

Rabia Saleemi

Multidisciplinary Artist · Creative Director · Immersive Arts Practitioner

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Profile

Manchester-based multidisciplinary artist and creative director with more than 25 years of practice spanning sculpture, intuitive art-making, immersive festival environments, education and large-scale scenic work. My work explores nature, transformation, connection and sensory experience through painting, printmaking, sculpture, UV colour, RGB lighting and site-responsive installation. Developed during my MA, Meta-Art connects conscious and subconscious thinking through experimentation, play and creative risk-taking. I am now extending this approach into sculptural, interactive and light-based work shaped by intuitive forms, immersive environments and audience participation.

Skills

Creative Practice

Visual direction, narrative development and visual storytelling across stage artwork, immersive spaces, signage, branding and site décor. Production spans large- and small-scale scenic painting, sculpture, plywood, acrylic, UV paint, RGB and colour-responsive lighting, and site-responsive installation. I design creative programmes and partnership proposals with community and cultural organisations, including ARC Stockport and OT Creative Manchester. This includes session planning, materials, budgets, evaluation and partner communication; recruiting and coordinating bank artists and volunteers; managing artists, workflows, installation and on-site delivery; and preparing and exhibiting participants' work.

Facilitation and Teaching

Meta-Art workshops and inclusive, comparison-free 2D and 3D making for young people and adults, including participants with varied abilities and mental-health needs. I use intuitive mark-making, printmaking, clay, wire, mixed media and hands-on experimentation to support risk-taking, wellbeing, self-recognition and confidence without pass/fail pressure. Adaptive teaching across art techniques and traditions includes constructive assessment, portfolio and resource management, and art-trip planning. SEN and mental-health support is grounded in patience, empathy and adaptable communication, with reflective and trauma-informed practice, First Aid and Health & Safety. I also support community-led gallery activities and shared learning with diverse artists, participants and visitors.

Selected Projects

- **Remoulded, Brink Art Studio CIC:** designed and delivered a six-session sculpture pilot for care-experienced young people using clay, wire and intuitive making; participants sustained engagement and asked for the programme to continue.
- **Rosa Festival main stage, 2025:** developed the festival's narrative and neo-nature identity, translating ten months of intuitive design into a large-scale abstract environment that transformed between daylight, UV and RGB lighting.
- **The Art of Noticing, ARC Stockport:** designed and facilitated a six-session, nature-led creative-health programme exploring place through photography, printmaking, sculpture, natural materials, outdoor activity and collaborative making, with participants' observations shaping the work.
- **Desi Grannies – Outrageous Women, OT Creative / IWM North:** used listening, memory and lived experience with Indian Punjabi women to explore marriage, family, religion, migration and women's roles. Accessible collage and fabric printing translated personal and cultural histories into work exhibited at IWM North.

Selected Projects

- **Festival scenic portfolio:** created immersive environments, themed décor, UV backdrops, sculpture and site artwork for [Boomtown](#), [Nozstock](#), [Workhouse](#), [Wickerman](#), Otter Fest and [Kinetica](#), collaborating in varied site conditions with priming, texturing, spraying, varnishing, sanding and large-scale painting techniques.

Experience

Creative Director Brink Art Studio CIC	Mar 2026 – present Manchester
Lead Artist / Facilitator The Art of Noticing , ARC Stockport	2026 Stockport
Artist / Facilitator Desi Grannies – Outrageous Women , OT Creative / IWM North	2024 – 2025 Manchester
Creative Lead Rosa Festival	2023 – present Matlock
Workshop Facilitator OT Creative Space	2023 – present Manchester
Volunteer, Creative Programmes The Whitworth	2023 – present Manchester
Scenic Painter Festivals and Events	2007 – 2017; 2024 UK
Independent Travel and Creative Research Mexico	2021 – 2023
Art Teacher Concord College	2009 – 2019 Shropshire
Teaching Assistant, SEN and Mental Health The Priory Farley Group	2006 – 2009 Shropshire

Development

Horizons Artist Development Programme , ARC Stockport	2026
Selected as one of six Global Majority artists from 50 applicants for a 12-week paid arts and mental-health training programme combining professional development, reflective practice and supported facilitation experience.	
Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Practice	OT Creative

Education

MA Art Practice and Education (Distinction, final mark 91%)	University of Chester , 2022
Artist Teacher Scheme	Birmingham School of Art , 2014
NVQ Level 3 Residential Care	Walsall College , 2008
BDes Animation and Electronic Media	Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art , 1996 – 2000