



GOD'S HOUSE TOWER
ARTS & HERITAGE VENNE



'GHT Futures Forum'

'a space' arts work supports visual artists and cultural audiences in and around Southampton. We believe artists are our cultural future and supporting them creates a vibrant and stimulating city to live in. At the heart of our work we aim to support and champion the work of visual artists, positively change levels of representation within Southampton's visual arts community and create opportunities for the public to engage with, learn from and be inspired by the work of visual artists.

Our new project 'GHT Futures Forum' looks to create a safe, supportive environment for Southampton's *Black and non-Black artists of colour at all stages of their careers. In creating this space we recognise that there is currently a serious the imbalance in the representation of *Black and non-Black artists of colour in the city's cultural offer. Led by Southampton artist and writer, Nazneen Ahmed, and supported by 'a space' arts and God's House Tower, we are proposing a series of monthly informal meet-ups (to take place online until it is safe to meet in person). Artists, curators and makers of all disciplines are welcome.

If you are an artist/arts professional of colour living in an SO postcode – a writer, musician, visual artist, or dancer, or a cross-disciplinary artist or maker of any other artform – this is a group for you.

Facilitated by local British-Bangladeshi artist and writer Nazneen Ahmed, 'GHT Futures Forum' will:

- provide a safe and supportive platform for ideas to be shared, frustrations to be acknowledged and aspirations to be discussed
- explore and share the challenges and barriers faced by *Black and non-Black artists of colour and identify what 'a space' and GHT can offer to address these
- provide an opportunity for a group of selected artists to be mentored to co-create a programme of work which will form the basis of an exhibition at GHT

We are inviting you to be a part of this network, to meet other creative people of colour in the city, to discuss your experiences to a safe and supportive community, to discuss your frustrations and your aspirations, and to benefit from a network of likeminded people.

Our first meeting will be on **Thursday 28th January 2021 6-8pm.**

***A note about terminology (taken from Pathak and Ahmed, *Beyond the Black Square: The Triple Lens of Anti-Racism*):**

“We consciously and deliberately use the term Black and non-Black people of colour. We separate Black and non-Black to emphasise the primacy of the former, and we always capitalise Black because it is the recognition of a global ethnic identity and act of reclamation. We reject BAME because it is a state-manufactured term which flattens and depoliticises the global solidarity between people with a lived experience of racism, as well as being recognised only in the United Kingdom.”

