

## Press release

### Migrant Makers Market – new concept store opens in London shopping centre exclusively selling products from migrant-owned businesses

*At a time when the British high street is dominated by store closures, the Migration Museum launches an immersive concept store to showcase the vibrancy of business in Britain when borders remain open.*



On 9 April, doors open at the Migrant Makers Market in London – a cause-led concept store and creative makerspace dedicated exclusively to selling products from migrant-owned businesses and creators. The first-of-its-kind store will arrive in Lewisham Shopping Centre for 12 months, stocking its shelves with everything from food and fashion to jewellery and homeware, alongside a programme of free and interactive workshops led by migrant entrepreneurs.

Now more than ever, the future of the high street is in question. While store closures are on the rise, the Migrant Makers Market paints a picture of the vibrancy and creativity that cultural exchange can bring to retail when Britain remains open. Most importantly, it is providing a much-needed platform for underrepresented makers, brands and businesses that otherwise aren't available in high street spaces, welcoming shoppers to discover and support them. Brought to you by the Migration Museum, the concept store will tell the stories of the entrepreneurs behind them.

Entirely transforming its existing visitor shop, the Migration Museum has created a living and breathing retail space to accompany its latest exhibition, *Taking Care of Business*, which highlights stories of migrant entrepreneurship past and present and how it has shaped life in Britain. Based in the heart of Lewisham, London's Borough of Culture for 2022, the Migration Museum has made its home in a diverse and thriving entrepreneurial community. Now, visitors will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a concept store within a museum within a shopping centre.

*"There couldn't be a more fitting time or place to be opening the UK's first concept store exclusively selling migrant-made brands and goods. We want to welcome people to our home in a busy London shopping centre to discover and learn about the migrant entrepreneurs keeping British business thriving and to provide a platform for underrepresented makers to reach new customers,"* says Robyn Kasozi, Head of Public Engagement at the Migration Museum.

Lucy Sanderson, a Lewisham-based designer known for her multidisciplinary spatial design, was chosen to create the Migrant Makers Market following an open call to local artists and designers. Sanderson's design uses a bold colour palette that references the borough of Lewisham's blue and yellow brand identity. A glossy modular 'U'-shaped market-stall system, developed and welded in Lewisham, is easily adaptable for different produce; shelving and storage units painted in Lewisham blue wrap around the space; and pegboards installed above the storage units can be easily adapted to display new products in a variety of ways. The secondary colour is added by yellow perspex signage with a playful bungee and toggle system. The logo mimics the repeat-pattern signage used during store closures that has become a familiar aesthetic across British high streets and shopping centres.

*"My spatial design for the Migrant Makers Market is inspired by the design language of high streets, markets and shopping centres across the UK, while honouring its home in the heart of Lewisham. The logo uses the same typeface as on off-the-shelf 'closing down' posters, acknowledging the challenging circumstances that the British high street currently faces. The design honours iconic brands of the past, many of which themselves were founded by immigrants, while also celebrating and providing a platform for emerging migrant-founded brands and businesses of the future,"* says Lucy Sanderson, founder of Studio Lucy Sanderson and designer of the Migrant Makers Market.

Amidst Sanderson's enticingly bold and colourful interiors, the experiential shopping space will welcome customers to learn about the migrant heritage and stories of the featured businesses. These include Işura, which celebrates the beauty of the African diaspora through its jewellery pieces; Yi Crafts, whose clothing and embroidery combines traditional Chinese costume elements with Western techniques; award-winning Guyanese hot sauce makers Pat & Pinky's; and functional retro-style cycle-bag specialists Goodordering. The makerspace within the store will be dedicated to hosting workshops and masterclasses where customers can meet the makers, learn techniques and participate in activities ranging from zine making to baby massage, embroidery to coffee tasting. Products sold in the Migrant Makers Market will also be available to purchase online from the Migration Museum's online shop.

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For more information, contact Matthew Plowright: [matthew@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:matthew@migrationmuseum.org) +44 (0)7585 117 924

# Notes for editors

## Visitor information

### Dates

The Migrant Makers Market opens to the public at the Migration Museum on Saturday 9 April 2022 at 11am. The Migration Museum's *Taking Care of Business* exhibition opens on the same day. Both the Migrant Makers Market and *Taking Care of Business* will run until March 2023.

Workshops and masterclasses hosted by migrant entrepreneurs featured in the space will take place on weekends throughout the year.

### Opening hours and admission

The Migrant Makers Market is open Wednesday–Sunday, from 11am–5.30pm (5pm close on Sundays). Workshops and masterclasses will take place on weekends throughout the year.

Admission to the Migrant Makers Market and *Taking Care of Business* is free and advance booking is not required. Some workshops and masterclasses will be ticketed, with a small charge to cover costs, and will require advance booking via Eventbrite or the Migration Museum's website.

The first workshop, a zine-making workshop hosted by Glasgow-based artist Karlie Wu, will be held on Saturday 9 April, from 12–3pm. This is a free drop-in workshop – advance booking is not required.

### Address

Migration Museum  
Lewisham Shopping Centre (Entrance in Central Square)  
London SE13 7HB  
For directions and visitor information, please visit: [migrationmuseum.org/visit](https://migrationmuseum.org/visit).

### Contact details for visitors and general enquiries

Telephone: 020 3488 4508  
Email: [info@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:info@migrationmuseum.org)

### Website and social media

Migration Museum website: [migrationmuseum.org](https://migrationmuseum.org)  
Migration Museum online shop: [shop.migrationmuseum.org](https://shop.migrationmuseum.org)  
Twitter: [@MigrationUK](https://twitter.com/MigrationUK)  
Facebook: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://facebook.com/MigrationMuseumUK)  
Instagram: [@MigrationMuseumUK](https://instagram.com/MigrationMuseumUK)

## About Studio Lucy Sanderson

Studio Lucy Sanderson is a multidisciplinary design and research studio dedicated to bringing equality to environments, designing creative and research projects from concept to production. In reaction to conceptions of gender politics, equality, and behavioural conditioning formed through the psyche, the studio's work exhibits materiality, moving image, sculpture, exhibition design, set design, spatial design, and photography. This method of working is strongly rooted in post-digital discourse, and its fascination with how materiality may elicit emotion.

Founder, Lucy Sanderson is a British multidisciplinary designer, sociologist and feminist activist who uses design to shape environments. She studied at Goldsmiths and the Royal College of Art. She is presently a Somerset House Studios resident and a part-time lecturer at London College of Communication, University of the Arts. Since 2010, she has worked as a creative director, set and spatial designer creating environments, films and research for ChromaYoga, Diesel, Facebook, Laura Mercier, COS, Fullers, Moschino, Westminster City Council, Northbank, Fatberg, Kings College London, The Feminist Library, The Centre for Investigative Journalism (CIJ), Topman, Georgia

Hardinge, Muramasa, Tate Modern, The Migration Museum and Huawei. She lives in Lewisham. For more information, visit [studiolucysanderson.com](http://studiolucysanderson.com).

### **About *Taking Care of Business***

Taking Care of Business is a new immersive exhibition shining a light on the central role that migrant entrepreneurs have played in shaping our lives – and Britain.

[View a full press release for Taking Care of Business.](#)

### **About the Migration Museum**

The Migration Museum explores how the movement of people to and from Britain across the ages has shaped who we are – as individuals, communities, and nations. Migration is a pressing contemporary issue, but there's an underlying story of comings and goings stretching back many centuries. Britain has thousands of museums, but unlike countries from Australia to France, Brazil to the USA, we don't have a permanent Migration Museum. Now more than ever, we need a welcoming space to come together to share stories, understand our connections to each other and explore how migration has shaped our lives.

We are proud to be based in the heart of Lewisham, London's Borough of Culture for 2022 and the UK's first Borough of Sanctuary. As a free museum in the heart of a shopping centre, we welcome tens of thousands of visitors a year from across Lewisham, London and beyond to our exhibitions and events, alongside a far-reaching education programme for primary, secondary, university and adult learners.

We have a growing digital presence, encompassing digital exhibitions and high-profile campaigns such as Football Moves People, which reached over 5m people during summer 2021. We will be based in Lewisham until at least 2023. Longer-term, we continue to seek a permanent site for a landmark Migration Museum, allied to a nationwide network of venues and partners, and will continue to expand the reach of our education work so that every child in Britain has the opportunity to learn more about our migration history.

For more information, visit: [migrationmuseum.org](http://migrationmuseum.org).

**For more information or to request an interview, please contact Matthew Plowright:**

**Email: [matthew@migrationmuseum.org](mailto:matthew@migrationmuseum.org)**

**Mobile: +44 (0) 7585 117 924**