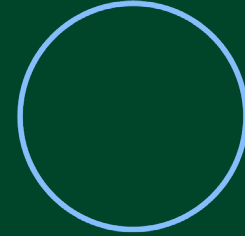




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100 YEARS OF COMMON GROUND

We are excited to welcome alumni from around the world to

Friends of International House, UK (FIHUK)

Centennial Celebration

May 9 - 11, 2024

London, United Kingdom

This will be a weekend of friendship, solidarity, and cross-border understanding—hallmarks of 100 years of I-House. Proceeds from the weekend will support bursaries for I-House residents from conflict-affected countries. All ticket purchases and donations are warmly welcomed.

Please click [here](#) to register.

For questions, please email friendsofinternationalhouseuk@gmail.com.



Friends of International House, UK (FIHUK)
Centennial Celebration
May 9 - 11, 2024
London, United Kingdom

Programme

Friday 9

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Hazleton Lounge*

Drop your bags, grab a drink and snack, and meet fellow alums before joining the Centennial programme.

6:30 – 9:00 PM

Welcome Reception:

At the home of Deniz '67 and Erol Gelenbe '68

The evening begins with a welcome by Erol Gelenbe and Dr. Sebastian Fries, President of International House. Featuring a piano recital by Deniz of *Evocation* (with works by Mompou, Poulenc and Chopin), followed by Martin Bell OBE, former BBC War Correspondent and British MP speaking on War Zone Survival in conversation with Alyson King OBE '00, British Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Saturday 10

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Hazleton Lounge*

12:00 PM

Tate Modern visit

Enjoy a private tour of African Modernism and Afro-Surrealism in the Tate Collection.

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Centennial Celebration Salon Night and Reception:

At ISH Gulbenkian Room

Featuring welcome remarks from Patricia Hamzahee OBE '81 FIHUK President and Dr Sebastian Fries, Recital featuring Classical guitarist Ayman Jarjour '00 , violinist Dr. Sabina Rakcheyeva-Haydon '04 and Congolese bass Blaise Malaba.

Sunday 11

12:00 PM

Farewell Brunch

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Hazleton Lounge*

***FIHUK Rest Stop**

Please note that Tomas Hazleton '91 has graciously offered his flat for use as a rest stop by attendees for the weekend. Address provided following registration.



Friends of International House, UK (FIHUK)
Centennial Celebration
May 9 - 11, 2024
London, United Kingdom

Speaker/Performer Bio

Friday 9 May
Home of Deniz and Erol Gelenbe
(address will be provided to registrants)

Deniz Gelenbe '67

Deniz Arman Gelenbe is a renowned pianist and educator, praised for her technical skill and poetic interpretations. She has performed globally with top orchestras and in prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and Wigmore Hall, and founded the Arman Ensemble and Trio. A sought-after pedagogue, she has taught at institutions worldwide and has adjudicated major international competitions.

Martin Bell OBE

Martin Bell is a distinguished former BBC war correspondent, whose career spanned across major global conflicts including Vietnam, the Arab-Israeli Wars, Angola, Nicaragua, and the Gulf War. From 1991 to 1996, he served as the Chief BBC TV correspondent covering the Croatian and Bosnian Wars, during which he was wounded in Sarajevo. After leaving the BBC in 1997, Bell became the only Independent MP elected on an ethics platform and later served as a UNICEF ambassador for humanitarian emergencies.

Alyson King OBE '00

Her Excellency Alyson King OBE has been His Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo since April 2023. With a career spanning conflict resolution, legal work, and diplomatic roles in regions like Lebanon and North Africa, she brings a wealth of experience. Alyson, fluent in French, Spanish, and Arabic, holds degrees from Oxford and has two grown children with her husband, classical guitarist Ayman Jarjour.



Friends of International House, UK (FIHUK)
Centennial Celebration
May 9 - 11, 2024
London, United Kingdom

Speaker/Performer Bio

Saturday 10 May
International Student House (ISH)
229 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5PN

Ayman Jarjour '00

Ayman Jarjour holds a Master of Music from Juilliard and has performed internationally, including premieres of Evis Sammoutis' Olympus and Rodrigo's Concierto de Aranjuez. He has given concerts across Europe, the Middle East, and the US, with a standing ovation at Carnegie Hall. Ayman currently resides in Kinshasa, teaches globally, and supports charities like the Scottish Refugee Council.

Sabina Rakcheyeva-Haydon '04

Winner of the Best Violinist competition in Baku, Sabina is the first Azerbaijani to be accepted at the Juilliard School. She was Artist in Residence at I-House, and has since performed in over 40 countries and with numerous orchestras. Passionate about the fusion of eastern and western music and cultures, she is a founded member of UBS Verbier Orchestra, and a member of the European Cultural Parliament.

Blaise Malaba

Congolese bass Blaise Malaba trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and was part of the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Artist Program. His operatic repertoire spans major roles across top companies like the Royal Opera House, Canadian Opera Company, and Opera Holland Park. Blaise has performed with renowned orchestras and was named a Rising Star in BBC Music Magazine in 2020.
Bio [here](#).



Friends of International House, UK (FIHUK)
Centennial Celebration
May 9 - 11, 2024
London, United Kingdom

Museum Visit

African Modernism and Afro-Surrealism in the Tate Collection

Date and Time: Saturday 10 May 2025 - 12.45pm for a sharp 1pm start

Duration: 45 – 60 minutes

Location: Turbine Hall, Natalie Bell Building, Tate Modern Bankside, London SE1 9TG

Through this African heritage guided tour, art history specialist **Nadia Denton** gives a unique perspective on contemporary art framed through the lens of African Modernism and Afro-Surrealism. African Modernism, a movement which refers to African artists influenced by western modernist concepts is characterised by a unique imagery infused with traditional African influences. By contrast Afro-Surrealism is a cultural aesthetic that places emphasis on uncovering the invisible world and engaging audiences in highly imaginative and dramatic ways to reflect the global black experience. Nadia will reference the work of a handful of artists of African descent who have tapped into their subconscious to challenge traditional artistic and social norms.

***Fancy arriving in style to our Tate Modern tour? Hop on the Uber Thames Clipper for a scenic ride from Embankment Pier to Bankside Pier, or take a leisurely stroll across the Millennium Bridge.**

Deniz Arman Gelenbe '67



Deniz Arman Gelenbe has been hailed for her prodigious technique, compelling artistic personality and poetic interpretations. As a versatile artist, she combines an international performing career as a soloist and chamber musician, and as a pedagogue, teaching piano and chamber music at the highest level.

She has performed with the Japan Philharmonic, Ensemble Orchestral de Paris, Slovak Chamber Orchestra, North Carolina Symphony, the Presidential Orchestra of Ankara, and with several other orchestras in Turkey, the Philippines, Spain and USA. She has played many solo recitals at Salle Gaveau in Paris, Tonhalle in Zurich, Wigmore Hall and St John's Smith Square in London, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., and in major cities in France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Israel, Turkey and the Netherlands. She has performed in Europe and USA with the Haydn, Enesco, Alexander, Borromeo, Talich and Ciampi Quartets and performed in piano duo concerts with Charles Webb. In 1994, she founded the **Arman Ensemble** and the **Arman Trio** which performs regularly in Europe and the United States in chamber music series, festivals and prestigious venues including Carnegie Weill Hall and Wigmore Hall.

Deniz Gelenbe founded and directed the summer academies and chamber music festivals *Semaines Musicales de Rouen* and *Semaines Musicales d'Orsay* in France for eleven years, and founded the Chamber Arts Series in 1998 and the Schubertiad Series in 2001 in Orlando, USA.

She has recorded world premiere of Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco's chamber music for Albany Label, Erkin and Kodalli for Hungaroton, Dvorak and Saint Saens for Arcobaleno, Dvorak and Shostakovich for Mudician's Showcase and Schubert and Beethoven for Akmuzik/EMI labels. She has adjudicated the International Chamber Music Competition in Paris, BBC Young Artist Competition, Windsor international Piano Competition and Hastings International

Piano Competition in UK, Chopin Competition in Marianbad, the Czech Republic, International Piano Competition at Gnessin Academy in Moscow, Santa Cecilia International Piano Competition in Porto, Portugal, and in China, Tunisia, in Dallas, Texas, among others.

As a sought after pedagogue, she is invited regularly to give masterclasses in several cities in USA, France, The Netherlands, Italy, UK, Spain, China, Russia, Japan, Turkey, and Malaysia. She taught at Dartington, and Chethams summer schools, and at Shanghai International Piano festival and Academie International de Nice. Her students have been successful in several national and international competitions and perform at prestigious venues as Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall and King's Place among others, and hold academic positions in various countries.

A native of Turkey, Deniz Arman Gelenbe holds Bachelor of Music and Master of Science degrees from the Juilliard School. Her teachers included, Cecile Genhart, Adele Marcus and Gyorgy Sandor. Formerly Artist-in-Residence and Associate Professor of Piano at the University of Central Florida, Orlando, Deniz Gelenbe joined Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in October 2003. She was Head of Piano and Keyboard Instruments Department 2007-November 2015. She is Professor of Piano at Trinity Laban Conservatoire in London, and has taught at Schola Cantorum in Paris.

Martin Bell OBE



Abbreviated CV

Born 1938 in Suffolk England, Educated at King's College Cambridge.

1957-58 served in the ranks of the Suffolk Regiment in the Cyprus emergency.

1962-97 on the staff of BBC news mainly as a war reporter. Wars included Vietnam, Arab/Israeli 1967 and 1973, Angola, Nicaragua and Gulf War One.

1991-1996 Chief BBC TV correspondent in Croatian and Bosnian Wars.

1992 Wounded in Sarajevo.

1979-89 Chief BBC correspondent in North America based in Washington.

1997 Left the BBC to be elected on an ethics issue as the only Independent MP.

2001 Appointed UNICEF ambassador for Humanitarian Emergencies.

Alyson King '00



Alyson King OBE is His Majesty's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a role she has held since April 2023. Her diplomatic career spans diverse regions and roles, including serving as Deputy Head of Mission in Beirut, Lebanon, and as the UK government's Arabic spokesperson for the Middle East and North Africa. She has also worked on conflict resolution in Sudan and as a lawyer both in government and in a leading New York law firm.

Alyson holds multiple degrees, including a First Class degree in Jurisprudence from Oxford University and advanced degrees in International Law and EU Law. Fluent in French, Spanish, and Arabic, she brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her current position.

She lived at International House 1997-2000 where she met her husband, classical guitarist, Ayman Jarjour '00, and they have two grown-up children.

Ayman Jarjour '00



Kings Place Concert Hall, London, 2022

Ayman Jarjour studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Madrid and holds a Master of Music degree from The Juilliard School in New York. He has performed in the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Africa and the Far East. His solo appearances with orchestra include the world premiere of *Olympus* (concerto for guitar and orchestra) by Evis Sammoutis and the Syrian premieres of Rodrigo's two masterpieces *Concierto de Aranjuez* and *Concierto Andaluz*.

Ayman has given concerts in London, Edinburgh, Brussels, Paris, Madrid, Manchester, Berlin, Bonn, Tunis, Khartoum, Beirut, Amman, Cairo, Alexandria, Valletta, Basel, Istanbul, Prague, Budapest, Los Angeles (& many US cities), Lagos, Abuja, Kinshasa and Taipei, the last attended by the Taiwanese President. He has appeared on many TV channels in interviews and concert broadcasts. In New York, he gave a concert to standing ovation at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall as winner of Artists International's Special Presentation Award. His highly acclaimed studio recording of the programme is available on CD.

He served on the faculty of the High Institute of Music in Damascus and has lived and taught in the UK, Spain, Sudan, Belgium and the US.

Ayman is currently based in Kinshasa. His involvement with several charities includes being Arts and Culture Ambassador for the Scottish Refugee Council.

His repertoire includes works with Spanish, Latin American, Classical, Middle Eastern and Modern flavours. He plays an instrument made by Egyptian luthier Jean-Paul Haggar.

Dr. Sabina Rakcheyeva '04



Winner of “The Best Violinist of the Year” competition in Baku, first recipient of “Artist in Residence” Award from the Fund of Mutual Understanding (introduced by International House, New York), violinist Sabina Rakcheyeva is first ever Azerbaijani to be accepted to the prestigious Juilliard School in New York. She has performed in over 40 countries, for the Presidents of the European Commission, Azerbaijan, Russia, Romania, United Nations Secretary-General and Prince of Liechtenstein, as well as the members of the British Royal family.

Born in Baku, Azerbaijan on the crossroads of East and West, and based in London, Sabina is passionate about fusion of Eastern and Western music and cultures. In 2011, the Sabina Rakcheyeva Ensemble released their first album *UnVeiled*, featuring a rare fusion of instruments and styles, which attracted great critical acclaim. She has been a founding member of DECO Ensemble, which released an album *Encuentro*, focusing on the genre of the Nuevo Tango.

An advocate orchestra player, Rakcheyeva was a concertmaster of the International Youth Chamber Orchestra in Germany, and a founding member of UBS Verbier Orchestra.

Sabina’s interests expand beyond performance only; she is a member of the European Cultural Parliament and has completed her PhD in Cultural diplomacy at SOAS(University of London). She has served as the Cultural Advisor at The European Azerbaijan Society and the Arts Global Foundation. As a cultural consultant, Sabina has facilitated numerous projects and organised several concerts across Europe and the United States.

African Modernism and Afro-Surrealism in the Tate Collection

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Untitled (A Map of the British Empire in America) 2021

© Firelei Báez; courtesy of the artist and James Cohan, New York. Photo: Phoebe d'Heurle

Through this African heritage guided tour, [art history specialist Nadia Denton](#) gives a unique perspective on contemporary art framed through the lens of **African Modernism** and **Afro-Surrealism**.

African Modernism, a movement which refers to African artists influenced by western modernist concepts is characterised by a unique imagery infused with traditional African influences. By contrast **Afro-Surrealism** is a cultural aesthetic that places emphasis on uncovering the invisible world and engaging audiences in highly imaginative and dramatic ways to reflect the global black experience.

Nadia will reference the work of a handful of artists of African descent who have tapped into their subconscious to challenge traditional artistic and social norms. The tour includes the work of:

- **Betye Saar**, an assemblage artist who calls herself a 'conjurer' and 'a recycler';
- **Uzo Egonu**, who merged Igbo traditions, inspiration from Nok sculptures and a European style;
- **Ibrahim El-Salahi**, whose work is inspired by Arabic and African sensibilities, forms and iconography;
- conceptual artist **Meschac Gaba's** whose *Art and Religion Room From Museum of Contemporary African Art* challenges notions of what's perceived as art and religious artifact.

Nadia is an official [African Heritage Tour Guide](#) at the Tate Modern.

[Tate Modern](#) is one of the largest museums of modern and contemporary art in the world.

NADIA DENTON



Nadia Denton

Nadia has worked in the UK film industry for two decades as an Impact Producer and Curator. She specialises in Nigerian Cinema and coined the term BEYOND NOLLYWOOD. She has worked with organisations which include the BFI London Film Festival, EFM at Berlinale, Doc Society, London Film School, Sundance Film Festival and Comic Relief.

Nadia is an African Heritage Guide across the V&A, Tate Modern and British Museum. She has been leading African heritage tours since 2016. She has a degree in Modern History from St. Hilda's College, Oxford. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Exeter.

www.nadiadenton.com