise' young people. Instead, these ways of working create contexts for pride, the acknowledgement of 'hard-won' knowledge, and the celebration of 'goals' that young people have already scored in life. A special emphasis is given to the ways in which people who have been through hardship can contribute to the lives of others by sharing their 'hard-won' knowledge. This project is an example of this (for more information about enabling contribution and exchanging messages between groups, see Denborough, 2008).

Earlier projects

Dulwich Centre Foundation has been involved in a series of projects using a narrative approach to foster social cohesion and respond to broader racism. In 2010, as a response to the Cronulla riots and an upsurge of anti-Muslim and anti-Arab racism throughout Australia, we developed the initial 'Life-saving tips' project. A video and publication documenting 12 life-saving tips from young Muslim Australians were created and circulated through all NSW high schools and beyond. These can be viewed at www.dulwichcentre.com.au/life-saving-tips.html

Reference

Denborough, D. (2008). Collective narrative practice: Responding to individuals, groups, and communities who have experienced trauma. Adelaide, Australia: Dulwich Centre Publications.



