

Zarah Hussain: Paradise Carpet

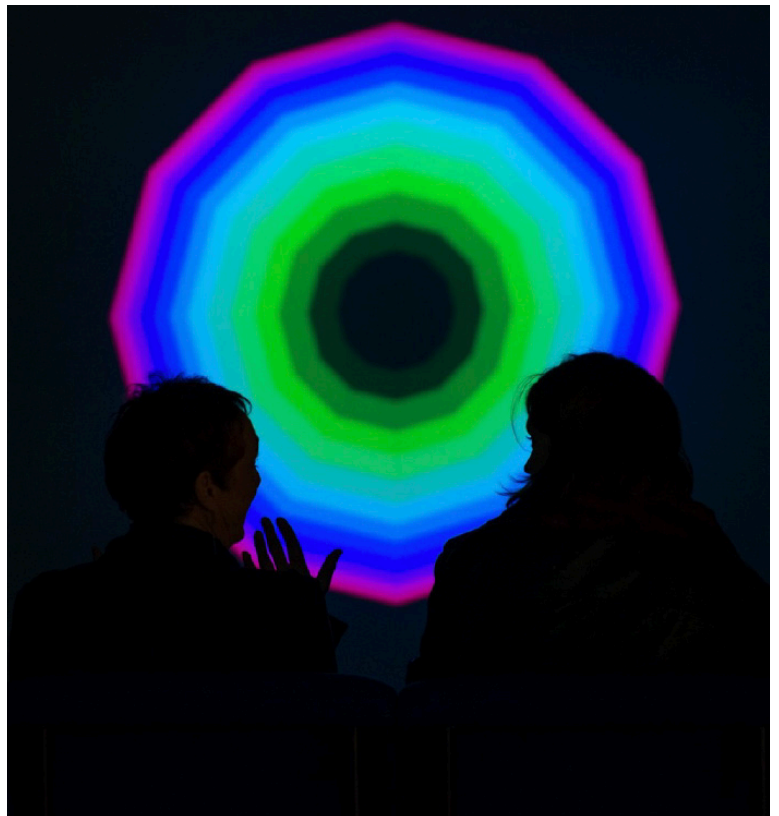
15 November 2024–22 February 2025

Step Into a World of Colourful Light this Winter: Zarah Hussain's Immersive Art Experience opens at The Art House.

This winter, The Art House invites you to experience **Paradise Carpet**, a stunning new art exhibition by celebrated artist Zarah Hussain. Opening on 15 November 2024, this captivating installation welcomes visitors to step onto a moving carpet of light, blending intricate patterns with the calming influence of colour, sound, and culture.

More than just an exciting visual experience, **Paradise Carpet** is a space for reflection, connection, and community. The installation features a dynamic and ever-changing floor of projected patterns, which fill the gallery space with soft, coloured light.

Visitors can walk, sit, pray, or meditate on the digitally woven 'carpet', as ambient soundscapes fill the space, creating a sensory experience designed to calm the mind and foster contemplation. A fusion of geometry, spirituality, and technology, **Paradise Carpet** immerses visitors in a dynamic tapestry of bold, colourful light.



Hussain, a child of Kashmiri immigrants who grew up in the north of England, has long been fascinated by how Islamic art has both shaped and absorbed global ideas and practices. Drawing on personal experience and her research into global influences of textiles, the installation weaves together the rich history of Islamic carpets with cutting-edge digital art, creating a space where tradition and innovation meet.

The installation is also complemented by a series of Hussain's colourful wall sculptures and bold paintings. A large-scale light mural can also be enjoyed, visible from outside the gallery, adding a touch of illumination to the darkened streets of Wakefield during the winter months.

Through a combination of digital technology and community collaboration, **Paradise Carpet** embodies a celebration of movement, migration, and cross-cultural connection. It is a reminder of our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of cultures, both past and present.

For this project, Hussain worked closely with the local community and first-year students at the Academy of Live Technology, at Production Park in Wakefield, to help design and bring the work to life.



Every detail invites visitors to consider themes of community cohesion, cultural understanding, and the need for inclusive spaces in today's divisive world. The installation offers a visual and spiritual reminder of how art and creativity can unite people by turning the gallery into a sanctuary for collective reflection.

In celebration of the opening, during Wakefield's **Light Up** festival weekend, visitors can drop-in at The Art House for a series of free events. On **Friday 15** and **Saturday 16 November, from 4-8pm**, visitors can take part in lantern-making workshops, glow-in-the-dark activities, and try their hand at Neon Henna painting, as well as enjoy seasonal treats in the festive **Makers Wonderland**. The Art House will also be open on **Sunday 17 November between 12-7pm** and host more lantern-making workshops from 3pm.

Paradise Carpet: from 15 November 2024-22 February 2025 at The Art House, Wakefield.
Open Tuesday-Saturday, 9.30am-4pm. Admission is free.

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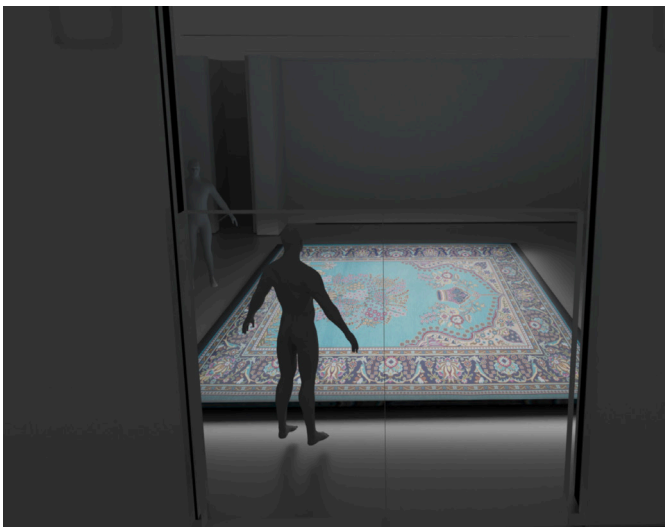


Image above left : Digital mock-up of the installation, above right: Window Murals courtesy of the Artist



The exhibition is kindly supported by the Bagri Foundation and The Space.

Notes to Editors

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Images and interviews by arrangement.

The Art House

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Social

Twitter: @TheArtHouseUK

Facebook: /theartouse.wakefield

Instagram: @theartouseuk

Opening Times

Monday: Closed (appointment only)

Tuesday: 09:30 – 16:00

Wednesday: 09:30 – 16:00

Thursday: 09:30 - 16:00

Friday: 09:30 - 16:00

Saturday: 09:30 - 16:00

Sunday: Closed

About The Art House

The Art House is a vibrant, free and inclusive art gallery located in Wakefield, UK. It is dedicated to supporting artists, fostering creativity, and engaging the local community. Through exhibitions, events, and workshops, The Art House is committed to providing a platform for innovative contemporary art and culture.

Established in 1994 by a group of disabled and non-disabled artists, The Art House is a registered charity. Alongside a programme of training, mentoring, residencies and commissions, The Art House develops a range of projects designed to engage audiences in the artistic process and contribute to an essential discourse around diversity in contemporary visual arts practice. The Art House's three Maker Spaces (Print Studio, Darkroom, and Ceramics Studio) host a year-round programme of workshops and courses, supporting both the public and members in their artistic development.

The Art House is the recipient of The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's second annual Award for Civic Arts Organisations 2022. It is the UK's first Studio of Sanctuary, a role which sees them engage Wakefield's Asylum Seeker, Refugee, and Settled communities in creative projects, and was awarded Gallery of Sanctuary in 2023.

TAH offers free private view appointments, designed to be covid-safe and offer maximum access accommodations to visitors who otherwise find themselves excluded from visual arts spaces. For more information and to book a private view visit The Art House website: the-arthouse.org.uk/about/access

About Zarah Hussain

Zarah Hussain is a British artist whose work explores themes of geometry, Islamic art, and digital technology. With a background in design and an ongoing fascination with the connections between cultures and histories, her work blends tradition with innovation to create immersive and transformative experiences. Hussain's work has been shown in numerous international galleries and exhibitions.