

ABEER KAYANI

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Abeer Kayani is an award-winning Sustainable Textile Maker, Natural dyer and business owner from the UK, working across Pakistan and Hampshire, UK. She runs her business producing high end luxury scarves for clients and stockists across UK such as Liberty of London, Crafts Study Centre, New Ashgate Gallery. Abeer has worked across a range of organisations to deliver interactive workshops with exhibition outcomes such as 'Make Yourself at Home' Project with BBC, supporting under-represented migrant communities. She divides her time between projects and showcases in UK and Pakistan, where she worked with British Council funding to contribute to skillset of heritage textile artisans. She is a self-driven, motivated individual who goes above and beyond to fulfil her roles and duties.

KEY SKILLS

Creative/ Teaching:	Creative workshop development and delivery Screen, Block printing and natural dyeing on textile and paper Project management, curation, exhibitions Excellent verbal and written communication skills
Software and IT:	Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint Adobe software: Lightroom, Photoshop and Illustrator

WORK EXPERIENCE

SMALL BUSINESS OWNER: ABEER KAYANI TEXTILES

(August 2019 – Ongoing)

- Luxury handmade products commissioned and produced in UK using dyeing and screen printing for high end market
- Stocked across United Kingdom and acquired by collectors from Liberty of London, Crafts Study Centre, Chalks Gallery, New Ashgate Gallery etc.

FREELANDS FOUNDATION

(February 2026 – Ongoing)

Inclusive Practices Project delivered by John Hansard Gallery: Curriculum development and Textile Tutor

- Working with School of Education and PGCE students to develop inclusive, representational and varied curriculum for Year 7 & 8 students
- Ten sessions on Identity, Islamic Art, Textile skills delivered to Saint George Catholic school, Design and Technology Students
- Antiracism Workshop delivered by Helena Boyce, Mobile Storytelling training by Victoria Gordon, Our Version Media

BRITISH COUNCIL PAKISTAN

(February 2025 – January 2026)

Ecologies Of Making: Green Practices for a Sustainable Craft Ecosystem: Project co-founder and Trainer

- Three cottage industry women-based artisan clusters in Islamabad, Haripur and Rawalpindi
- Revival of core skills teaching sustainable workshops of Natural Dyeing on fabric and yarn
- Toolkit provided to Master trainers from clusters for peer-training initiative
- Carbon footprint training via Green Maker Initiative from MAKE Southwest (UK) as project collaborator
- Symposium with Green Makers Initiative hosted at National College of Arts Rawalpindi October 2025
- Exhibition at Lok Virsa Museum Islamabad January 2026

MENCAP: ACTIVE CITIZENS GROUP EASTLEIGH

(August 2024 – March 2025)

Sustainability Project: Plant to Pattern: Project Lead, Textile tutor and Curator

- Dye plantation in allotment and maintenance with plants foraged to timelines of biennial, annual and seasonal irrigation
- Six skill-based teaching sessions on Gardening, Printing and dyeing textiles
- Participant introduction to dye plants, growth cycle, knowledge of colour properties, extraction, application
- Making grassroot link between growth and use of nature in colour making, for mental wellbeing and sustainable life skills
- Process awareness: extracting dye from foraged plants, grown and local to use with paper and textiles
- Development of group social skills, communication and community integration
- Resources for 2025: resource pack for ongoing activities during the winter + spring season

WOMEN OF SO14: PRELIMINARY RESEARCH PROJECT

(January 2024 – July 2024)

Project co-investigator, Workshop tutor and Community Liaison

Affiliate institutes: University of Southampton with funding from SIAH

- Setting up network amongst South Asian and other migrant women in Southampton
- Public engagement workshops focused on mentorship conversations and textile art lead by Abeer Kayani. Conducted with new migrant women of minority ethnic backgrounds to provide a platform to explore new ways of working to transcend the limitations of linguistic skills and qualifications, in an environment in alignment with their cultural and social mores.
- Collecting life history narratives of three major South Asian women entrepreneurs owning fabric shops in SO14 area
- Assembling preliminary oral history interviews and research to co-produce grant proposal for the IAA grant

MOUNT PLEASANT JUNIOR SCHOOL

(January 2024 – March 2024)

Artist in Residence and Workshop Tutor

- Site visit for primary research and student activity to research Project themes and initial ideas
- Developing wood block printing resources incorporating 100-year-old school architecture and Islamic Geometric elements
- Designing workshops, liaising with tutors and technical staff at manufacturing warehouse for production of print tool resource
- Three workshops hosted with year 4 students, working across 90+ students over 4 days to create repeat Islamic patterns
- Production of four large scale (1mx 1.5m) House Banners for permanent display at School Site
- Email communication, project updates and timelines of resource development for future progression

UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

(September 2022 – May 2025)

Creative workshop tutor- Outreach programme + BA (hons) Textiles- Lecturer (Remote, Hybrid)

- Tutoring BA(hons) Textile final year students, TPP- Textile Professional Practice & Portfolio Unit
- Ongoing bi-weekly/ monthly consultation and mentoring sessions with BA students on TP, Textile Practice Unit
- Creative workshop development, learning styles, goal setting, working with minors and safeguarding
- Risk assessment, remote workshop layouts preparation for on-site delivery across Surrey
- Working with a fixed budget, time frame and resources to deliver interactive workshops

MILTON KEYNES ISLAMIC ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANISATION

(January 2023 – May 2023)

Roots + Foundation Project lead, workshop development and delivery

Affiliate institutes: Milton Keynes college, Shenley Brooke End school, Milton Keynes Council

- Handled a fixed budget for project research, materials, workshop development and exhibition
- Researched brief on endangered plants, nature inspired Islamic art, historic conservation practices
- Designed six workshops teaching sustainable textile techniques to GCSE, A Level, Refugee women
- Led six workshops on dyeing and block printing at Milton Keynes College and SBE School
- Developed and exhibited 20 textile artworks from workshops for Art in Park showcase
- End of project report evaluating the programme with data collected from survey and feedback sessions

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON AND BBC

(June 2022 – January 2023)

Lead Artist for MYAH community research project supported by AHRC funding

- Handled budget to cover archives research, materials, studio fee, textiles design and development
- Researched brief on South Asian experience of Southampton in 1960's using BBC archives
- Observed two workshops on immigration, identity, relocation with South Asian migrants aged 65+ and 35+ at John Hansard Gallery
- Screen printed and dyed textile artworks using archive letters, books, drawings from workshops
- Liaised with technical staff, Gallery curator/manager, research director for efficient operations
- Make Yourself At Home Exhibition held at John Hansard Gallery, November 2022 – February 2023

SOLENT UNIVERSITY SHOWCASE GALLERY

(March 2021 – March 2022)

Lead Artist and Curator for 'Jaali' Project, Community workshop programme and exhibition

- Handled budget for Islamic Geometry research, development of ideas, outcome of textiles installation panels
- Researched brief on Islamic pattern and connection to Muslim population in Southampton
- Hosted range of 3-hour Geometric construction workshops with Women's Integration Group making cards for SCAG visitor shop
- Screen printed and dyed textile artworks using geometric pattern references and colours on degrading Moroccan tiles
- Communicated with Solent University Print department technical staff, Solent Showcase Gallery manager and Curator Kate Maple and fellow Researcher and Author Nazneen Pathak for smooth operations
- Exhibition display and Curation at Solent University Showcase Gallery 8-metre window space May 2021 – March 2022

MANIFESTING THE UNSEEN COLLECTIVE

(April 2021 – October 2021)

Textile Installation Commission

- Development of iridescent translucent patterned textile installation panel for group showcase
- Research on Islamic Golden Era and its connection to location of Southampton through Sea voyages
- Screen printed and hand dyed Devore textile artwork using experimental techniques at Solent University studio
- Group showcase by Muslim women at Southampton City Art Gallery May 2021 – October 2021

TEACHING EXPERIENCE/ WORKSHOPS

- 2026** Mandela Block print workshop, Watts Gallery, Guildford
Introduction to Islamic Art, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Repeat patterns in textiles, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Printing with textile foil, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Printing with 3D Binder, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Paisley printing for kids, Fit 4 Her Gym, Southampton
Geometric Card printing workshop, Saint Denys Festival, Southampton
Islamic Art printing workshop, Wicketts Events at Mount Pleasant Junior School
Analysis of Islamic art Mural and Textiles, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Laser cut Block design using Islamic Art Grid, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Introduction to sewing machine basics, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Monoprint and mark making with Blocks, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Printing a repeat pattern book cover, Saint George Catholic School, Southampton
Sealife exploration using Foil and Puff Binder, GCSE Textiles, Woodlands Community College
- 2025** Freeland's Foundation CPD workshop, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
Natural Colour certification for Artisans, Haripur, Pakistan
Introduction to Natural Dyeing for Artisans, SPARC, Islamabad
Introduction to Design principles and textile skills, SPARC, Islamabad
Art week house group banner printing year R – year 6, Kingsworthy Primary, Winchester
Women through the lens of Arpita Singh, St Annes workshop, Freelands Foundation, Southampton
Islamic Art Construction, Cantell Secondary School, Southampton
Block printing at Primary School Conference, Tudor House, Southampton
Islamic Geometric Construction, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Screen Printing Islamic Art, Art of Small Talk Studio, Islamabad
Project Jury for BA (hons) Textiles final year students, Iqra University, Islamabad
Screen Printing for Beginners workshop, Art of Small Talk Studio, Islamabad
Natural ink painting workshop, School of Visual Art and Design, Arts Council Pakistan, Karachi
Guest Talk and Portfolio review, Pakistan Institute of Fashion Design, Lahore
- 2024** Workshop sessions x 4 on Printing and dyeing textiles with natural dye, Mencap, Eastleigh
Gardening sessions x 2 on growing dye plants, knowledge of colour extraction and application, Mencap, Eastleigh
Mentorship workshops x 2 and conversations with migrant women of minority ethnic backgrounds, Southampton
Islamic Art repeat pattern workshops x 4, Mount Pleasant Junior School, Southampton
Geometric Block Printing, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Banners Textile Project, Mount Pleasant Junior School, Southampton
- 2023** Islamic Art construction workshop, Southampton City Art Gallery, Southampton
Sustainable dyeing workshop with Milton Keynes College, Bletchley
Block printing repeat pattern workshop with Milton Keynes College, Bletchley
Islamic geometric print workshop with Milton Keynes College, Bletchley
Shibori dyeing workshop with Shenley Brooke End School, Milton Keynes
Endangered plant workshop with Shenley Brooke End School, Milton Keynes
Block Print workshop for Alderwood Secondary School, Aldershot
3D Paper Design Workshop for Young Carers, Farnham Maltings, Farnham
- 2022** Identity and belonging workshop for people aged 65+, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
Identity and belonging workshop for people aged 35+, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
Partition workshop for family and young children, John Hansard Gallery, Southampton
Tangible memory workshop for locals, Liberty of London, London
- 2021** Islamic construction workshop for Women, Solent University Showcase Gallery
Islamic Geometric card making workshop for Women, Solent University Showcase Gallery
Children's workshop responding to African exhibition, Northam community centre
- 2020** African Heritage workshop programme for children and families, TUVAA, Southampton
Surface pattern workshop with Woking Women's Group, Watts Gallery, Guildford
Pattern drawing programme with workshops for Halow Group, Watts Gallery, Guildford
Workshop Packs developed for local community members, Watts Gallery, Guildford
- 2019** Indigo dye workshop for families, Croydon Church, London
Screen printing workshop for families, Croydon Church, London
Basket weaving workshop, Croydon Church, London

EDUCATION

- 2017- 2019 **UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS**
BA (hons) Textiles for Fashion and Interiors- 1st class Honours
- 2015- 2017 **SOUTHAMPTON CITY COLLEGE**
BTEC Level 4 HNC diploma in Art and Design - Merit awarded
BTEC Level 3 Foundation diploma in Art and Design - Merit awarded

AWARDS

- 2025 **Sustainable Fashion Grant - British Council Pakistan**
Awarded a £15,000 grant to teach sustainable skills to 60 Artisans across Pakistan
- 2023 **Professional Development Grant – Arts Council England**
Awarded a DYCP grant 2024-25 to develop sustainable skills for my professional practice
- 2022 **Showcase Award – Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre**
Awarded a solo showcase opportunity at Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre Foyer Gallery
- 2021 **Craft Skills Award – Craft Festival and MAKE Southwest**
Awarded a stand at Craft Festival and annual membership with Find A Maker Directory
- 2020 **Rising Star 2020 - New Ashgate Gallery**
Nominated as a Rising Star along with Exhibition Opportunity
- 2019 **Highly Commended - Society of Dyers and Colourists**
Recognition for exceptional screen-printed textiles in International Design Competition

REFERENCES

Available upon request