

The background features a vibrant, abstract illustration. It consists of several hands in shades of red and green, some appearing to hold or support others. Interspersed among the hands are stylized stringed instruments, possibly ouds or baglamas, with orange bodies and white strings. The overall style is graphic and celebratory.

Rethink Rebuild Society

# Celebrating Syria

A festival of  
arts and  
culture

10 – 23 July 2017  
Manchester

## Festival Programme


[celebratingsyria.org](http://celebratingsyria.org)




# Celebrating Syria

A festival of  
arts and  
culture

A fortnight of exhibitions, film, theatre, live music, talks by writers, panel discussions and interactive art workshops exploring Syrian arts and culture before and after 2011.



The 2011 revolution marked a turning point in Syria's history that has resulted in unprecedented changes to Syrian society and to Syrians' cultural identity. These shifts are, in turn, having a great impact on the arts and on culture both in Syria and amongst Syrian artists in exile. Much of the art that will be featured at the festival reflects the changes in Syrian arts and culture since 2011 and has been created by Syrians who have fled the country as a result of the war.



The news from Syria and the sadness, death, and misery that continues to pour out from the unrest must be juxtaposed against another vision of Syria - one that is filled with beauty, creativity and rebirth. This festival is a celebration of this hopeful, inspiring and imaginative face of Syria and the Syrian people and their rich contribution to the collective history of human expression.

Festival events take place in a range of venues across Manchester, and we welcome all ages. While there is a small fee for entry to events, admission is free for refugees and asylum seekers of all nationalities.

Rethink Rebuild Society is a Manchester-based non-profit organisation that works towards improving the lives of Syrians in the UK.

**This is the first Syrian arts and culture festival in the UK showcasing the work and talent of Syrian artists.**



# Festival Timetable

Date	Time	Event	Category	Venue	Tickets* Full/Conc
10–23 July	10:00 - 17:00	Parallel Republic	Exhibition	Rethink Rebuild Society	Free entry
Mon 10 July	19:30 - 20:30	Duo Zamaan	Music	Emmanuel Church	£8/5
Tues 11 July	19:00 - 20:45	"Syria's arts and culture before and after 2011"	Panel	Friends' Meeting House (main hall)	£5/3
Wed 12 July	19:00 - 20:30	Miriam Cooke: Dancing in Damascus: Creativity, Resilience and the Syrian Revolution	Author Meets Public	Friends' Meeting House (upper hall)	£5/3
Thurs 13 July	19:00 - 20:30	Ossama Mohammed: My Films, My Freedom, My Humanity: Independent Cinema Under Dictatorship	Talk	Friends' Meeting House (upper hall)	£5/3
Fri 14 July	19:00 - 21:30	Silvered Water: Syria Self-Portrait	Film and director Q&A	Anthony Burgess Foundation	£5/3
Sat 15 July	15:30 - 17:30	Time for Creativity	Workshop	Wilbraham St. Ninians URC	£2
	19:30 - 21:00	Syrian Notes	Music	Royal Northern College of Music	£16/8
Sun 16 July	19:00 - 21:00	La dolce Syria: A Short Film Trilogy	Film and director Q&A	Anthony Burgess Foundation	£5/3
Mon 17 July	19:00 - 20:30	Damascus Stories	Theatre	Anthony Burgess Foundation	£10/8
Tues 18 July	19:00 - 21:30	Tadmor	Film and director Q&A	Anthony Burgess Foundation	£5/3
Wed 19 July	19:30 - 20:30	A Syrian Guitar	Music	Emmanuel Church	£6/4
Thurs 20 July	19:00 - 20:45	"Does art create change or react to it?"	Panel	Anthony Burgess Foundation	£5/3
Fri 21 July	19:00 - 20:30	Diana Darke: My House in Damascus - An Inside View of the Syrian Crisis	Author Meets Public	Friends' Meeting House (main hall)	£5/3
Sat 22 July	15:30 - 17:30	The Art of Lettering	Workshop	Wilbraham St. Ninians URC	£2
	19:30 - 21:00	London Syrian Ensemble	Music	Emmanuel Church	£10/8
Sun 23 July	14:00 - 18:00	Make Maté, Not War: a taste of Syria	Entertainment	Rethink Rebuild Society	£2
	19:00 - 20:30	Khaled Khalifa Talks from Damascus	Talk	Rethink Rebuild Society	£4/2

\*All events are free for refugees and asylum seekers

Tickets can be purchased at [eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) / More information at [celebratingsyria.org](https://www.celebratingsyria.org)

## EXHIBITION

### Parallel Republic: The Art of Civil Disobedience

In collaboration with Fuse Art

10 - 23 July

10:00 - 17:00

### Rethink Rebuild Society

Free entry (£2 suggested donation)



## THEATRE

### Damascus Stories

An evening of magical storytelling and music with the Diwan Foundation

Monday 17 July

19:00 - 20:30

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

£10/£8



## FILM AND DIRECTOR Q&A

### La Dolce Siria trilogy

Film Screening and Q&A with director Ammar al-Beik via Skype

Sunday 16 July

19:00 - 21:00

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

£5/£3

### Tadmor

Film Screening and Q&A with directors Monika Borgmann & Lokman Slim via Skype

Tuesday 18 July

19:00 - 21:30

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

£5/£3



### Silvered Water, Syria Self-Portrait

Screening followed by Q&A with Ossama Mohammed

Friday 14 July

19:00 - 21:30

International Anthony Burgess Foundation

£5/£3

## MUSIC

### Syrian Notes

A concert with Noma Omran  
Saturday 15 July  
19:30 - 21:00

**Royal Northern  
College of Music (RNCM)**  
£16/£8



### London Syrian Ensemble

Concert  
Saturday 22 July  
19:30 - 21:00

**Emmanuel Church**  
£10/£8



### Duo Zamaan

Rihab Azar (oud) & Jamal  
Alsakka (percussion)  
Monday 10 July

19:00 - 21:30  
**Emmanuel Church**  
£8/£5

### A Syrian Guitar

A concert with Ayman Jarjour  
Wednesday 19 July  
19:30 - 20:30

**Emmanuel Church**  
£6/£4

### Festival Venues

**Friends Meeting House**  
6 Mount St Manchester M2 5NS

**Anthony Burgess Foundation**  
3 Cambridge St  
Manchester M1 5BY

**Emmanuel Church**  
6 Barlow Moor Road, Didsbury  
Manchester M20 6TR

**Rethink Rebuild Society**  
Unit 7 Longsight Business Park  
Hamilton Rd Manchester M13 9PD

**Royal Northern College of Music**  
124 Oxford Rd Manchester M13 9RD

**Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC**  
515 Wilbraham Rd  
Manchester M21 0UF

## AUTHOR MEETS PUBLIC

### **Miriam Cooke: Dancing in Damascus: Creativity, Resilience and the Syrian Revolution**

*A talk by the writer followed by a book signing*  
Wednesday 12 July  
19:00 - 20:30  
Friends Meeting House (Upper Hall)  
£5/£3

### **Diana Darke: My House in Damascus: An Inside View of the Syrian Crisis**

*A talk by the writer followed by a book signing*  
Friday 21 July  
19:00 - 20:30  
Friends Meeting House (Upper Hall)  
£5/£3



## PANEL DISCUSSIONS



### **"Syria's Arts and Culture: Before 2011 and After": Insights from contributors to Syria Speaks**

*Panel discussion: Rasha Abbas, Zaher Omareen and Malu Halasa chaired by Alessandro Columbu*  
Tuesday 11 July  
19:00 - 20:45  
Friends Meeting House (Main Hall)  
£5/£3

### **"Does Art Create Change or React to it?"**

*Panel discussion: Ben Power and Ruth Daniel, chaired by Charlotte Keatly*  
Thursday 20 July  
19:00 - 20:45  
International Anthony Burgess Foundation  
£5/£3



## WORKSHOPS

### Time for Creativity

*A Sculpture and Drawing Workshop with  
Manya Alkhmri and Khalda Alkhmri*

Saturday 15 July

15:30 - 17:30

**Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC**

£2

### The Art of Lettering: Calligraphy workshop

*An Afternoon of Calligraphy with  
Abdullah Al-Anezi*

Saturday 22 July

15:30 - 17:30

**Wilbraham St. Ninian's URC**

£2

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Make Maté, Not War: a Taste of Syria

Sunday 23 July

14:00 - 18:00

**Rethink Rebuild Society**

£2



## TALKS

### My Films, My Freedom, My Humanity: Independent Cinema Under Dictatorship

*An evening with Ossama Mohammed –  
In conversation with Dalia Mostafa*

Thursday 13 July

19:00 - 20:30

**Friends Meeting House  
(Upper Hall)**

£5/£3



### Khaled Khalifah Talks from Damascus

*Via Skype*

Sunday 23 July

19:00 - 20:30

**Rethink Rebuild Society**

£4/£2



# Rethink Rebuild Society



Rethink Rebuild Society (RR) is a Manchester-based non-profit organisation that works towards improving the lives of Syrians in the UK and helping them become positively established within British society.

Our work began informally after the start of the uprising in Syria in March 2011, and we were formally registered in May 2013.

Our work comprises of three distinct yet interrelated components: community support, advocacy, and education project. In the last 2 years, we have been actively involved in supporting Syrian refugees across the UK in every way we can.

Our vision is to create an empowered, effective and highly regarded Syrian community in Manchester. Celebrating Syria is part of this vision.

For more information, please visit our website [www.rrsoc.org](http://www.rrsoc.org) or visit us at:

Rethink Rebuild Society  
Unit 7 Longsight Business Park  
Hamilton Road  
Manchester  
M13 0PD