

Decolonising Fashion and Textiles

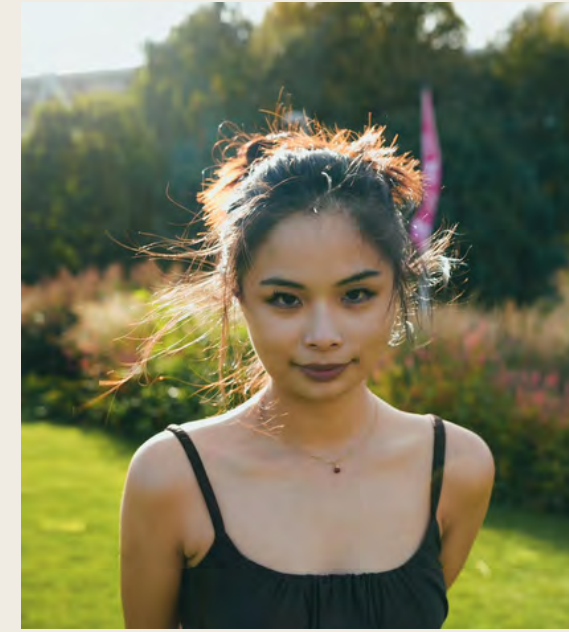
The Flavour Exchange Project

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Meet Our Team



**Ana Oliveira Da
Cunha**
Fashion Futures



Congye Zhang
Innovative Fashion
Production



Manvi Jainth
Fashion Marketing
& Sustainability



Sylvia Shoshan
Fashion Journalism



Janhvi Chopra
Fashion Marketing
& Global Cultures

Context

- We set out to create a campaign through storytelling to change narratives, share stories, and honour the diverse cultures of displaced individuals with cultural sustainability in mind.
- We began by listening and when we first met one of our volunteer participants at introduction, we were inspired by how her story changed with the help of cooking and food.
- Food became our focus and we set out to bring food and stories together through recipes, to help with integration and valuing diverse heritages.
- Inspired by Migrateful and Plateful (projects with similar goals)



Rationale



Food can unite people, create empathy, be experienced together



Food can tell a lot about someone's life and background (Abarca & Colby, 2016)



Storytelling through food has proved to be effective already (Migrateful, Plateful, Stories and Supper)



Our aim was backed by personal experiences and having spoken to our partner refugees we were also moved by their stories

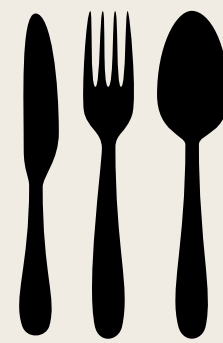


A physical workshop could bring in the textile element, allowing people to use their hands and a social way to bring people together to create something physical that can display multiple stories (Andemicael, 2011)

Research Methods



Began with listening so we
could understand better



Researched the
relevance of food in
different cultures and
community sharing



Contacted multiple charities
working with refugees and
using food as a focal point for
collaboration



Feldy Centre
London
27th November

Workshop Outline

- 1:15–1:30 pm – Introduction, settling in, refreshments, ethics forms
- 1:30–2:00 pm – Interactive session with QnA
- 2:00–2:30 pm – Conceptualizing and discussing recipes
- 2:30–2:45 pm – Snacks and interactive break
- 2:45–4:15 pm – Making swatches and interviews
- 4:15–4:45 pm – Discussions and reflections

Findings & Insights



A relaxed atmosphere is fostered.



Absence of distressing recollections.



Shared engaging childhood memories.



Active enjoyment in the conversations.



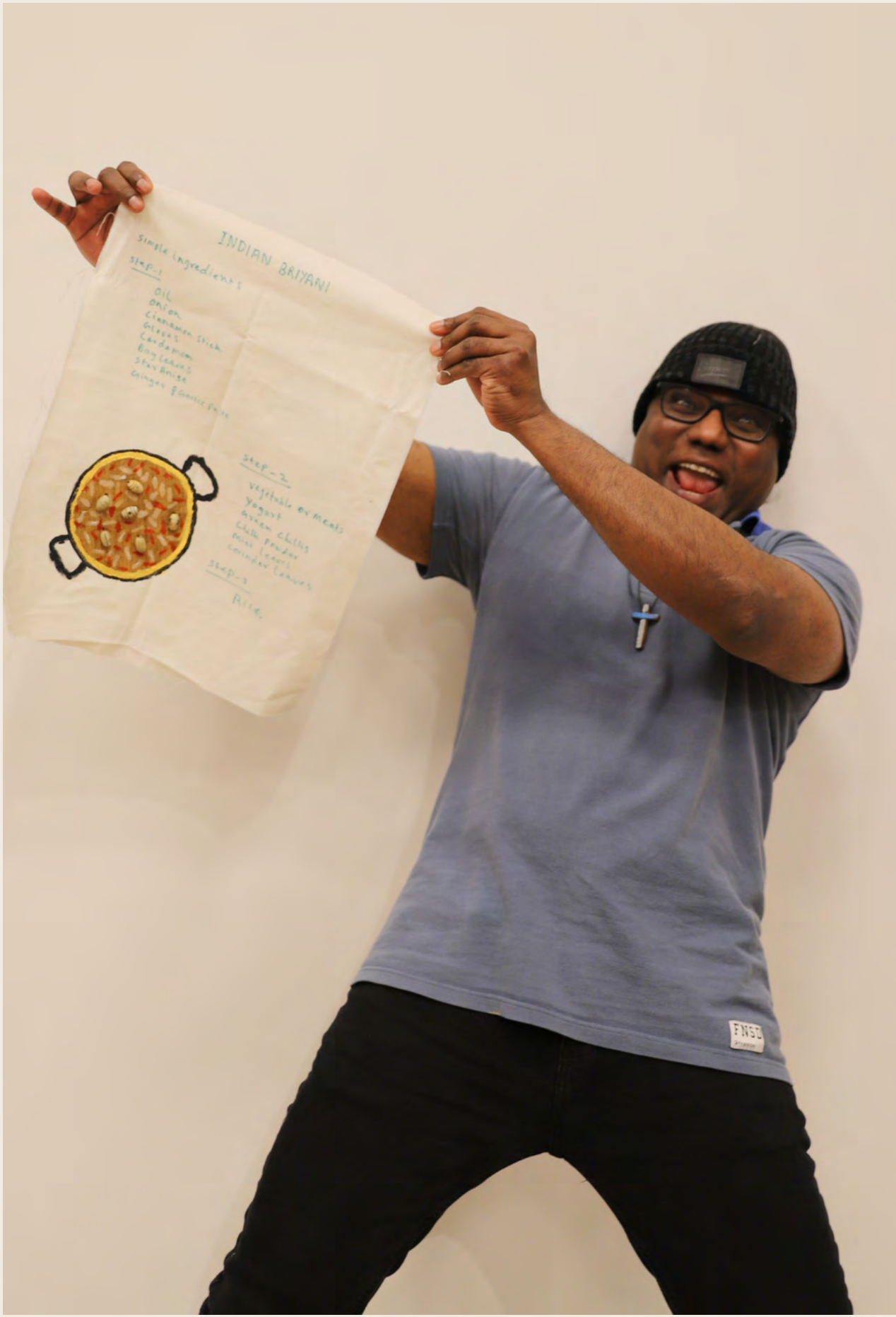
A willingness to embrace the craft.



Transitioning from discomfort to confidence in approaching the craft.







Textiles

- The base for the tablecloth – borrowed from a beloved relative
- The base fabric for the swatches donated in honour of a loved one's memory
- Each element celebrating a diversity of colour and design

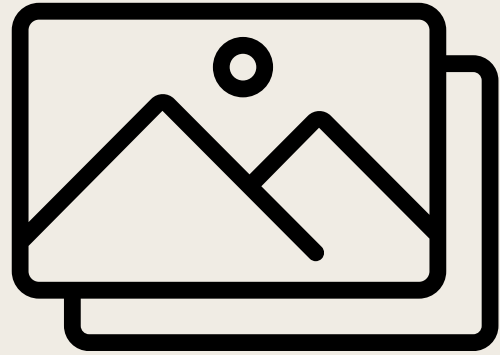


Outcomes

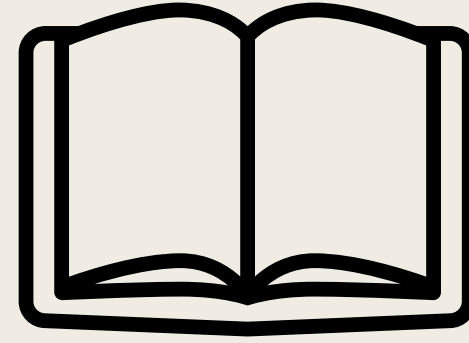
- Stories and recipes from around the world
- Beautiful art created with originality
- A large tablecloth – symbolic of the uniting power of food
- A recipe book as a keepsake of this project – preserving these recipes to be shared with more people across cultures



Recommendations



We have created the artefact as an exhibit – to be positioned in canteens and common areas of universities and community centers – starting from the LCF canteen, to spark interest about the power of food as a tool for cultural exchange



The recipe book is meant to be a keepsake from the project – to be preserved in the UAL libraries for students to discover and look through – and to share this idea and these recipes with more people



We hope this project carries forward with the Centre for Sustainable Fashion, bringing in more people as it grows and allowing them a safe space to share their stories of origin and celebrate their cultures

Reflections

- Highlighted the rich and diverse backgrounds that displaced individuals carry with them – with recipes come stories
- Listening and exchanging cultures / stories helps to learn, accept, and embrace others
- Food has the power to bring people together
- Everyone is more than where they were born or what they own, they are unique and important in their own right



Thank you!



References

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- Andemicael, A. (2011) Positive energy. A review of the role of artistic activities in refugee camps. Awet Andemicael, June 2011, UNHCR. Available at:
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