



## **An art work | A conversation | An invitation**

### **Heard and Not Seen**

*10th July - 22nd August 2010*

Gallery 36, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery

<http://www.heardandnotseen.com/>

Lead artists *Sandra Hall* and *Mitra Memarzia* have worked with communities to inform the design and creation of a powerful, interactive contemporary art installation.

Challenging pre-conceptions and asking questions **Heard... And Not Seen** is a thought-provoking project that provides space to enable people to meet and ask questions about faith, religion and spirituality.

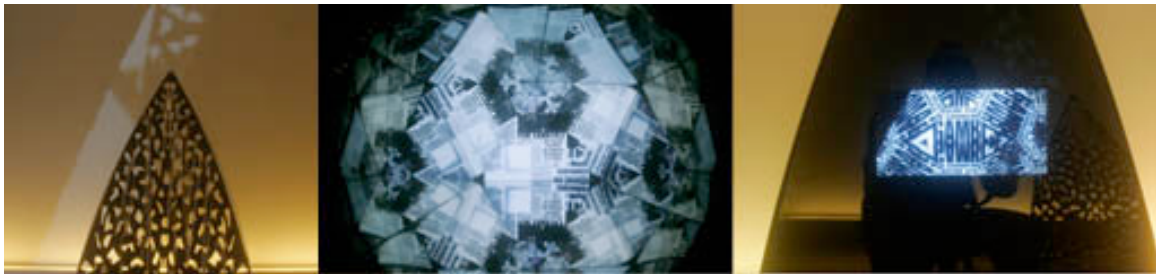
Questioning how, as individuals, we talk to people of different faiths and cultures HANS is a high-quality, visible and accessible platform fusing installation with dialogue to open debate and, importantly, share knowledge.

In a city (Birmingham) with an almost majority ethnic population how can disparate groups of people come together for honest debate without being scared to ask challenging questions?

There is a clear need for ordinary people to discuss, express and enquire about aspects of daily Muslim and religious life in response to the climate of polarised media reporting. The project exists to invite people to ask questions with each other; the artists do not presume to have any definitive answers about faith, religion, spirituality; they believe these mean different things to different people. Instead the artists seek to activate dialogue and a journey of cross-cultural exploration with the spirit of exchange and collaboration underpinning the entire project.

*The project comprises 4 distinct elements:*

1. *Workshops.* The artists have undertaken a series of projects with a range of community groups in Birmingham, UK. Art forms included photography, film, installation, drama and interviews.
2. *Art Exhibition.* From these conversations, they responded as artists and created an interactive exhibition using audio, video, photography, reactive media and installation that is purposefully designed to create an environment that will stimulate discussion.
3. *Archive.* The journey and interviews of the project have been collated and provide a wide-ranging archive for the *Birmingham Library* reflecting these important discussions.
4. *This website.* As the project develops the website offers an online forum to support and enrich the project.



The exhibition consists of a series of freestanding sculptures (*pictured above*) containing audio recordings, photographs and projections reflecting the wealth of material gathered. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the work and to reflect within the space.

#### **Editors Notes**

**Friction Arts:** Friction Arts have been making ‘art where you live’ for over 16 years. Friction listen to people, work with them and then translate their thoughts and ideas into high quality contemporary artworks which communicate to the wider world whilst remaining true to the voices of the people they originate with,

**Sandra Hall:** Sandra Hall is a practising artist and Director of *Friction Arts*. Her practise includes performance, installation, and making extraordinary art work in awkward spaces; exploring the reclamation of conversation through character and intervention in the public domain.

**Mitra Memarzia:** Mitra's artistic practice has been influenced by exploring a variety of styles and media which include: writing, photography, installation, film, performance, sculpture, illustration and interactive technologies. Her main artistic aim is to create inspirational dialogue and exchange through a variety of creative productions. She directs her creative practices towards connecting and collaborating with a wide range of creative individuals and organisations.

#### **CONTACT**

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**Exhibition address**

Gallery 36, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3DH

**Exhibition opening times**

Monday-Thursday: 10am - 5pm  
Friday: 10.30am - 5pm  
Saturday: 10am - 5pm  
Sunday: 12.30pm - 5pm

**Facilitated discussions available throughout the exhibition. Please see website for details.**

IMAGES: High and low-resolution images are available on request.

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY: Both artists are available for interview.

VIDEO: Please see: <http://vimeo.com/11898125> for an insight in to the project direct from the artists.