



Our Mission is to support diverse artists, people and communities at risk of social isolation to create work with, for and about the world that matters to them.



- we produce a programme of professional touring performances, radio, exhibitions and the UNITY Festival
- we contribute to social action and research with Universities and partners
- we collaborate with communities to create authentic artworks locally, nationally and internationally about humanity and the environment
- we support our Young Artists Collective, Echo Artists and their band Reality Boots to create work for our programmed events.

Refugee Week 2022 Events Friday 24 June & Saturday 25 June

Refugee Week 2022 is a national festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of people living with lived refugee experiences and people seeking sanctuary. The theme for Refugee Week 2022 is 'Healing'.

This year Skimstone Arts has been working with communities with lived refugee experiences in Stockton to create a new performance piece called *Minds of Healing Hearts* as well as continuing to work with our Associate Artists Ako Ismail and Shahor Omar to tour their photographic exhibition *One Day Changes* across the North East. There will also be the opportunity to see our specially created film *The Smell of Apples* and hear music commissioned for Skimstone Arts by international Kurdish composer Rzgar Hama Rauf.



Images left to right: Shahor Omar, Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Habib Rahman and Ako Ismail at the opening of *One Day Changes* event at Newcastle City Library in January 2022. Shahor Omar and members of The Sun & The Soul Company in rehearsals in Stockton.



Image: Shobu, Azad and family with Claire Webster Saaremetts and Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Habib Rahma.

**One Day Changes
Friday 24 to Thursday 30 June
Long Gallery, Newcastle University**

One Day Changes is an exhibition by Skimstone Arts' Associate Artists and photojournalists Ako Ismail from Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Shahor Omar from Kirkuk, Iraq, now living in the North East, with lived refugee experience. The exhibition shows how in one day something so dramatic and life-changing forces people, including children, who were leading normal lives, suddenly to become refugees fleeing their homes, and as survivors look for a safe place. Also featured in the exhibition is *The Smell of Apples*, a short documentary film created by Ako and Shahor, directed by Claire Webster Saaremetts, telling the true story of Azad, a survivor of the Halabja chemical attack which took place 34 years ago on 16 March 1988 during the closing days of the Iran-Iraq War.

One Day Changes was originally created for Holocaust Memorial Day 2022 and has toured to Newcastle City Library, Pop Recs in Sunderland and St John's College, Durham University and now at Newcastle University as part of Refugee Week 2022 celebrations.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**The Sun & the Soul Company
Friday 24 June - Newcastle University
12pm/1 pm
Saturday 25 June - ARC Stockton 1pm**

The Sun & The Soul Company has been formed with people from across the world seeking Sanctuary in St Peter's Church, Stockton. Together with Skimstone Arts' Artistic Director Claire Webster Saaremetts and Lead Musician Peter Saaremetts, they have created a new performance inspired by Refugee Week's theme of healing. *Minds of Healing Hearts* is a response to real stories, playful intervention and live music that takes us on a journey of what it means to try and find healing.

With support from Wellesley Trust and Community Foundation Tyne & Wear.

Find out more about Skimstone Arts

To sign up to our mailing list visit www.skimstone.org.uk or follow us on:

 @skimstonearts_ensemble

 @skimstonearts

 @Skimstone_Arts

Donate: As a Charity, we are always grateful for any donations big or small. You can either donate by visiting www.givey.com/skimstonearts or give a cash or cheque donation that will support our programme. For more information contact claire@skimstone.org.uk. Thank you.