

# ART IN THE PARK

At The Lake



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

29 & 30  
JUNE

SAT 1-8PM  
SUN 1-6PM



2019 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME  
FREE FAMILY FESTIVAL  
WILLEN LAKE, MILTON KEYNES

[f](#) /mkiaac [i](#) /wearemkiaac #ArtWillen [globe](#) mkiaac.org





## “Creativity and Connections”

Our 11th Festival, staged again at Willen Lake in Milton Keynes brings a culturally exciting opportunity to see the works of International, National and Local Artists. These artists comment powerfully on the world in which we live. Shifting politics, intergenerational challenges and hierarchies of power are exposed. The voices of these artists take us on new and unexpected experiences.

Cross Stitching – Beyond Borders has involved women creating cushions by our Artist in resident Maryam Smit, and has engaged with many different cultures involving in particular our recent Syrian Refugees. The MK New Towns Heritage fund has enabled us to develop digital stories about heritage and identity and the 360-degree digital virtual reality will cover a 3D perspective of the daily lives of five new settlers in MK. A further wonderful project “Transforming Lives of Syrian and Iraqi Refugee Women” by the artist Rachel Gadsden & Ethnographer Dr. Yafa Shanneik, who have given us an insight into the life changing events of war and migration through the creation of a series of dynamic large scale art works. As part of this art exhibition, you will be able to scan digitally the artworks, through an app called Artivive,

We are proud to announce a festival partnership with Shubbak Festival who have brought us “Geographical Child’s Play”, an Installation by artists from Saudi Arabia complimenting the work of our National artist RARA. Their work “Inevitable Fringe” invokes the themes of this year’s Art at the Lake Festival: “Connection” which comes from the intricate weaving of two different cultures, Arabic and Victorian. This installation will invite the festival goers to participate by making macramé knots.

This year we welcome the newly created MK Multi-Cultural Youth Orchestra who have collaborated with The London Syrian Ensemble supported by Amal (a Saïd Foundation programme). We will have our popular Parade of Colours where we invite everyone to participate and we shall have a robotic dance performance by Motus and Route Canal Arts.

Milton Keynes is a city for innovation, and we are determined to celebrate art and culture so that we can enjoy the full power of creativity, and its ability to unite communities and build bridges across cultural divides.

We very much look forward to welcoming you to this Year’s Festival.

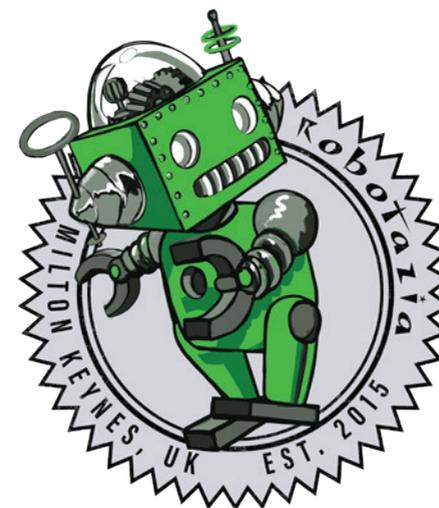
The Countess Howe  
MKIAC Patron

## Saturday Programme 1-8pm

TIME	ACT
1 - 1.20 PM	Caribbean Steel Band
1.30 - 1.45 PM	Chinese Fan Dancers
1.50 - 2.15 PM	MK Multi-Cultural Youth Orchestra supported by Sanaa Wahbah & Fajer Alabdalla from The London Syrian Ensemble
2.30 - 3 PM	Ayan De First and Oduduwa Talking Drummers
3 - 3.15 PM	Fire Demonstration (OFF STAGE)
3.15 - 4 PM	Danto Aiyya
4 - 4.30 PM	Parade of Colours (OFF STAGE)
4.50 - 5.50 PM	Kefaya
6.10 - 6.55 PM	MK Multi-Cultural Youth Orchestra supported by Sanaa Wahbah & Fajer Alabdalla from The London Syrian Ensemble
7.15 - 8 PM	Matuki

## Sunday Programme 1-6pm

TIME	ACT
1 - 1.30 PM	ETERNAL TAAL
1.40 - 2.10 PM	Yemeni Folklore Group
2.20 - 2.40 PM	Urja Thakore
3 - 3.45 PM	Samia Malik
4 - 4.45 PM	Aashiq al Rashul
5.15 - 6 PM	Aar Maanta



# Geographical Child's Play

Bricklab: Abdulrahman & Turki Gazzaz

RARA

Inevitable Fringe



## Bricklab, the designers of the first Saudi pavilion at Venice Architecture Biennale, create a new pop-up sculpture especially for Shubbak.

22 brightly coloured units equalling in number of the 22 states of the Arab League are arranged in different constellations to offer new viewpoints of geographies, nations and the power to imagine other realities. No unit can stand on its own, but has to be grafted onto others. Some constellations seem hierarchical, others more egalitarian. Geographical Child's Play conjures up poignant and surprising alignments and dependencies.

Stretching nearly 10m as a line or barely 3m as a circle, Geographical Child's Play is Bricklab's most public and engaging sculpture so far. The bright colours and

low-level hint at nursery furniture or playground equipment. It is an invitation to imagine geopolitics through the lens of play and a deliberately naïve hope.

Established in Jeddah in 2015, Bricklab quickly came to be known as one of the most dynamic current design practices in Saudi Arabia. Their work has been shown at 21,39 Saudi Art Week, Alserkal Avenue in Dubai and Venice Architecture Biennale. In 2018, they took part in the British Council and V&A International Designers Workshop.

Follow Geographical Child's Play to different locations during this festive period, visit [shubbak.co.uk](http://shubbak.co.uk)

Sunday 30 June | 12PM - 7PM  
British Library Piazza  
96 Euston Road NW1 2DB



Inevitable Fringe invokes the theme of Art at the Lake Festival 2019, 'connection' by instigating a structural intricacy between two different cultures – Arabic and Victorian.

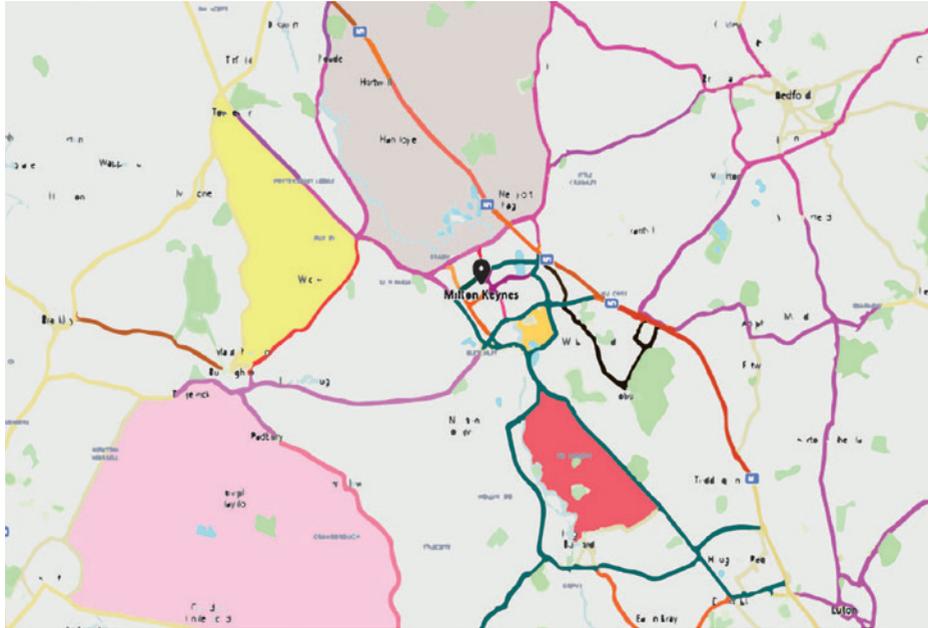
This participatory installation will invite the festival audience to take part in this act of inter-connection, making macramé knots to drape over the surface of the wooden Victorian bandstand. This creates a gathering space for meaningful conversations and a true sense of connection and belonging.

Inevitable Fringe will manifest the beauty of the respectful cultural mix and harmonious co-existence, telling off the false binary vision of society dividing core and fringe, and, if there should be a fringe, it is an inevitable part.

### Surat 3, Ayah 104

*Let their arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoying what is right, and forbidden what is wrong: They are the ones to attain felicity.*

## Art Marquee – New Towns



In the 1960s, a further generation of new towns in SE England were needed to take the projected population increase of London. From 1967, the Milton Keynes Development Corporation created the largest and most ambitious of the British new towns, named after the existing village on site. The objective was a new city of 250, 000 people. Many of Britain's most acclaimed building/landscape architects contributed to planned showpiece of British design.

What figures do not show is how this new town would boom and become so diverse. The melting pot of newcomers, learning to live together, has been enriched by an increasing influx of migrants from Somalia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Iran and the Caribbean.

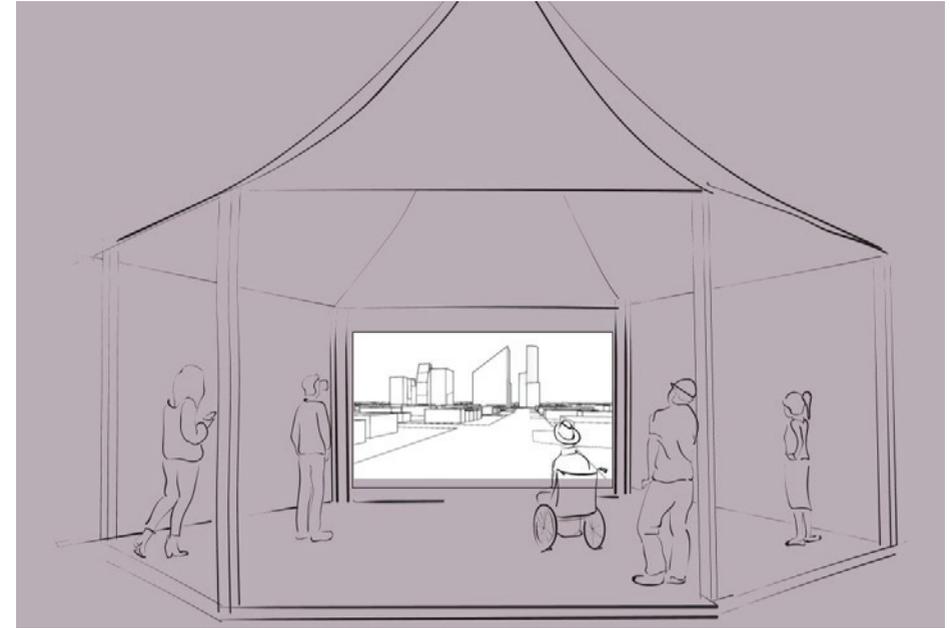
With more recently joined by Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. This is a unique story with an important heritage component to share with future generations in Milton Keynes and elsewhere.

Come and listen to these stories inside the Art Marquee and experience their journeys.

*In collaboration with Living Archive MK.*

## Art Marquee – Borderline: Frontiers

One Journey: Connecting Communities



**Borderline: Frontiers** is an immersive Visual and Audio Reality experience, utilising 360° filming and binaural sound recording, **Now What** documented the ordinary lives of five refugee communities within Milton Keynes, from a first-person perspective. **Borderline: Frontiers** will explore the stories from individuals of varying cultures and are showcasing the outcome of this documentation as an engaging and participatory VR installation during Art at the Lake Festival 2019. In the One Journey Arts Marquee.

**“Borderline”**.noun a line that establishes or marks a border. An indefinite area intermediate between two qualities or conditions:

1. The line or plane indicating the limit or extent of

2. A transitional interval beyond which some new action or different state of affairs is likely to begin or occur:

**“Frontier”**.noun the extreme limits of understanding in a particular area.

1. The extreme limit of settled land beyond which lies wilderness, especially in reference to the western US before Pacific settlement. “His novel of the American frontier”
2. The extreme limit of understanding or achievement in a particular area. “The success of science in extending the frontiers of knowledge”

**Now What?** A creative collaboration between Agne Petrulenaite, Daniel Broadbent and refugee communities within Milton Keynes.

## Art Marquee – Exhibition

One Journey: Connecting Communities

### Maryam Smit and Jane Charles – Cross Stitching Beyond Borders



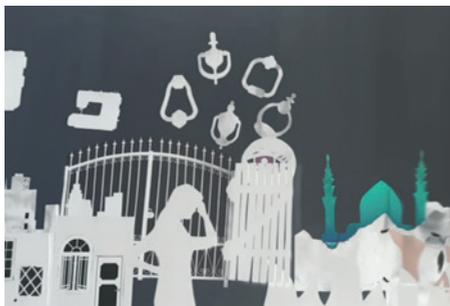
Cross Stitching Beyond Borders textile workshops brought women from diverse communities including Syrian refugees together through a shared arts experience to learn embroidery skills such as cross-stitching, machine sewing and needlework.

Many of the women spoke English as a third or fourth language so we asked an interpreter to come to our sessions, which allowed every woman to communicate.

The workshops were held weekly throughout January and February. A crèche was provided to allow women who did not have support at home to attend. The women produced cushion covers and footstools inspired by the Islamic art of geometry and arabesque now exhibited at our annual festival Art at the Lake festival on 29 – 30 June.

The workshops were hugely popular and the finished art pieces showed the high quality work the women have produced with their new skills.

### Screen Sisters – 5 Minute film made by Women of Milton Keynes



#### Inspirations

Women from a range of diverse communities, came together to share their stories of empowerment and inspiration under the guidance of filmmaker Aoife Twomey. They looked at the cultural and generational barriers that cause isolation in their local communities, topics arose from consultation events such as the term “Unlettered” the inability to read letters, family commitments, changing circumstances and barriers caused by language, technology and culture.

Ideas of what constitutes the negative feelings of isolation and loneliness, versus the positive elements of sanctuary and solitude, were explored. The overarching theme of the film is strength and inspiration. The women gained filmmaking skills in interviewing, documentary making and stop-frame animation. These techniques were crafted together mixing documentary and animation to produce this empowering and captivating film.

£2  
per person  
for ALL  
workshops

## Art Marquee – Workshops

One Journey: Connecting Communities

### Abu Yahya – Modern Arabic Calligraphy (Hurufiyya)



The Hurufiyya movement was an aesthetic movement that emerged in the late twentieth century amongst Arabian and North African artists, who used their understanding of traditional Islamic Calligraphy, within the precepts of modern art. At this workshop, you will be learning the modern technique of Arabic calligraphy.

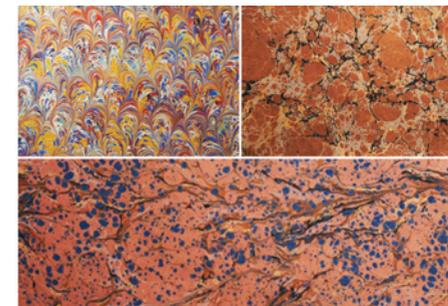
### Amber Khokhar – Arabesque



HRH Prince Charles commissioned Amber to design a carpet for Buckingham Palace, making Amber the ‘First person commissioned to design a modern carpet for the Palace’.

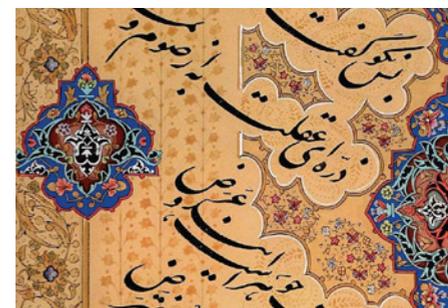
Her strong background in design and knowledge of traditional art transports you to an enchanting place.

### Hayrettin Kozanoglu – Turkish Ebru



Hayrettin Kozanoglu is the new voice on the Ebru scene. His unconventional, visionary approach to the ancient art of paper marbling has helped bring this art form into the 21st century and stirred up a storm within the Ebru world. By continuously setting new standards through his innovative work methods, he has established himself as one of the most eagerly watched figures within this tight-knit community.

### Persian Calligraphy – Nas’taliq



In the past 500 years Nas’taliq” created by Mir Ali Tabrizi has been the predominant style for writing the Perso-Arabic script. This year come and join us to learn this technique. All levels welcome.

# Transforming Lives of Syrian and Iraqi Refugee Women

Dr Yafa Shanneik, Uni. of Birmingham (funded by the British Academy)



Ethnographer Dr Yafa Shanneik and artist Rachel Gadsden have spent the last year collaborating and creating art with Syrian, and Iraqi refugee women in the UK, Germany and Jordan.

Using the process of interviews and body-mapping art, the refugee women narrated their life-changing events of war and migration through the creation of a series of dynamic large-scale artworks. As part of this art exhibition, you will be able to digitally scan the artworks using augmented reality, through an app called Artive, downloadable free of charge, to witness the process of production, and to gain a deeper insight into these powerful stories.

During the Festival, we invite you to take part in art workshops to experience body mapping led by Gadsden, and join talks with Dr. Shanneik, to bring you closer to the understanding of the refugee's experiences.

# Teakster

Creating an original piece live at the festival



Teakster is a multi-award-winning artist, who offers a refreshing new take on Islamic art in the 21st century. His work has been featured in publications and exhibitions across the USA, UAE, Europe, and the Far East for over a decade. He has exhibited his work to a diverse range of audience's, including various world leaders and Middle Eastern royalty.

His artistic style is a fusion of Islamic artistic traditions and modern techniques inspired by his British upbringing. He is recognised as one of the leading Muslim digital artists in the world and BBC Radio has described him as "one of the rising stars in the Islamic art scene".

Consequently, his talents are used by organisations to help them find creative solutions to their design issues, inspired by the artistic traditions of the Muslim world.

In 2014 he received the Alhambra Award for Excellence in Arts, which recognises the best of Muslim contributions to British society.

Web: [www.teakster.co.uk](http://www.teakster.co.uk)  
Instagram: Teakster\_art

# Festival Highlights

Saturday

## Caribbean Steel Band

1 PM – 1.20 PM



Come and feel the rhythms of the Caribbean. The Caribbean Steel Band will be opening the Art at the Lake 11th Year of festivities.

## Ayan De First and Oduduwa Talking Drummers

2.30 PM – 3 PM

Ayan De First and Oduduwa Talking Drummers have taken African Cultural Heritage from local level to the mainstream at a greater height. Nigerian folklore performances include many kinds of folk and popular music, some of which are known worldwide.

## MK Chinese Fusion Dance Group

1.30 PM – 1.45 PM

MK Chinese Fusion Dance Group are fantastic performers that have been part of the festival for last 6 years. Their performance is based upon a traditional fan dance technique originating from China over two thousand years ago. Their mesmerising routine portrays unity, community and inseparability.

## Danto Aiyya

3.15 PM – 4 PM



This proud Tuareg refugee musician from Ghat in the south of Libya invites the lonely desert spirits to come alive & play together, with his electrifying drone-blues guitar-picking and gently rhythmic singing in the Amazigh (Berber) language of Tamasheq.

Listen carefully as Danto Aiyya's music transports you to the North African desert.

## Parade of Colours

4 PM – 4.30 PM



## MOTUS, ROBOTAZIA, Baque de Axe & Hugh the Mammoth.

We are setting off for the best multi-cultural parade Milton Keynes has to

offer. The 'Parade of Colours' is part of this year's 'Art at the Lake' festival 2019.

Take note to spot the amazing performers of Motus, Robotazia team as well as some of their unique robots, Baque de Axe samba sensation and Hugh the Mammoth.

Processional celebrations are on Saturday 29th June 2019 at 4pm. Join in and be part of the festivities.

This year they will be exhibiting their amazing collection at the festival. See them also at the 'Parade of Colours'.

## Kefaya

4.50 PM – 5.50 PM



Kefaya are an award winning International musical collective led by UK based musicians and producers Giuliano Modarelli and Al MacSween. An eclectic group of immigrants, travellers and international artists, Kefaya seek to find common ground between global folk traditions with a cutting-edge sound rooted firmly in the 21st century.

For their forthcoming new album "Songs of Our Mothers", Kefaya are collaborating with Afghan Folk Singer Elaha Soroor. The album is a deep reflection on the experience of female musicians in modern Afghanistan, a scathing attack on patriarchal values and a joyous statement of liberation and resilience.

# Festival Highlights

Saturday

## MK Multi-Cultural Youth Orchestra supported by Amal – a Saïd Foundation programme

1.50 PM – 2.15 PM AND 6.10 PM – 6.55 PM

The London Syrian Ensemble is a collective of Syria's finest musicians. This year Sanaa (who played the Qanun melody in Aladdin 2019) and Fajar collaborate for the first time ever in Milton Keynes, the newly established MK Multi-Cultural Youth Orchestra. Young people from different schools trained in a classical and traditional musical fusion from Syria.

## Matuki

7.15 PM – 8 PM



Matuki is a UK Afrobeat behemoth with a hypnotic, forward-thinking and relentlessly high-energy take on West African traditions. Led by Gambian singer and percussionist, Ebou Sanyang, the band have recently added world-class kora player Suntou Susso to their line-up of sizzling horns, tuff bass-lines and interlocking guitars.

With nods to funk and disco along the way, and a penchant for pulsating rhythmic wig-outs, their explosion of a live show has gained them an enviable reputation, leaving you gasping for more.

# Festival Highlights

Sunday

## Eternal Taal

1PM – 1.30PM



Eternal Taal are an award – winning female group of dancers and dhol drummers who perform in traditional Punjabi suits. They have played on some of the world's biggest stages including Glastonbury Festival, Bollywood, and the Graham Norton Show.

## Yemeni Folklore Group

1.40 PM – 2.10 PM



Musicians from different parts of Yemen perform combinations of voice, oud, drums and percussion instruments to highlight the rhythms in subtle expressive ways.

## Urja Thakore

2.20 PM – 2.40 PM



Urja is a graceful and emotive dancer who is renowned for her love of abhinay (facial expressions) her and amazing performers promotes Kathak in a modern context.

## Samia Malik

3 PM – 3.45 PM



Born in Saudi Arabia to Pakistani parents, Samia Malik has lived in the UK since she was a child. She writes and performs songs in Urdu and English based on traditional Urdu Ghazal (a highly refined union of poetry with music), extending and subverting the form to explore contemporary issues around identity, race and gender.

Samia is also a visual artist: her live shows are supported by translations and projections of her original visual art. She has collaborated with acclaimed artists including celebrated Indian danseuse and activist Mallika Sarabhai and 'satirist to the stars' Baluji Shrivastav OBE: Samia's dynamic, evolving work has thrilled international audiences across Europe, India and the States.

## Aashiq Al-Rasul (AAR)

4 PM – 4.45 PM



AAR are an all-male ensemble that are passionate about delivering the fundamental of tolerance and harmony through a universal of rhythm and melody.

Delivered through a repertoire of classical Qasida, Hamd, Naat, Qawaali and modern Nasheed intertwined with a fusion of languages and beats from across the globe, AAR endeavour to strive and consolidate a truly universal message in order to harmonize the basis of humanity: that of love and peace.

# Festival Highlights

Sunday

## Aar Maanta

5.15 PM – 6 PM



If Aar Maanta's family and community had their way, the artist who is today considered the voice of the new Somali generation would have become a scientist. However, due to his passion and willpower, he is today revered as one of the most creative and talented Somali musician both in the Horn of Africa and Diaspora.

Lyrically Aar Maanta's songs are written in the traditional Somali poetic form using allegory and alliteration to address issues of relevance to Somali immigrants. As a result, Ahmed 'Hudeydi' Ismail Hussein, a master oud player and one of Somali music's greatest composers as well as Hassan Aadan Samatar, an iconic lead singer of Somalia's now defunct national theatre Waaberi, have endorsed Aar's music as the bridge that links the old musical generation to the new one.

Aar Maanta has headlined The Ecotricity Stage of Womad in summer 2014, and in April 2015 had his first sold out show.



## Future Sponsorship and Partnership

If you would like to support MKIAC to deliver next year's festival or another event in our annual programme, you can contact us at [mkiac@mkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:mkiac@mkcollege.ac.uk)

## Thank you!

This festival would not have been possible without the support of all our funders, collaborators, delivery partners, volunteers and work experience students. A massive thank you to every one of you for playing your part in facilitating this event. It is beautiful seeing the community coming together and celebrating our diverse cultural heritage.



# How to find us & event map

**Location: Willen Lake MK15 9HQ**



## What do you think?

We would be delighted to find out your highlights from this year's festival!  
Share your experience and photos with us by email or get in touch on social media:

  /mkiac  /wearemkiac  #ArtWillen  [mkiac@mkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:mkiac@mkcollege.ac.uk)  [mkiac.org](http://mkiac.org)

If you would like to find out about future events and activities organised by MKIAC, keep in touch by joining our newsletter. **Sign up at [www.bit.ly/ArtMKNews](http://www.bit.ly/ArtMKNews)**