

The stairway that separates my room from my memory

June 4 – 20 2026

Nicoletta Fiorucci Foundation

Featuring works by Etel Adnan, Jonathas de Andrade, Atef Alshaer, KV Duong, Elçin Ekinci, Alia Farid, Betty C Fan, Simone Fattal, José García Oliva, Alya Hatta, Mona Hatoum, Hiwa K., Mar Kristoff, Narges Mohammadi, Gerhard Richter, Ania Soliman, Zineb Sedira, Kudzanai Violet Hwami, Želimir Žilnik.

Curated by the Courtauld MA Curating Cohort
in conversation with Giulia Civardi

Nicoletta Fiorucci Foundation, in collaboration with Courtauld MA Curating students 2025/26, presents a group exhibition and accompanying public programme, in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London and Fondazione In Between Art Film, inviting audiences to reconsider homemaking as an ongoing act of belonging, repair, and transformation.

The stairway that separates my room from my memory takes its title from a 1990 poem by visual artist and author Etel Adnan, in which the stairway becomes a metaphor for a transitional identity, a threshold that both separates and connects. Bringing together works from the Nicoletta Fiorucci Collection alongside existing and newly commissioned works by other artists, authors, and filmmakers, the exhibition and its related events explore how notions of home shift through migration, exile, and diaspora.

The presented works reflect experiences of both voluntary and forced migration, tracing how home is carried across borders and reconstructed through memory, objects, and images. Landscapes, domestic spaces, and personal archives reveal identity as fluid, provisional, and continually negotiated.

The Courtauld MA Curating Cohort: Benedetta Cirulli, Callum Stark, Eloise Shevin, Emily Kei, Freya Thomas, Grace Nicholson, Lily Ann Sawyer, Natalie Soghomonian, Olivia Lasa, Zeynep Ugan.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Sounds Like Home

Sunday, 7 June 2026, 11 am–3.30 pm

Nicoletta Fiorucci Foundation, London

Limited capacity. RSVP essential: info@nf.foundation

This event explores diasporic experiences and ideas of home through sound, listening and food. It opens with a reading of Etel Adnan's *The Manifestations of the Voyage* by Venetia Porter, Honorary Research Fellow at the Courtauld Institute and former Senior Curator for Islamic and Contemporary Middle Eastern Art at the British Museum. Gazan poet and Senior Lecturer in Arabic Language and Culture at the University of Westminster Atef Alshaer will perform Arabic poems on displacement, followed by English translations. The programme concludes with a performance by Betty C Fan, exploring identity, memory, and materiality through sound and performance, and shared food.

Home In Motion

Saturday, 13 June 2026, from 6 pm

Cinema 1, Institute of Contemporary Arts, London

Event and booking details available via: <https://ica.art/films>

This film screening explores diasporic home-making and the impact of migration through moving image. Films by Hiwa K, Alia Farid, and Jonathas de Andrade reflect on displacement, identity, resilience, and community across Iraq, Brazil, and beyond. Together, the films offer a moving perspective on migration, belonging, and collective support in today's geopolitical context. With brief introductions by Bianca Stoppani (Fondazione In Between Art Film), Steven Cairns (Institute of Contemporary Arts, London), Giulia Civardi, and Courtauld's MA Curating Cohort.

Artistic Mobility and Multimedia Practice:

How Residencies Provide a Home Away from Home for Artists

Monday, 15 June 2026, 6–7.30 pm

the Courtauld Institute, London

Vernon Square, Penton Rise, London WC1X 9EW

This panel discussion, presented with the Courtauld Research Forum, examines the role of non-profit art spaces and residencies in supporting artists during political and institutional uncertainty. Featuring Giulia Civardi, Robert Leckie, Tai Shani, and Mar Kristoff, the conversation explores experimentation, collaboration, and how ideas of home, memory, and identity shape artistic practice.

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