



Info Pack: MENA Arts UK commissions

Thank you for your interest in our commissions.

Here is everything you need to know, but if you have any further questions, please do get in touch with head judge Sepy Baghaei at info@menaarts.uk

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Key Information

What you will get:

- £1000 towards a new commissioned work
- Showcasing of your piece across MENA Arts UK's social media channels and website
- Q&A with all winning artists (online via Zoom)
- One-to-one support from a MENA Arts UK representative.
- Opportunity to connect with our MENA+ network of artists, and have your work seen by our judging panel of industry professionals

Who is it for?

The commissions are open to UK-based artists with a connection to the Middle East, North Africa or surrounding areas. We recognise that this is a broad region comprising many diverse countries - anyone who self identifies as belonging to the region is welcome to apply. If you have questions about whether or not this opportunity is right for you, please get in touch with Sepy Baghaei at info@menaarts.uk

We ask you to pitch an idea for a new piece of work responding to the question: '**How should the MENA+ arts community celebrate what we have in common?**' The work should be one minute (60 seconds) long, and you must be able to capture it on film.

This opportunity is not exclusively for film-makers. You might be a poet, musician or dancer, recording yourself performing your poem, song or choreography; or you might be a sound designer, collaborating with a multimedia artist to place a soundscape up against an animation - we are completely open to any and all responses that can be recorded on film!

What you'll do and when

The timeline for the project is:

- 1st December: Applications open
- 29th December: Applications close at 12pm
- 11th January: All applicants notified of results. Commissioned artists will be provided with the £1000 fee upfront, so they can get started straight away. They

will also be offered one-to-one creative and/or practical support from a MENA Arts UK representative throughout their making process.

- 15th February: Deadline for commissioned artists to return their one-minute films.
- From 1st March: films will be released. We will spotlight each film and its maker(s) through our social media channels
- 9th March: Post-Show Q&A with the makers of all eight films, online via Zoom

Once we have received the finished films, we will add accessibility features. Each film will have the option to be viewed with English captions, or subtitles in a language of the artist's choosing (to be mutually agreed.)

The copyright of the one-minute film remains with the artist(s) behind the work. The artist(s) agree that MENA Arts UK may distribute the work through our relevant channels.

How will the commissions be selected?

Applications will be assessed by our judging panel. These are a team of industry professionals with a connection to the MENA+ region:

- Sabrina Mahfouz: playwright and poet
- Hannah Khalil: playwright
- Saeed Taji Farouky: film-maker
- Sepy Baghaei: theatre director and Co-Vice Chair of MENA Arts UK

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application on **Monday 11th January**. Feedback will be provided to unsuccessful applicants.

How to apply

The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 29th December at 12pm**.

Please complete our online application form. The form asks you to:

- Tell us about your idea
- Tell us about your previous work
- Tell us how you will approach the filming element, if you haven't worked with film before
- Provide a basic budget*

- Let us know what support you might need along the way
- Let us know about any access requirements you have

* For example: if working as a solo artist, your budget may include paying yourself and purchasing materials to create the work. If working as a team, let us know how you will divide the commission between each artist involved.

You will have the option to respond to the application questions via written text, audio, or visual formats.

If responding via written text: you will be asked to write your responses directly into the form.

If responding via audio: please attach voice recordings of your responses into the form.

If responding via visual: you may attach a Powerpoint presentation, video, or any other file format which visually conveys your ideas, eg a storyboard.

If you are unclear about any of the application formats, or want to discuss further before submitting, please contact Sepy Baghaei at info@menaarts.uk.

Access information

We want this opportunity to be available and accessible to as many MENA+ creatives as possible.

If you have access needs, please let us know. We have allocated an access budget to help remove barriers for people with access needs, for example a BSL interpreter. Simply tell us what you need on the application form and we will aim to meet your needs wherever possible.

Our commissions are supported by:



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